



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

2 March 2021

Held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions

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

Attendees – Richard Hull (Committee Clerk), JH (member of the public).

207. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

Councillors S Bassett, R Nichols and C Wilkins were absent from the meeting.

208. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

209. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

JH explained that she was interested particularly in the Town Council's verge cutting regime and thought that Council could save money if the verges were cut less often and that it would benefit pollinators if the grass could grow.

Cllrs Somers and Hill made the following points;

- The Town Council has paid for wildflower seeds to be sown on the roundabout by Blackhorse Garage. The Town Council were considering sowing wildflower seeds on Emersons Green common but were advised not to do so as this would be detrimental to the wildflowers that are already there which are very varied.
- The Town Council may consider reducing the number of cuts in the future.
- An area of Blackhorse Road common has been left to grow.
- Road safety and visibility must be taken into account when considering how often to cut verges.
- Public opinion is often split on the frequency of cutting.

210. Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 5 January

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January are a true and accurate record of the meeting and these will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity

211. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

The **Committee Clerk** has inspected Rodway common where bollards need replacing, he will arrange a site visit with **Cllr Hill** to confirm which bollards need replacing at Emerson Green common.

212. Ideas for an article in the April Voice magazine

The **Committee Clerk** will send the Clerk's email of 28 January to the members again.

213. Quotes for grass verge cutting

Quotes have been received for 1, 2 and 3 years from South Gloucestershire Council. The Committee Clerk apologised that he had overlooked the fact that the 3-year contract cannot be considered as the tendering process had not been followed for contracts over £25,000. Cllr Hill proposed and Cllr Palmer seconded that acceptance of the 2-year contract costing £10,359.77 this year and £10,774.16 + CPIH in 2022 is recommend to Full Council to agree. This was unanimously agreed and the **Committee Clerk** will ask the **Clerk** to add this to the Full Council agenda.

214. Quote for emptying litter and dog bins

South Gloucestershire Council have advised that the cost for bin emptying for 2021 / 22 has increased by £61.93 to £8,709.36. Cllr Hill proposed and Cllr Morgan seconded that acceptance of the quote is recommend to Full Council to agree. This was unanimously agreed and the Committee Clerk will ask the **Clerk** to add this to the Full Council agenda.

Cllr Johnson joined the meeting.

215. A report from Cllr Budd that the older children's play area at Emersons Green Park is muddy and there are not any recycling bins in or near the park

Cllr Budd joined part way through this item.

Cllr Budd reported that Bath park has artificial grass. Members noted that there is no path to one of the gates for the older children's play area so when walking over the grass mud is trailed from into the play area.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will

- Ask SGC to put some artificial grass in part of the play area and to put a path to the gate.
- Ask SGC if rubbish in dual purpose bins is sorted for recycling

216. Dibden Lane allotments

a) Quotes for tree work

Three quotes had been received for works recommended in a tree survey obtained for the Town Council. Cllr Palmer proposed and Cllr Morgan seconded that the quote from Bristol Tree Services for £1,800 plus VAT is accepted, this was unanimously **Agreed** and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor. This work includes felling an ash tree with die back in the north east corner of the site. There is no physical boundary between the allotment site and the adjoining land in this area, so it is not clear whose land the tree is on, but the members considered it was appropriate to include the tree because of the risk of it falling.

b) Recommendations of the working party for the results of the allotment survey

The Committee Clerk had previously circulated a draft email to the tenants to be sent with the survey results, it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will send these. The working party suggested implementing a plot deposit, this will be considered further once costs are available for preparatory work on plots before they are re-let.

c) Plot inspections

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange a date after Easter for the first inspections.

d) An email from a tenant suggesting that the rent collection is altered to early autumn

It was **Resolved** to decline this request and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenant.

e) **Comments from a resident that items are being deposited near or in the stream next to the allotments**

Cllr Somers explained that he and the Committee Clerk had inspected the area. There is some evidence of weeds and soil being deposited to the side of one of the plots but not close enough to be in danger of it falling into the stream. Quite a lot of the trees alongside the stream have been cut and some of the branches are in or near the stream. Cllr Somers believes that when Jon Munslow spoke at Full Council in February that his project includes clearing out streams; it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask Mr Munslow if that includes this stream.

f) **Quote to hire a skip**

Bateman Skips have quoted £240 + VAT to hire a skip, it was **Resolved** to accept the quote and the **Committee Clerk** will book delivery just before Easter.

