



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

3 March 2020, Council Office, Emersons Green Town Council

Present – Councillors: S Budd, S Hill, C Johnson, D Somers (Chairman), & M Palmer

Attendees – RL and SB - allotment tenants, SJ and PM - members of the public, Richard Hull - Committee Clerk.

Members noted the evacuation procedures.

81. Apologies for absence –

Apologies were received from Councillors J Adams, P Morgan & C Wilkins
Councillors S Bassett & R Nichols were absent from the meeting.

82. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

83. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

SJ had attended to talk about litter bins in Lyde Green. The members agreed she could make comments during agenda item 87.

84. Minutes 7 January 2020

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

85. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

Prior to the meeting the Committee Clerk had circulated the following list;

64. Parking around the junction of Blackhorse Road and Elmtree Avenue;

To be brought back to Open Spaces for renewed discussion – partly in the light of a general discussion at the “Blue sky” meeting around parking issues.

68. Contract for use when hiring out Rodway common or other land;

To be brought to Open Spaces once the Town Clerk has been able to construct a booking form.

71. Pocket Parks;

Committee Clerk to put information about this on our website.

73. Royal Pigeon Release Association;

Contract to be sent to them.

75. Seeding Emersons Green common;

Quotes to be obtained for sowing in the autumn.

77. Vehicles parking on Vinney Green common;

Following discussion at Full Council on 13 February this will be put on the Open Spaces agenda for 5 May.

86. Beehives at the allotments and letting a plot to a new tenant

PM is a member of the British Beekeepers Association and he keeps bees in his garden. He gave a short talk on how he could set up four beehives on an allotment plot. In addition to the information he had provided prior to the meeting which had been circulated to members the following points were discussed;

- Whilst bees might object to a petrol strimmer nearby cutting the grass on the carriageways should not cause a problem unless the mower is left running and stationary near the hives.
- If a colony becomes a problem he can swap it with the Bristol Beekeepers club apiary.

Last autumn information had been put on the allotment holders Facebook page about the possibility having beehives on a plot. Whilst there were no negative responses RL thought that detailed information about bee keeping should be sent to the allotment tenants. PM agreed to provide some wording and it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would send this to the tenants and give them two weeks or until 31 March, whichever was the sooner, to raise any objections. Provided there are no objections then PM will be offered plot 17W which is an ideal location as it is not near the houses, the car park or the pre-school.

87. Dual purpose bins for Lyde Green

SGC have confirmed that the Town Council can pay for two bins to be installed; 1. By the bridge between the retail park and Lyde Green; 2. At the Park & Ride. SGC are intending to install their own bins at the Park & Ride site, they will be larger capacity bins and will contain a household-sized wheeled bin. In the meantime, they are doing a weekly litter pick.

SJ expressed surprise that a weekly litter pick was taking place. She has been doing litter picks about every 6 weeks with volunteer residents.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask SGC when the bins will be installed at the Park & Ride, how many and the locations within the Park & Ride site. The **Committee Clerk** will arrange a site visit to the first location with SJ to agree a location for a bin and the Town Council will cover the cost of £448 to install and £248.75 per annum for a weekly empty; the **Committee Clerk** will instruct SGC.

If the committee no longer needs to consider installing a bin at the Park & Ride then consideration can be given to installing a bin somewhere else as the intention was to install two bins; this can be considered at a subsequent Open Spaces meeting.

Cllr Palmer stated that five bins are to be installed around the Bristol & Bath Science Park.

88. Frome Valley Landscaping have been instructed to plant 10 trees on Blackhorse Road common

This was noted by members.

89. Grass area within and around the new circle of trees on the west side of Blackhorse Road uncut and wildflower seeding on some verges and roundabouts

Cllr Somers proposed that the area within the circle of trees and a strip about a metre wide around is all left uncut; It was **Resolved** to agree to the proposal and the **Committee Clerk** will inform SGC.

Cllr Somers explained that he and the Committee Clerk had met a representative of SGC; they are able to provide a quote for preparing the ground and sowing wildflower seeds along a 1m strips about 100m long going north and south away from the roundabout by the Premier Inn and on the roundabouts by the Shell garage and by Sainsburys.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain quotes for this work and from SGC and Frome Valley Landscaping for seeding Emersons Green Common in the autumn.

90. Three silver birch trees on the east side of Blackhorse Road common.

The trees have been re-staked. Cllr Budd suggested putting metal surrounds around the trees to protect them – the cross beams are about 84cm wide so the surrounds would have to be about 100cm in diameter and the starting cost was £249 + VAT; It was **Resolved** not to proceed with this.

91. Three small trees at Vinney Green common

The Committee Clerk explained that one of trees has a damaged metal surround and part of the tree is growing through a small section of the surround.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask a tree surgeon what work they recommend for the trees and a quote for this.

