



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

17 November 2020

Held via Skype due to Covid-19 restrictions

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

Attendees – Richard Hull - Committee Clerk.

161. Apologies for absence –

Councillors R Nichols & C Wilkins were absent from the meeting.

162. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

163. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

No members of the public joined the Skype meeting.

164. Minutes 1 September 2020

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2020 are a true and accurate record of the meeting and these will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.

165. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

152. Report of a crumbling wall between Home Field Close and Emersons Green Common;

The Committee Clerk explained that a boundary search has been obtained from the land registry, which may need to be referred to the Town Clerk. It is expected that the information will be brought to the committee on 5 January.

151. “No Parking” signs for Vinney Green Common;

The Committee Clerk explained that the 3 signs will be delivered on Thursday, that he and Cllr Budd had visited the common last Friday to agree locations for the signs and quotes will be requested for installation of the signs.

156. Signage for Rodway Common;

The Committee Clerk explained that the signs have been received, that he and Cllrs Hill and Somers visited the common last Friday to agree locations for the signs and that a contractor will be instructed to install the signs.

166. An ecologist's report for three trees at Rodway Common

The Committee Clerk explained the report had been requested following the recommendation in the tree survey report that was obtained earlier this year as the trees might have bat roosting potential. The ecologist stated there was no reason the works recommended in the tree survey report should not proceed. The Committee Clerk will request quotes for the works.

167. Members noted the following expenditure that had been authorised by the Town Clerk and Cllr D Somers;

- **£45 + VAT to SGC to supply and fit a stopper for the seat at the bus shelter by Springfield Road**
- **£70 +VAT to cut back a tree branch that is obstructing Green Lane near the Langley Arms**
- **£120 to raise the canopy level on trees by the cycle / footpath by the edge of Rodway Common**

168. An email from SGC stating they are not willing to include the Town Council's three bus shelters in their inventory and to consider maintenance of the shelters

Cllr Hill explained that some years ago SGC had removed most of the Town Council's bus shelters in the area, without consulting the Town Council, and had left just three of them. It was Resolved that the present condition of the bus shelters is satisfactory and that the bus shelters would continue to be inspected as part of the risk assessments.

169. Frome Valley Landscaping expect to replace one of the trees at Blackhorse Road common in November

This was noted by members.

170. An email from the Lyde Green Open Space (LGOS) Group seeking support for the formation of a new group

Cllr Palmer explained that a Community Development Worker has been appointed and Cllr Palmer hopes they will take on some of the LGOS projects and that the previous work of the LGOS will come under the Lyde Green Community Association banner.

171. An email from Cllr Johnson raising a concern that residents who remove trees or shrubs from their properties may be doing so in contravention of a covenant on their properties

Members thought that actions in contravention of a covenant could be reported to SGC's Enforcement department. It was **Resolved** that **Cllr Johnson** would draw this matter into the climate change initiative.

172. An email from a resident raising concerns about footpaths and cycle paths

The members noted the resident's comments and it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the resident of this.

173. An email from SGC about parking by the junction of Blackhorse Road and Elmtree Avenue

Chris Harris, SGC, states that SGC have already recorded the request to introduce double yellow lines at the junction but that cannot be considered until an area wide parking review takes place. Members are concerned that even if the yellow lines are put in place they will not address the issue of lack of visibility at the junction. Cllr Palmer explained that a PCSO had

put notes through local residents' doors about the parking but this does seem to have made any difference. **Cllr Hill** agreed to contact Chris Harris about the matter.

174. Pigeon liberations this year and a request to continue next year on the same terms

Members noted there were 8 liberations this year. It was **Resolved** to agree to the associations' request to continue next year on the same terms of £10 per release and the **Committee Clerk** will confirm to the association.

175. Allotment tenants' survey and to consider sending the results to the tenants

The Town Clerk had sent a survey to the tenants and compiled a report of the results, both of which the members thought were very good. Cllrs Hill and Somers agreed to be a working party to consider the survey in detail and make recommendations to the committee so that a response could be sent to the tenants with the results of the survey but without verbatim detail that tenants had put under "other comments" as it was considered that some tenants would realise who had made some of the comments. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would set up a meeting for the working party.