217. Update on the installation of bins and a request from a resident for a bin on Jenner Boulevard

The Committee Clerk had distributed two emails from SGC;

- Dated 1 February stating that they will start installing three bins over the next month at the park and ride.
- Dated 23 February stating, “Once Lyde Green is adopted by the council we will assess any existing bins (developers often install and maintain them during development), and consider if they could be better located, and look at the layout of the development to plan where additional bins would be best positioned.”

Another resident had also asked for more bins to be put in the Lyde Green area. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask SGC when Lyde Green will be adopted and to let the resident know SGC’s stance on bins and **Cllr Palmer** will inform the resident who asked about a bin on Jenner Boulevard.

218. Planting more trees within the Town Council’s boundary

Cllr Johnson confirmed the Climate Emergency Group will be discussing this matter.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform Neil Gazzard, SGC, that the Town Council is interested in the possibility of planting trees on land owned by SGC or the Town Council.

219. Tree Asset Management Plan

Members noted that the SGC plan is quite substantial. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will document the Town Council’s present procedure of having the trees surveyed and any recommended works completed.

220. A map showing ownership of the land between Westerleigh Lane & the ring road

The Committee Clerk had circulated the map which shows the land is owned by SGC. Cllr Palmer wondered if trees could be planted on the land or part of it used for a nature walk. **Cllr Palmer** agreed to make enquiries to try to find out what SGC plan to do with the land and report to the committee.

221. A quote for an information board at Emersons Green common

Some members had not had sufficient time to consider the quote. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will carry this matter forward to the next meeting.

222. Budget report

Members noted the report and that the Town Clerk will send quarterly reports in future for the Committee Clerk for inclusion with relevant agendas and to circulate to members. The **Committee Clerk** will include an agenda item each year for the committee to consider any budget changes for the following year.

223. Further information about the damaged wall alongside Emersons Green common

The Committee Clerk explained that SGC have stated that planning permissions go back to 1974 on their website but having searched under road name and postcode he was not able to find an application for the re-building of the wall. It was **Resolved** that the brick side of the wall is the residents' responsibility and the **Committee Clerk** will get quotes to repair any sections of the stone side of the wall that are damaged, the **Committee Clerk** will update the resident who raised this issue.

224. Three of the signs at Rodway common have been removed

A resident had informed the Town Council that one of the signs at the common have been removed. The Committee Clerk reported that on inspecting the signs he found that three have been removed from their posts and that the signs were attached to the rails by double sided tape. The members considered that the tape was not strong enough and they would have expected that the signs would be attached to the rails more securely e.g., by bolts or rivets; It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the supplier of the members comments and ask what remedial action they will take.

225. Family entertainment at Rodway common

Members noted that no quote had been provided and that under the Covid restrictions that are expected to be in place at Easter a circus would not be permitted.

226. Emails from a resident and a reply from the Town Clerk about parking on the tarmac area at Vinney Green common

The emails were received on 21 January, they were noted by members. It was **Resolved** that the response from the Town Clerk on 28 January was adequate and that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the resident of this.

227. Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered and noted;

1. An email from a member of the public stating;
"I'm enquiring about the pagoda on Emerson Way by the petrol station at Meadgate. This has been ignored for some time and I was wondering what is needed to be able to take care of it, similar to The Friends of Emerson's Green Park?"
The committee clerk gave him the phone number for Streetcare as this land is not owned by the Town Council.
2. An email from SGC about parking around the junction of Elmtree Avenue and Blackhorse Road.
Cllr Johnson left the meeting at 20.58.
3. An email from Cllr Caroline Johnson stating that the vegetation has been cut back by SGC on the cycle / footpath between Colliers Break and Church Farm Road, this path goes past Mangotsfield Primary School.
4. An invitation to attend the next meeting of the Bristol East fringe cycling & walking group on 15 March.
5. Aquaflora Landscapes have provided a list of plants and wildlife at Vinney Green pond, and Cllr Pat Morgan has taken photos of an information board at Leap Valley

pond. This information can be considered further in the light of the quote for an information panel at Emersons Green common.

6. The allotment tenant whose rent is outstanding from 2020 / 21 has agreed to return his key.
7. An email from Barry King stating he hopes to cut Emersons Green common the week of 8 March.

228. Items from members

- Cllr Hill reported that the potholes in the parking area by Rodway common are deep and the area needs re-gravelling. The **Committee Clerk** will add this to the next agenda.
- Cllr Budd asked that an item is put on the next agenda for the signs to be replaced that refer to MRPC; the **Committee Clerk** to action.
- Cllr Hill has reported to SGC that there is a lot of mud on some of the roads in Lyde Green and that the builders were not using a wheel wash.

229. Next meeting

4 May 2021 at 19.00 online

Cllr Hill gave apologies for this meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.03