92. Trees in Green Lane that overhang residential properties

The trees were last cut back around January 2014. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will submit a planning application and obtain quotes for all the overhanging trees to be cut back to the last pruning points or the property boundaries whichever is the greater. If planning permission is granted the residents can be given a fixed date when the work will take place.

93. Quotes for tree surveys for the allotments and Rodway common

Two quotes have been received for each area.

It was **Resolved** to accept the quotes of £250 from Silverback arboricultural consultancy ltd for the allotments and £600 from Barton Hyett Associates Ltd for Rodway Common; the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractors.

94. Contract for cutting the grass verges

Three quotes were requested for a one-year contract. The only quote received was from South Gloucestershire Council for £983.95 per cut; It was **Resolved** to accept the quote and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct South Gloucestershire Council.

95. Three-year contract for summer maintenance

Three quotes were requested and two were received. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £4050.50 + VAT (rising to £4255.45 + VAT by year three) from Brandon Trust and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the company.

96. Contract for Easter Entertainment at Rodway Common

The contract was approved and signed.

97. Lyde Green Open Space community group

Cllr Johnson attended the meeting on 13 February and reported the following;

The meeting included a good presentation by Matthew Lipton on common land.

(Members noted that consideration could be given to asking him to do a similar talk for the Town Council - possibly at the allotments evening). The chairperson's involvement in the group will be more restricted in future. Various activities are planned for the next few months and the **Committee Clerk** will re-circulate the flyer for them.

Cllr Palmer mentioned that consideration is being given to the community group being taken back under the Lyde Green Community Association.

Cllr Palmer asked that consideration be given to how the Town Council might support the management of the common; the **Committee Clerk** apologised that this had not been put on this agenda and will add an item to the next agenda.

98. Dibden Lane allotments

- a) Skip hire - two quotes have been received. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £235 + VAT from Bateman Skips and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.
- b) Hire of a portable toilet - two quotes have been received. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £22 per week, including a weekly service, and £30 for transport each way, from Mendip Toilet Hire Ltd, the toilet will be hired April to October inclusive. The **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.
- c) A tenant has made a further request from a tenant for a trough to be installed nearer to her plot – this was last considered by the committee in September 2019. Cllr Somers reported that a site visit with the Committee Clerk showed that there are other plots and other areas of the site, e.g. the far east side, where plots are further away from a trough. It was noted that the cost to install a further trough would be substantial and it was **Resolved** to decline the request. The **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenant.
- d) Plot reviews and allotment judging; It was **Resolved** to do these in April and early July respectively. The **Committee Clerk** will arrange dates.
- e) The SGC funding agreement for S106 funds was agreed and signed.

99. Westons Hill play area and adjoining land

This was discussed at the meeting on 7 January in the context of Pocket Parks. Members noted that the areas are owned by two building companies;

100. Correspondence

To receive and respond to correspondence as per the schedule.

1. South Gloucestershire Council have received a request from Sunbeams Day Nursery to continue holding up to 2 sessions a week of Forest School at Leap Valley Woods, April 2020 to end of March 2021. The application is for any day of the week 9.00 – 12.00 and / or 13.00 – 16.00. Between 6 and 14 people will attend each session including staff and children. - *Noted*
2. At the meeting on 7 January Cllr Budd had asked if some benches that had been installed near the Langley Arms were on our land in Green Lane. From a site inspection by the committee clerk and examination of a map of the area it would seem that the benches are in Emersons Green Park. - *Noted*
3. The committee clerk recently met a representative of South Gloucestershire Council following concerns raised by Cllr Budd about litter in the wooded area in the corner of Blackhorse Road playing fields. The litter was cleared and they will do a fortnightly litter pick of the area. – *Cllr Budd thought there was still litter in the area and will make an inspection.*

101. Items from Members to Report

Cllr Budd; there is a lot of litter in the hedge alongside Blackhorse Road playing fields. The **Committee Clerk** will put this issue on the next agenda. The bus shelter opposite the playing fields has some damage and it needs repainting. The **Committee Clerk** will inspect the bus shelter and put the matter of repainting on the next agenda.

Cllr Johnson; this issue of cyclists riding close to people at the bus stop was considered at last Full Council. From a site visit it would seem that cyclists may be doing so because of limited space the other side of the bus shelter. The **Committee Clerk** will put this issue on the next agenda.

Cllr Palmer; The Royal Horticultural Society are doing a neighbourhood assessment in July. A report from the IAAPS project states;

- Some tree planting will take place.
- Asks if funding available from the local council for moss seating.

Cllr Somers advised that several tenants have reported that some sheds have been broken into. It is understood that at least one of the tenants was intending to report the matter to the police. Cllr Somers and the Committee Clerk have done a site visit and there is some damage to the fence near Resound but it is minor and was quite difficult to locate.

Subsequently Cllr Somers spoke to a member of staff at Resound who confirmed there was no clear evidence of the break ins on their CCTV.

102. Next Meeting

5 May 2020 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.05