



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

12 March 2020

in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors S Budd (Chairman), S Hill, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Maytham, R Nichols, D Somers and P Todd

Attendees: Kath MacConnachie (Clerk), Martin Burton (Community Cultural Services Manager, South Gloucestershire Council)

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

145. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor P Morgan, J Adams, S Al Hassan, J Hunt, C Wilkins and J Sweeney

146. Declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

147. Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

148. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 February 2020

It was **Resolved** that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting held on 13 February 2020.

149. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

The Clerk noted that no members had so far volunteered to join the Policies Working Group. Councillors Johnson, Somers and R Hunt volunteered.

Reference Councillor Hunt's action under 122 from the 9 January meeting, she confirmed that South Gloucestershire Council did provide support to schools on litter education, but was waiting further details on this. Councillor Hunt confirmed that she did not yet have an update on the footpath planned for the skate park area.

It was confirmed that all other actions had been completed or were on the agenda for this meeting .

150. It was **Resolved** to exclude members of the public and press for agenda items 7 (Youth Hub) and 8 (South Gloucestershire Council protocol for marking a sensitive major public event), due to the **CONFIDENTIAL** and **SENSITIVE** nature of the business to be transacted.

151. **Youth Hub**

Councillor Budd welcomed Martin Burton from South Gloucestershire Council, who updated members on the plans for the proposed Emersons Green Library extension and Youth Hub extension.

It was **Resolved** to proceed to the next stage of the proposed youth hub development, with the next stage involving public consultation.

152. **South Gloucestershire Council protocol for marking a sensitive major public event**

It was **Resolved** to make preparations as a Town Council, in line with the South Gloucestershire protocol.

153. **Correspondence and Actions Required**

- A member of the public had been in contact with Emersons Green Town Council to raise issue with the mud across the roads at the access to the former Vinney Green House site. It was **Resolved** to write to South Gloucestershire Council to ask them to return the area to a reasonable state.
Action: Clerk
- Members noted the briefing received from the Environment Agency updating on the ongoing issue of the odour affecting Lyde Green and Emersons Green.
- Members noted the information received from South Gloucestershire Council concerning the The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) consultations on a regional Bus Strategy and a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which would run between 3 February and 15 March 2020. Information on these consultations had been displayed the EGTC website and Facebook page.

154. **Finance Committee Update**

The Chairman of the Finance Committee gave a verbal report from the last meeting.

155. **Planning Committee Update**

A verbal report was received from the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Somers reported that a Lyde Green resident had been in contact regarding his objections to the proposed new Edward Ware homes. The member had been informed that the Town Council had already objected to the plans. Councillors expressed their disapproval of the apparent use of social homes being used as a sound barrier against the motorway. It was noted that the development actually fell within an adjoining parish, that it was not the development master plan for the area and that it was speculative development.

Councillor R Hunt noted that social housing appeared to all be located together at Lyde green rather than being spread about, in the way it was at Emersons Green.

156. Open Spaces Committee Update

A verbal update was received from the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

Councillor Somers reported that a short presentation had been given by a potential new bee-keeper allotment tenant, who explained the pros and cons of bee keeping on the allotments. The Assistant Clerk, R Hull, was writing to all allotment tenants to gather feedback and views to inform any decision. It was noted that the proposed plot for hosting the hives was located away from houses, the pre-school and the car park.

Reference the new bins in Lyde Green, South Gloucestershire Council had confirmed that they would be supplying a bin at the Lyde Green Park & Ride site, therefore it was proposed to move the location of the bin proposed for this area to the alternative footbridge location. Councillor Somers said they needed to establish exactly which areas the Green Square consortium were responsible for.

Councillor Somers noted that 10 new trees had been planted on Blackhorse common, three on the other side of the road and that the existing trees had been re-staked. A wildflower circle would be maintained around the new trees.

Councillor Somers reported that R Hull and himself had met a representative from South Gloucestershire Council Streetcare wildflower planting. They had agreed to plant wildflower seed on the roundabout by Blackhorse garage, on the circle between the shrubs and kerb on the Sainsburys roundabout and along 2m x 100m strips on the north and south sides of the road by the premier inn. The work would be undertaken in Autumn, ready for next year's growing season.

157. Events Committee Update

A verbal update was given by the Chairman elect of the Events Committee.

Councillor Budd reported that himself and the Clerk had met with LGCA and EGVH to discuss the Events Committee proposal to allocate funding to each organisation to subsidise events. The two organisations had been asked to put together proposals for how funding might be used to, for approval by the Events Committee.

It was noted that there were three events upcoming within the area; the Lyde Green Summer Sizzler, the Mangotsfield festival and C in the Park. Councillor Somers asked for volunteers to run Town Council stands at these events.

Councillor Budd noted that there was still no Chairman for the Events Committee. A Chairman was requested for the Committee and councillors were asked to contact the Clerk if they were willing to undertake this role.

Action: All councillors

118. ALCA/Centre for Sustainable Energy Climate Emergency Action Days

Councillors Maytham and Johnson volunteered to attend these events. It was **Resolved** to fund spaces for the event, for Councillors Maytham, Johnson and the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

158. Items from Members to Report

- Councillor Johnson reported that she had attended the Weston Power Distribution day, which had been interesting in terms of their future plans, including plans for electric vehicles, installing heat pumps in buildings etc.
- Councillor Hill noted the issues experienced by cyclists by the Beefeater, which had been raised at the Open Spaces Committee. Chris Harris at South Gloucestershire Council noted that the matter had been raised by others, and that the layout and design were not as they should be. He had had undertaken to investigate and respond.
- There was discussion around Covid-19 and a possible 'lockdown' scenario. It was agreed that in the event of lockdown, office would be closed to the public. The Clerk suggested that the Finance Committee should be limited to the minimum three councillors required to ensure quoracy, and that those three volunteers should have had no symptoms or contact with others suspected of being infected with Covid-19.

The Clerk noted that she had circulated Covid-19 guidance for council meetings, which was based on the NALC model, and that she would remain vigilant for further NALC updates.

159.

Next Meeting

19:00 on 9 April to be held in **The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm