



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

7 January 2020, Council Office, Emersons Green Town Council

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

Attendees – Richard Hull, Committee Clerk.

Members noted the evacuation procedures.

60. Apologies for absence –

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

61. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

62. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

There were no members of the public present.

63. Minutes 5 November 2019

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

64. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

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

46. *Parking around the junction of Blackhorse Road and Elmtree Avenue. 21.11.19; email to Chris Harris, SGC. Reminder sent 2.1.20. [Cllr Wilkins confirmed she will be contacting Resound on this matter].*
51. *Grass verge cuts; Quotes to be requested in January to be considered at March Open Spaces meeting for a three-year contract.*
52. *Beehive at the allotments; Positive replies received by member of the allotment committee to this idea. Detailed costings awaited from beekeeper AH.*
53. *Summer maintenance; Quotes requested to be considered at March meeting.*
54. *Dibden Lane Allotments; Hiring a toilet and skip; quotes to be requested in January to be considered at March Open Spaces meeting.*
56. *National Tree week; Cllr S Hill and the Committee Clerk have visited Blackhorse Road & Vinney Green commons. Information from Chew Valley Trees suggesting suitable trees sent to Cllrs Hill & Somers. Correspondence; 8th October; An email from South Gloucestershire Council re litter in a wooded area of Blackhorse Road playing field. Streetcare asked to put this on a regular litter pick – reply awaited.*

65. Bins in Lyde Green

The Committee Clerk reported that the Lyde Green Open Space group had given details of two locations where they would like a bin;

- a) The footpath / bridge between Emersons Green Retail Park and Lyde Green.
- b) The Park & Ride, Willowherb Road.

SGC have been contacted to ask their views on these locations and the costs; once received the Committee Clerk will revert to the committee.

66. Three silver birch trees on Blackhorse Road common

A quote of £235 + VAT has been received from Frome Valley Landscaping to re-stake the trees with double stakes and crossmembers. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.

Cllr Budd suggested that further protection would be given if the trees have a metal surround; the **Committee Clerk** will seek quotes.

67. Easter Entertainment at Rodway Common

Jay Millers Circus have offered to provide entertainment with shows in April as follows; 10, 11, 13 at 2pm & 5pm, 14 at 2pm. £375 will be paid for the use of the common and they will provide 25 family tickets each admitting 4 people. It was **Resolved** to accept these terms and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the Circus and send the tickets to the five local primary schools for distribution to underprivileged families.

68. A contract for use when hiring out Rodway common or other land

The Committee Clerk explained that the Town Clerk had prepared a new contract and that this will be sent to the committee for consideration.

69. Subscribing to membership of the Open Spaces Society on an ongoing basis

The Committee Clerk explained that the committee had agreed to subscribe for at least the last five years and that the cost this year was £45. Rather than having to consider subscribing each year it was **Resolved** to subscribe until further notice provided the cost did not increase by more than 20% year on year.

70. Request from the Open Spaces Society for a grant to support their legal fund

The Society maintains a legal fund specifically to enable it to support members fight legal cases. The fund, created by donations from members, has been exhausted. It was **Resolved** to donate £100 and the **Committee Clerk** will ask for the payment to be made. During the discussion the subject was brought up of a planning application by the owner of Lyde Green common in relation to the common. The **Committee Clerk** will let Cllrs M Palmer and C Johnson know the planning reference number.

71. Prospectus on Pocket Parks from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The scheme provides support through grants to community-led bodies working in partnership with their local authority. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will send the information to the Lyde Green Open Space group and put it on our website. Cllr Palmer raised the possibility of land behind Blackhorse Primary school being used in some way; the Committee Clerk will endeavour to find out who owns this land. Cllr Budd said that Springfield Park could benefit from this scheme.

72. Request from a member of the public for the Town Council to seek answers from Streetcare regarding its policy on path maintenance including the frequency that vegetation is cut back on cycle / foot paths

Members noted that SGC only do two core cuts of grass verges per year and that the additional cuts are paid for by the Town Council. The **Committee Clerk** believes he has some information from SGC about the maintenance of paths which he will pass onto the member of the public. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the member

of public that the committee fully support his request to have the undergrowth cut more often and that we raise specific issues with SGC; the **Committee Clerk** will also pass these comments onto SGC.

73. A request from the Royal Pigeon Release Association to use Rodway Common in 2020 on the same terms as 2019

The Committee Clerk reported that there had been 16 releases last year and the association had paid us £10 per release. It was **Resolved** to continue with the same terms but in addition the Association will be required to complete the contract referred to under item 68; the **Committee Clerk** will inform the association.

74. A request to SGC from Bristol & West AC for their monthly runs

The runs will take place once a month 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm April 2020 to March 2021 along the footpath / cycle path mainly alongside the ring road. The members had no objections and the request was noted.

75. Quotes to seed Emersons Green common with wildflower seeds

Three quotes were requested and two were received; however one of these didn't quote for establishment and maintenance work; Cllr Budd pointed out that cuttings from the meadow cannot be tipped on any of our common land as this is contrary to the bye laws; members noted that there could be a conflict of interest in respect of one of the companies quoting. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will;

- Request the cost for establishment and maintenance work.
- Find out the costs to remove cuttings from the common.
- For the purpose of transparency ask if there is any connection between the company and an SGC officer.
- Request another quote for all the work.

76. Funding agreement for Section 106 funds for the Richmond Road development

The Committee Clerk explained that since sending the agenda he had requested clarification from SGC on a point in the agreement and that once received the agreement should then be ready for signing on behalf of the Town Council.

77. Damage being caused by vehicles parking on Vinney Green common

Members noted that since letters were delivered to the properties on Richmond Road opposite the common that several other vehicles have been frequently parking on the common. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will;

- Deliver updated letters to the properties stating that the Town Council will be taking steps to prevent the parking.
- Request quotes for six signs stating that parking on the common is not permitted under the bye laws.
- Commence the process to complete an application to the Planning Inspectorate to install bollards along the edge of the common.

78. Correspondence

1. An email from a resident asking about having an allotment plot and keeping bees on it. The **Committee Clerk** will invite the resident to speak about bee keeping at an Open Spaces committee meeting.
2. Information about The Rodway Easy Runner 10k event on Sunday 8 March. The members had no objection to the event and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the organiser.

79. Items from Members to Report

- a) Cllr Palmer asked if there is any progress with Vinney Green. The Committee Clerk reported that he is not aware any decision has been made.
- b) Cllr Palmer asked if the Friends of Emersons Green Park are a charity as he thought they would have access to a lot more funding if they were. **Cllr Wilkins** confirmed the group are not a charity and **will let Cllr Palmer know when their next meeting is.**
- c) Cllr Budd asked if SGC have put the wooded area in Blackhorse Road playing fields on a regular litter pick. The **Committee Clerk** will check with SGC.
- d) Cllr Budd asked if some benches that have been installed near the Langley Arms are on our land at Green Lane. The **Committee Clerk** will investigate and report back.
Cllr Johnson left the meeting at 21.03
- e) Cllr Somers asked if Resound are aware of the application for a larger mast by the junction of Blackhorse Road and Westerleigh Road. **Cllr Wilkins** will inform Resound.

80. Next Meeting

3 March 2020 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.07