



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

9 January 2020

in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors S Budd (Chairman), J Adams, S Al-Hassan, S Bassett, S Budd, S Hill, J Hunt, C Johnson, P Maytham, P Morgan, R Nichols, M Palmer, D Somers, P Todd, C Wilkins, R Hunt (joined the meeting late)

Attendees: Kath MacConnachie (Clerk)

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

118. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J Sweeney and J Hunt.

119. Declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

120. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

121. To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11 December 2019

It was **Resolved** that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of the meeting held on 11 December 2019.

122. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

It was confirmed that all outstanding actions had been completed or were on the agenda for this meeting, with the exception of the action for Councillor R Hunt against item 116, for which the Clerk had no update. This item would carry forward to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

123. Correspondence and Actions Required

There was no correspondence for consideration.

124. Grant Applications

There were no grant applications for consideration.

125. Finance Committee Update

Councillor Nichols gave an update from the Finance Committee on 11 December. It was noted that there was no long-term budget currently and that the Clerk would be implementing this.

Finance Committee had recommended that the Precept for 2020/21 remained at the same rate it was in 2019/20. It was **Resolved** that the Precept for 2020/21 would remain at the same rate as in 2019/20.

Action: Clerk

126. Planning Committee Update

Councillor Somers gave a verbal report from the Planning Committee. Councillor Somers highlighted an application concerning two parcels of land at Lyde Green whereby the developer was seeking to remove extant conditions, which did not allow the houses to be occupied until the capping of the landfill was complete. Councillors noted the issues that had been experienced with the 'Lyde Green smell' and the relevance to this application.

The proposed 5G antennae discussed at the December meeting was revisited. Councillor Somers confirmed that it appeared that none of the residents, nor Resound, had been informed of the planning application. The Planning Committee had lodged an objection to the application. It was noted that this was acknowledged by South Gloucestershire Council on 12 December, but that as at the evening of 8 January the objection had still not been loaded onto the planning portal.

Councillor Palmer said it was a serious matter that people did not know of the proposal. It was noted that there little information available on the effects of the new technology. Councillor Somers reported that the planning application stated that it would not affect the existing street scene, but that it clearly would.

It was **Resolved** to write to South Gloucestershire Council to ask them the radius within which they had, and should, notify residents of the planning application.

Action: Clerk

118. Personnel Committee Update

- It was **Resolved** to accept the Personnel Committee's decision from their meeting on 8 August 2019, regarding a reduction in staff contracted hours. It was noted that all members of staff were supportive of the change.

119. Open spaces update:

Councillor Somers gave a verbal report from the Open Spaces Committee:

- Two bins were to be installed at Lyde Green; one at the Park and Ride and one by the common. South Gloucestershire Council were funding the bins, whilst the Town Council would fund the emptying of them. Lyde Green Open Space group had been consulted in deciding the location of the bins.
- The leaning Trees at Blackhorse Road common were to be re-staked.
- The Circus would be returning to Rodway common at Easter.
- The Committee agreed to subscribe to the Open Spaces Society on an ongoing basis, and also agreed a donation to their legal support fund.
- Pigeon release will continue at £10 per release.
- Two quotes had been received for seeding, and maintain, Emersons Green Common with wildflowers, with another quote expected. Costs were noted to be around £7000 over a three-year period. Councillor Somers noted that a potential conflict of interest with one potential supplier, which would be investigated.
- A letter had been received from a resident who wanted to site two bee hives on the allotment.

Councillor R Hunt enquired as to the proposed bin by the bridge in Lyde Green. It was corrected that this was the one of the two bins referred to earlier, which would indeed be sited by the main bridge by Sainsburys, not on the common as previously stated.

120. Risk Register and Risk Management Policy

The Clerk drew attention of Councillors to the draft Risk Management Policy and draft Risk Register. Hard copies were circulated to Councillors who required them, with an email copy to be supplied to all Councillors after the meeting.

It was agreed that the Risk Management Policy and Risk Register would be added to the agenda for ratification at the meeting on 13 February.