176. Dibden Lane allotments

a) Skip hired on 25 September and to consider requests to hire another skip and for it to be delivered on a weekend

Members noted that the skip hired on 25 September was filled that day but this was partly because it was used for various plant matter, rather than non-compostable weeds which was the intention. Four skips have been hired this year and it was **Resolved** to decline the requests for another skip this year and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenants who made the requests.

b) A tenant's request for a night latch to be fitted to the allotment gate

It was **Resolved** to ask the tenant again for further information if he wanted the committee to consider the request and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenant.

c) To receive a report following letters sent to allotment tenants whose plots were not cultivated

The Committee Clerk explained that he and Cllrs Morgan and Somers had identified 14 unsatisfactory plots on 17 September. Letters / emails were sent to the tenants concerned on 24 September. 4 tenants have not responded including one who has not paid his rent or replied to the termination notice that has been issued. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenant that the contents of his shed will be removed and delivered to his home at his expense if he did not remove them within two weeks. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange a date for the plots to be re-inspected by Cllrs Bassett and Somers, once Covid restrictions permit, and will arrange for a further inspection in January to check if tenants had achieved the requirement of cultivating at least a quarter of their plot.

177. Signage at Vinney Green pond to show that The Town Council maintains the pond and / or to give information about the plants and wildlife at the pond

A contractor has offered to provide a list of plants and wildlife that are present. Cllr Budd proposed that a sign is purchased stating that the Town Council maintains the pond and gives details of the plants and wildlife. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain the list and contact a company that may provide relevant artwork.

Cllr Budd left the meeting.

Cllr Palmer thinks there is a nature information board by Leap Valley pond, **Cllr Morgan** agreed to visit the pond to take a picture of the board.

178. Replacement padlocks for the metal bollards at Rodway Common and Emersons Green Common

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will purchase 8 combination padlocks, the present price is £8.09 each.

179. An email from Cllr Budd stating that the waste bins at Pomphrey are overflowing **Cllrs Hill and Johnson** agreed to check the bins and report back on their findings.

180. Grass verge cutting

The committee clerk explained that the Town Council had entered a one year contract for 2020 / 21. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will request quotes for a one year contract for 2021 / 22.

181. Emails from SGC about proposals to plant trees in the area

The committee clerk explained that it was difficult to tell from the plan that SGC provided where the proposed planting areas were as there were no road names on the plan. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask SGC again for a better plan and in the meantime will resend the existing plan to the members as Cllr Hill did not receive it.

182. Correspondence

1. An email dated 27.10.20 from Gary Meddick to Cllrs R Hunt and C Johnson about cutting back vegetation on the cycle / footpath that connects Church Farm Road & Colliers Break and goes past Mangotsfield Primary school stating;

“I am sorry but unfortunately I am constantly being pulled in different directions due to other council priorities which seem to take precedence over the core works and we do and only have a limited resource. I will get this done but we all have to have some patience. It will be done over xmas holidays or at the latest the early spring break.”

Cllr Johnson explained the background to this matter.

Cllr Bassett left the meeting.

2. The Town Council’s membership subscription to the Open Spaces Society of £45 will be paid this month. This is the same cost as last year - *noted*.
3. An email from Kayleigh Dando, South Gloucestershire Council, with and update on bin installation stating;

“I have been liaising with a resident of Lyde Green and providing an update on the bin installation at the park and ride and bus stop sites. I can confirm that the order for bins has now been placed by our waste team and we are looking at installation in the new year. The resident also made me aware of the Town Councils agreement to provide and arrange for weekly emptying of a bin at the footbridge, I’m not sure if this has progressed but I can advise that Rich Withy is perhaps the best person for you to discuss this with if you need to.”

The Committee Clerk will ask Cllr R Hunt for an update on whether Chamonix are willing to install a bin in the basket ball court / play area and Rich Withy for an update on the bin by the footbridge.

183. Items from Members to report

- Cllr Hill asked why Emersons Green common had not been cut. The committee clerk explained that he had raised this with the contractor who had been unable to cut the common as it had been too wet but would do so as soon as he could.

- Cllr Palmer asked if enquiries could be made to find out who owns some land to the south of Westerleigh Lane and the east of the ring road. The **Committee Clerk** will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

184. Next Meeting

5 January 2021 at 19.00 online

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.35