



EMERSONS GREEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

27 July 2021 in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors S Bassett, S Hill, P Morgan, D Somers (Chairman) and R Sunderland

Absent: Councillors S Budd, M Palmer, R Nichols and C Wilkins

In attendance: Richard Hull (Committee Clerk), SD (member of the public)

Cllr Somers welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure.

2021.1. Appointment of committee chair for the ensuing year

Cllr Hill proposed Cllr Somers, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously agreed.

2021.2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Budd and Palmer.

2021.3 Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

2021.4 Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

There was no public participation.

2021.5 Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 4 May

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting held on 4 May.

2021.6 Outstanding Items from these minutes

- Replacement of signs that refer to MRPC
The committee clerk intends to have information about this for the next meeting.
- Information boards at Emersons Green common
Ed Drewitt has been asked to provide further quotes.
- Damage caused by the excavations at Rodway common
Quotes have been requested to reinstate the ground.

2021.7 An email from Cllr Budd suggesting that some facts about W G Grace are put on the information board at Rodway common

It was **Resolved** to consider this when the board needs replacing.

2021.8 An email from a resident asking the Town Council to encourage participants of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme

Members noted that if the Town Clerk wanted to do an article in the Voice magazines, then **Cllr Bassett** would be willing to contact the local school to find out more about the scheme.

2021.9 Seeking adverse possession of the strips of land in Emersons Green Lane

The Committee Clerk referred to the background note he had sent with the agenda; the Land Registry and cancelled the Town Council's previous claim for adverse possession since a sufficient degree of physical control had not been shown. To overcome this, we would probably have to fence the land. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would contact Matthew Lipton, SGC, to see if he is able to do anything to protect the land as part of the Commons Project he is involved with.

2021.10 Dibden Lane allotments

- A. A request from a tenant for the Town Council to use Facebook to communicate with tenants;

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would inform the tenant that Facebook was not an appropriate way to communicate with tenants as not all tenants use Facebook.

- B. Members noted that the tenant of plot 49W and 50W has voluntarily cleared the brambles that were growing over the wooden fence next to Crossways Nursery.

- C. A request from Cllr Sunderland to maintain part of the strip of land bordering the allotments and Crossways Nursery;

Cllr Sunderland explained that she wants to do this instead of weedkiller being used.

Cllr Sunderland agreed to contact the neighbouring tenants to see if they want to maintain the rest of the strip of land alongside the nursery and report back to the committee.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would put an item on the next agenda for the members to consider the Town Council no longer using weedkiller in other areas of the allotments and banning its use by tenants.

- D. Requests from two residents for the hedgerow bordering their properties in Meadgate to be reduced to two metres in height;

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would seek the thoughts of a contractor on reducing the height of the hedge to two metres and getting quotes.

- E. A request for the tenancy agreement to be altered in relation to not allowing trees to grow on plots;

Members noted that the tenancy agreement states that trees must not be planted without the Town Council's agreement and permission would only be given for dwarf varieties of fruit trees. It was **Resolved** to decline the tenants request and to monitor the situation and the **Committee Clerk** would inform the tenant.

- F. Comments on Facebook encouraging tenants to put plants in a "community garden"; These were noted by the members.

- G. The allotments evening on 19 October;

It was **Resolved** not to have a speaker this year. The **Committee Clerk** will get an update from the Town Clerk on the grant application for a composting toilet.

- H. Members thanked Cllrs Morgan and Somers for doing the allotment judging on 21 June.

- I. Emails from a tenant about the upkeep of their plot;

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** would draft a reply to the tenant, to be checked with the Town Clerk and shown to Cllr Somers, reiterating that under the terms of the tenancy agreement the tenant agrees "to keep the plot in a good state of

cultivation” and that it is not presently being used for its intended purpose. The tenant will be asked if they have anyone that can help them and they will again be given 3 months to cultivate ¼ of the plot and 12 months to cultivate the whole plot.

