



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

12th September 2019, Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors: S Budd (Chairman), J Adams, S Al-Hassan, P Gibbs, S Hill, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, R Nichols, M Palmer, D Somers, P Todd & C Wilkins

Attendees: Cate Davidson (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure.

061. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors S Bassett, J Hunt & J Sweeney.

062. Declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

063. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

064. To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 11th July and 25th July 2019

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 11th July and the Confidential meeting of 25th July 2019.

065. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

The Clerk confirmed that all outstanding matters have been completed or are on the agenda for this meeting.

066. Correspondence and Actions Required

- Lyde Green Partnership – Minutes of meeting of 6th June – Noted
- SGC – Doing More Together Event on 25th September at Kingswood Civic Centre – The Clerk advised members she is unable to attend due to annual leave but that Councillors are invited to drop in between 2 and 8pm.

067. Community Project

Cllr Nichols informed members that the Chairman, Clerk and himself has met with the SGC Libraries Officer this week to discuss the layout of the proposed area. Architects plans are awaited, and a meeting is to be arranged with Open Spaces Officers who have concerns about the loss of open space. A trip to a youth hub in Coleford is to be arranged.

Action: To attend meetings as required

068. Finance Committee Update

The Chairman, Cllr Nichols, advised that no meeting had been held over the summer, but payments were made as authorised by the Committee. At the July meeting members considered investment of funds which is an ongoing matter.

069. Open Spaces Committee

The Chairman, Cllr Somers, reported as follows from a meeting on 3rd September:

- Cllr Somers was appointed as Chairman with Cllr Hill as Vice
- A lengthy presentation was given by the SGC Biodiversity Officer and representatives from Plantlife.

- Consideration was given to reducing grass cutting and the introduction of a bee corridor.
- SGC Plans to purchase new mowers with grass collecting equipment, the arisings will be distributed in local hedgerows rather than being left in situ which will hopefully reduce the speed at which the grass grows.
- The Committee approved a budget of £1,500 for the creation and planting of a wildflower bed on Emersons Green Common. The Clerk is currently trying to get quotes for this to be prepared this year, but it may now be too late in the season and have to wait until Spring.
- SGC is to reduce the grass cutting with SGC having decided on a 6-week break in July. Discussion was had about whether this frequent enough and it was decided that this matter could be considered in full when the grass cutting contract is up for renewal next year.

Cllr R Hunt joined the meeting at 19.20.

- The Committee agreed that the CIL funds could be used for biodiversity projects in the town.
- Cllr Johnson attended the Lyde Green Open Spaces meeting and suggested that the group applies to the Council for funding of maintenance projects.
- Several members have undertaken a rights of way inspection.
- Quotes have been received for £45 per planter for winter planting. It was **Resolved** that this expense is approved.

Considerable discussion was had about the presentation that was given and biodiversity in the town.

070. Planning Committee

The Committee Chairman, Cllr Somers, reported that most applications have been for private development. There has been one large application for a Travel Lodge, Costa and Brewers Fayre development at Vertex Business Park, members noted a concern about the impact on traffic in the area.

071. Items from Members to report

- Cllr Hill reported that traffic on the Ring Road has been appalling lately possibly due to the sequencing of traffic lights at the Hambrook junction. The Clerk was asked to raise this with SGC. Cllr Hill asked that the following statement be recorded:
 “The decision regarding the staffing of the Town Council and the Clerk’s resignation, has left me feeling very disappointed and disillusioned.
 Being the longest standing Town Councillor, and having been through the process to find a new Clerk 3 times, I am not prepared to spend my time in finding a new Clerk, when we had a fantastic Clerk who was willing to stay and has been a great asset to the Town Council with her knowledge, support and efforts with many new projects that she has helped put into force.
 I therefore, with regret, resign from the Personnel Committee, and leave the job to find a new Clerk who is suitably qualified, to other Councillors who were unhappy with the situation regarding the employment terms of the existing clerk.”
 Cllr Morgan requested that her support of this statement is recorded.
- Cllr Palmer requested that the Town Council installs a noticeboard in School Square. Members advised that if the school/community centre wants a noticeboard then they can submit a grant application to the Town Council. Be Empowered Farm Futures is an organisation providing opportunities for people with additional needs. They are looking for space to expand and Cllr Palmer suggested members take a look at the website as this would be a benefit to the local area.
- Cllr Nichols asked if more members are needed on the Personnel Committee following Cllrs Hills resignation and the extra recruitment work that needs to be done. Several people volunteered, and the Clerk warned against the Committee being too big as independent members are required for any disciplinary matters. It was **Resolved** that Cllrs Gibbs and Somers join the Personnel Committee.
- Cllr R Hunt informed members following the recent CEF meeting that the Police have recorded a 15% reduction in Antisocial behavior year on year, Imminent arrests are due following a spate of bike thefts and that members from Resound reported a duplication of youth work on a Monday evening. Members were surprised about comments in relation

to youth work as we had engaged with Resound prior to appointing Youth in Sodbury and the Youth leader has been in touch with Resound about the work they are doing.

- The Chairman advised that Lyde Green Community Hall is having a First Birthday Party on 13th October, does anyone want to man a stall at the event? Cllr Al-Hassan volunteered to join the Chairman for the event. The Clerk advised that she has been tasked with purchase a “flag” for use at events and will progress this matter next week.
- Cllr Somers advised that the road markings by the Willy Wicket roundabout have been repainted and are confusing leading to problems with people trying to access the A4174 from all lanes. The Clerk was asked to report this to SGC.

072. Next Meeting: 10th October 2019 at 19.30 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.43 and asked Personnel Committee members to stay behind for a brief discussion.