



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

10 December 2020

held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

Present: Councillors S Budd (Chairman), D Somers, P Morgan, M Palmer, R Hunt, R Nichols, C Johnson, S Al Hassan and J Adams

Attendees: Donna Simmons (Assistant Clerk)

258. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Todd, Hill, Wilkins and Hunt.

Councillor Bassett was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties.

259. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

Councillor R Hunt declared an interest in relation to agenda item 19 (To consider correspondence from South Gloucestershire Council regarding potential joint project). There were no further declarations of interest.

260. Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

261. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12 November 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November were a true and accurate record of the meeting and that these would be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.

262. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

Councillor R Hunt confirmed that her action from the October 2020 minutes had been completed. Councillor Budd noted that the local community police team were invited to attend this meeting, but were unable to do so. It was confirmed that they would attend the January 2021 meeting to give an update.

There were no other outstanding items.

263. Communications

Comm South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan 2020, Phase 1 – Issues and Approaches consultation:

The meeting noted the email communication from South Gloucestershire Council. Councillor Budd asked if members wished to respond as a council and suggested that this could be an item for the Planning Committee to consider. The Assistant Clerk noted that South Gloucestershire Council were

running briefing videos online which members may find useful. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for a Planning Committee meeting.

Action: Assistant Clerk

The deadline for response was noted as 1 March 2021. Councillor Budd asked that anybody else who wanted to respond should note their comments to Councillor Somers for consideration at the Planning Committee. Councillor R Hunt suggested that it would also be worth consideration at the next Climate Emergency Working Group meeting.

Email update from neighbourhood police team:

The meeting noted the email update received from the community policing team, noting that they would attend the January meeting for a face-to-face update.

264. Revised Personnel Terms of Reference for approval

Members considered the revised Personnel Terms of Reference which were circulated in advance. It was **Resolved** to adopt the revised Personnel Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee.

265. Personnel Committee membership

Councillor Al Hassan had previously volunteered to join the Committee.

It was **Resolved** that Councillor Al Hassan be elected to the Personnel Committee.

Election of an additional Personnel Committee member to return to a future meeting.

266. Grant application – Sight Support West of England

The meeting considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee to fund a grant of £400 to Sight Support West of England. The grant application form had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The expenditure was considered to be in the interests of local interests and likely to benefit residents in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. As such it was **Resolved** to fund a grant of £400 to Sight Support West of England in accordance with powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

267. Finance Committee update

Councillor Budd, who chaired the meeting, gave a verbal update from the November Finance Committee.

268. To approval addition of Councillor Johnson to online banking and cheque signatories via bank mandate

It was **Resolved** that Councillor Johnson be set up for banking, both online authorisations and as a cheque signatory.

269. Completion of the external audit review for the year ended 31 March 2020

It was noted that the AGAR Part 3 had been certified by the external auditor. This confirmed the conclusion of the external audit for 2019/20 and it was noted that there were no comments by the auditor.

It was requested that this return to the January 2020 meeting as it had not been listed on the agenda.

Action: Clerk

270. Planning Committee update

The meeting received a verbal update from Councillor Somers as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

271. Open Spaces Committee update

The meeting received a verbal update from Councillor Somers as Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

Councillor Somers noted that there had been increased activity in terms of digging on Rodway Common. It was noted that the owners of the land that housed the 'pencils' BMX tracks were closing them. It was noted that this had potential to result in increased activity on Rodway Common in the future.

It was discussed whether the Town Council wished to develop its own tree management policy and that this would be considered by the Open Spaces Committee.

272. EGTC meeting dates 2021

Meeting dates for 2021 were noted by members.

273. Co-option to vacancy in Emersons Green Ward – update

It was noted that Electoral Services at South Gloucestershire Council had confirmed that no election was requested by electors.

As such, the co-option advert, as circulated in advance to members, was now live.

274. Items from members to report

Councillor Hunt had had an approach from a resident asking if South Gloucestershire Council would fund 'hedgehog hotels'. Councillor Hunt enquired as to whether members felt this was something the Town Council could fund. Councillor R Hunt suggested that this should be discussed at the Open Spaces Committee.

Councillor Adams noted that she had used some of her MAF funding from her position as South Gloucestershire Councillor to fund Community History Arts Project (CHAP) to develop maps of the Downend area featuring items of historical interest. Councillor Adams explained that they CHAPS were hoping to do the same thing with Emersons Green and asked any councillors who had any useful information for inclusion to provide it to the CHAPS contact, the details of whom she shared at the meeting.

Councillor Johnson noted that the Climate Emergency Working Group was due to meet the week before but that only Councillor R Hunt and Councillor Johnson had attended. It was decided to reschedule and Councillor Johnson asked people to let her know if they had any issues joining. Councillor Johnson undertook to rearrange for a Thursday evening in the new year.

Action: Councillor Johnson

- Councillor Johnson referred to the incidents that had been reported on the news concerning the Bristol to Bath cycle track, particularly between the Mangotsfield Station and Morrisons supermarket. Councillor Johnson wondered whether the police might be able to patrol more often using the electronic bikes funded by the Town Council. Councillor Budd reminded those present that the police would be attending the January 2021 Full Council meeting so this could be raised with them then.

- Councillor Palmer noted that he had forwarded an email from Healthwatch regarding Emersons Green Medical Centre.
- Councillor Palmer noted that rumour was that South Gloucestershire would likely remain in Covid tier 3 at the next announcement.
- Councillor R Hunt noted that South Gloucestershire Council was installing a replacement basket swing being installed at Springfield Park and that they were looking to upgrade the path using some Section 106 funding.
- Councillor R Hunt noted that herself, Councillor Adams and South Gloucestershire Councillor Colin Hunt were contacting local organisations who might benefit from MAF funding, as between them they had £9k available. Councillors were asked to consider if they knew of any local groups who may benefit from it. Councillor R Hunt noted that there were also the Town Council grant funding or wider area grants. Councillor Nichols suggested a contact for Councillor R Hunt.

275. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public and press for agenda item 19, due to the CONFIDENTIAL and SENSITIVE nature of the business to be transacted

It was **Resolved** to exclude members of the public and press for the following agenda item due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

276. To consider correspondence from South Gloucestershire Council regarding potential joint project

Councillor R Hunt excused herself for this agenda item due to the declared conflict of interest and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

Costs to date: It was Resolved for the Town Council to fund 50% of the preliminary costs to date and the preplanning costs of which equated to £4,000.

Development of the legal agreement: It was Resolved to not proceed with the development of a legal agreement until a decision was taken in the future to proceed with the project.

277. Next Meeting

19:00 on 14 January 2021, to be held remotely via Zoom