



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

11 February 2021

held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

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

Absent: Councillors Wilkins, J Hunt, J Sweeney and R Nichols

In attendance: Kath MacConnachie (Town Clerk), Jon Munslow (Asset and Infrastructure Group Manager, South Gloucestershire Council), Alison Catlin (Public Art and Cultural Events Co-Ordinator, South Gloucestershire Council), Liza-Jane Gillespie (Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, South Gloucestershire Council), Jack Fitzsimmons (Youth Work Manager, Creative Youth Network) and Ellen Wilson (Youth Worker, Creative Youth Network).

300. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wilkins, J Hunt and Sweeney

301. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations of interest.

302. Public participation

There were no members of the public present other than those in attendance to present to the meeting from South Gloucestershire Council and Youth Works (detailed above).

303. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 January 2021

Subject to the amendment of two minor typographical errors, it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January were a true and accurate record of the meeting and that these would be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.

304. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

There were no outstanding items from these minutes.

305. Newlands Bridge Replacement Project

Jon Munslow, South Gloucestershire Council, presented to the meeting on the Newlands Bridge Replacement Project.

Alison Catlin requested a representative of the Town Council to act as a liaison for project, particularly around the arts side of the project. Members nominated Councillor Adams to act as a liaison between the project and the Town Council.

Action: Councillor Adams

Councillor Palmer joined during this agenda item.

306. Youth Consultation progress update

Jack Fitzsimmons from Creative Youth Network gave a verbal update to the meeting on progress to date. Jack Fitzsimmons and Ellen Wilson left the meeting following the update.

It was agreed that James Dowling was also nominated as a liaison with South Gloucestershire Council, particularly on the landscaping and layout aspects of the project.

Action: Councillor Dowling

The Clerk undertook to provide Alison Catlin with the contact details for both Councillor Adams and Councillor Dowling.

Action: Clerk

Alison Catlin left the meeting.

307. Correspondence

Members considered an email exchange between the Clerk and Stagecoach West regarding the subsidised 462 bus service. It was noted that there had been service disruption due to Covid-19 and that there would be no charges due during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Members noted that they wished to revisit the agreement when the contract expired.

Action: Clerk

308. Planning Committee update

Councillor Somers welcomed the two new Councillors to the meeting.

Councillor Somers gave an update from the Planning Committee. Minutes of meetings had been circulated to all Councillors. He noted that there was an additional meeting scheduled to consider the South Gloucestershire Council Local Plan. Councillor Somers welcomed views of other Councillors who were asked to email either Councillor Somers or another member of the Planning Committee. 1 March was noted as the deadline for a response.

It was noted that the link to the Local Plan had been circulated. Members were asked to email the clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk email address if they required a printed copy.

309. Open Spaces Committee update

Councillor Somers gave an update from the Open Spaces Committee.

It was noted that Councillor Hill had been in correspondence with Chris Harris at South Gloucestershire Council regarding the crossing between Dibden Lane and Elmlea Avenue and that there were reportedly plans afoot for double yellow lines.

310. Finance Committee update

The Chairman of the Finance Committee was not present, so the Clerk gave a short update from the meeting. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors.

311. To co-opt a member to the Personnel Committee

It was **Resolved** to co-opt Councillor Dowling to the Personnel Committee.

312. To co-opt a member to the Finance Committee

It was **Resolved** to co-opt Councillor Sunderland to the Finance Committee.

313. To consider increasing membership of the Events Committee and to co-opt a new member if agreed

It was **Resolved** to increase the membership of the Events Committee from five to six members.

It was **Resolved** to co-opt Councillor Dowling to the Events Committee.

314. Climate Emergency Declaration

It was **Resolved** to adopt the Climate Emergency Declaration as drafted and recommended by the Climate Emergency Working Group.

The Clerk noted that she was planning for a Voices article for the May 2021 edition. Councillor Bassett had drafted some content which he undertook to send it to Councillor Johnson for consideration at the next Climate Emergency Working Group meeting.

Action: Councillor Bassett

315. Hedgehog houses

The meeting considered the proposal of Councillor Adams to provide hedgehog houses for residents' gardens.

The Clerk noted that the Town Council would not be able to gift these to individuals, but that the Town Council could retain ownership with residents 'hosting' them in their gardens. The Clerk suggested that an online application form could be created which would require applicants to accept these terms in order to obtain a hedgehog house.

The Clerk had been in touch with Downend Men In Sheds, who had offered to make hedgehog houses, to the Hedgehog Preservation Society specification, for £20 per house.

It was discussed whether applicants would need to declare certain conditions in order to obtain a hedgehog house, such as holes in fences to allow hedgehogs to move about. It was agreed that such questions could be built into the online form. The Clerk asked for members to contact here with any suggestions for qualifying criteria.

Action: All members

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 the purchase of 25 hedgehog houses at the cost of £20 each, in accordance with powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

It was noted that applications would only be accepted from residents within the Town Council boundary, and that they would need to confirm their address as part of the application process.

316. Mangotsfield Old Station arts project grant funding ratification

It was **Resolved** to ratify the decision of the Finance Committee to fund a grant of £15,000 (maximum) to the Artel 31 Co-operative for the Mangotsfield Pavilion Project, using powers under the Local Government Act 1972, s.145 relating to the arts and recreation, subject to match funding from the Arts Council England.

317. To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public and press for agenda item 19 (Vinney Green accessway), 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.

318. Vinney Green accessway

It was **Resolved** to write a letter to South Gloucestershire Council regarding the accessway arrangements and the Dibden Lane allotment site.

Action: Clerk

Councillors Bassett and R Hunt left the meeting during this item before the resolution as passed.

319. Items from members to report

Councillor Hill noted that South Gloucestershire Council had been undertaking tree works on the cycle track by the station.

Councillor Hill had also received a report from local Neighbourhood Watch representative who was unhappy that the police were no longer sharing crime information with them. The individual had written to Sue Mountstevens.

Councillor Palmer noted that the 'TEST' graffiti tag was appearing all down the M32.

320. Next Meeting

19:00 on 11 March 2021, to be held remotely via Zoom