Action: Clerk

121. Items from Members to Report

- Councillor Hill apologised for missing the Open Spaces Committee on 7 January.
- Councillor Todd reported that he had a complaint from a neighbour concerning foxes. He enquired as to whether they were classed as pests and whether, as such, they could be dealt with. Councillor Morgan confirmed that foxes were not classed as pests and that they could not be controlled as such.
- Councillor Bassett reported that he had received a series of phone calls from residents around Emersons Green school who were becoming increasingly agitated and irate concerning vehicles collecting and dropping off pupils which were destroying the grass verge and causing a nuisance to residents. Councillor Nichols enquired as to the name of the road. Councillor Bassett was unsure of the road name, but Councillor Al-Hassan suspected it was the side road next to the school. Councillor Bassett said residents were adamant that damage was being done and that they were concerned that the forecast wet weather

would turn the area into a quagmire. The residents were particularly concerned that the parents dropping off their children appeared to have little consideration for the residents living there.

Councillor Nichols noted that this was a South Gloucestershire highways issue, and that whilst schools could communicate with parents asking them to park considerately, there was little more they could do. Councillor Bassett said he suspected there would be a limit as to the ability of the Town Council to intervene, but suggested possibly writing to the headteacher of the school. Councillor Nichols noted that he spoke to the headteacher fairly regularly and that he was aware that the school were doing what they could.

Councillor Nichols suggested that the matter could be raised with the police, as it related to illegal parking. Councillor Johnson, who had lived next to another primary school where there had been similar problems, confirmed that, in her experience, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would come around if they are asked. Councillor Johnson considered that schools generally did what they could in terms of communication with parents. It was Resolved to contact PCSOs to request a presence in the area.

- **Action: Councillor Palmer**

Discussion was had around planning requirements which were designed to discourage car use, and parking, and the effects of this. Councillor R Hunt noted that this was a complicated issue which was far beyond the ability of the school to resolve.

Councillor R Hunt asked what the Town Council could help the situation, for example by promoting walking to school. Councillor Bassett undertook to visit local schools to discuss whether the Town Council could help with the issue in any way. Councillor R Hunt queried whether the Town Council may be able to fund some kind of initiative, for example high visibility vests for walking to school. The Clerk undertook to check the regulations governing the ability for the Town Council funding such initiatives in schools.

- **Action: Clerk**

Councillors noted that there were similar issues, to an extent, with secondary schools.

- Councillor Palmer noted the issues currently being experienced at Emersons Green Surgery. Councillor R Hunt reported that she had requested a meeting with them previously. Councillor Wilkins explained that she enquired with Emersons Green Surgery about joining their advertised patient participation group, however, having visited the surgery in person six times, and leaving her contact details twice, over eight months she heard nothing back. Councillor R Hunt confirmed that she would be requesting a meeting with them. Councillor Budd asked any other Councillors who would be interested in joining the meeting to liaise with Councillor R Hunt. Councillor Wilkins expressed interest. Councillor R Hunt said she would consider the best approach to the meeting.

- Councillor Budd noted that the Community Engagement Forum boundaries had changed slightly, to match up with police boundaries and the new council boundaries. The next meeting of the Community Engagement Forum, for those who wished to attend, was noted to be at 19:00 on 30 January at the Badminton Road Methodist.
- Councillor Budd told the meeting that he planned to hold a 'blue sky thinking'/planning session for councillors on one Saturday morning in March. The Clerk would canvass dates.

Action: Clerk

- The Clerk confirmed that a Good Councillor Course was scheduled for 18:00-20:00 on 22 February 2020 at Emersons Green Town Council.
- Councillor Wilkins notified Councillors of a gathering at 19:30 on 15 January at the library, where Sally Pattison from South Gloucestershire Council would be talking about ideas for the park and a co-founder of the Bristol Pound would be addressing the meeting.
- The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Premier Inn/Beefeater regarding the litter accumulating in the Town Council car park.
- The Clerk undertook to organise a date for the first meeting of the Youth Council Working Party.

Action: Clerk

122. Next Meetings

Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council to be held at 19:00 on Monday 6 January in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town on Monday. Councillor Adams noted her apologies.

19:00 on 13 February 2020 to be held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council.