J. Further plot reviews;

Cllr Somers explained that the reviews and letters that had been done this year had prompted several tenants to give up their plots. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange plot reviews in September.

2021.11 SGC have repainted the “Keep Clear” markings at Rodway Common and they have started filling in the potholes in the parking area

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will contact Mark King to thank him for the work done and ask when the remainder of the potholes will be filled in.

2021.12 A quote to fit a spring to the gate at Vinney Green pond

It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £30 plus VAT from Chris Belcher and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct him.

2021.13 A quote to cut and collect the cuttings at Emersons Green common

The quote of £570 from Barry King was the same as last year and it was **Resolved** to accept the quote and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct him.

2021.14 Two of the “No Parking” signs at Vinney Green have been removed

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will get a quote from the supplier for two signs that are riveted to the bars.

2021.15 An email from a resident about the tarmac area on Vinney Green common

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will email the resident reiterating the Town Council’s previous comment that the tarmac area is part of the common and parking is not permitted there.

2021.16 Appointing a tree warden

It was **Resolved** to appoint Cllr Hill as tree warden.

2021.17 Tree Asset Management plan

The plan had been sent to members prior to the meeting and it was **Resolved** to adopt the plan.

2021.18 Issue of ash dieback

Cllr Hill agreed to do a review of the ash trees and report to the committee.

2021.19 Planting trees at Rodway Common

Members noted that on 22 July Full Council agreed to increase the Open Spaces budget for planting trees to £5300. Cllrs Hill, Somers and Sunderland met Neil Gazzard (NG), SGC Tree Planting Officer at the common on 13 July. NG recommended various types of trees. It was **Resolved** that Cllr Hill will contact NG and decide which type of Lime tree to plant, the **Committee Clerk** will then get quotes to plant and water 10 trees.

2021.20 Installing a bin at Old Lane, off Church Farm Road

The request had been made by a resident who has been doing regular litter picking in the area. Cllr Johnson and the Committee Clerk visited the site in June following which the resident received support on social media for the installation of a bin. It was **Resolved** that the

Committee Clerk will instruct SGC to install a bin, the expected cost is £448 to install and approximately £150 per year for weekly emptying.

2021.21 Information about bins in Lyde Green

The Committee Clerk explained the following;

- Hayley Brock, SGC, has stated that once Lyde Green is adopted they will assess the existing provision of bins.
- Gardiner & Theobald, who act for the building consortium, stated that any addition of bins would not comply with their S.38 agreements.
- Green Square have installed 18 bins on land they are responsible for, they pay SGC to empty them twice a week.

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will send this information to Cllr R Hunt and ask if she can provide information on how bins can be installed now rather than waiting until Lyde Green is adopted.

2021.22 Cllrs Morgan and Somers have re-planted the planters on Emerson Way

Members noted this and thanked Cllrs Morgan and Somers.

2021.23 A report from Cllr Budd that a highways sign on Vinney Green common is faded and the post is at an angle

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will report this to Streetcare.

2021.24 Plan having a stand at the Three Greens Festival on 25 September

The three greens are; Emersons Green, Lyde Green and the environment.

Members suggested information about the following as possible content for the stand:

One of the hedgehog houses, tree planting, Town Council green areas, photos of allotments, footpaths and cycle paths, a questionnaire about how the green areas could be improved.

Cllr Sunderland explained the Town Council could use the main tent if councillors did not want to use the Town Council gazebo.

Cllrs Bassett and Sunderland agreed to meet with the Committee Clerk at 10am on 30 July to agree content for the stand.

2021.25 Correspondence

To following correspondence was noted;

1. An email from Bristol Water confirming that the plumbing installation at Dibden Lane allotments complied with the Water Regulations. The inspection was done following works that were required by Bristol Water which were the lagging of a pipe by a water trough and fitting a double check valve.
2. An email from SGC about "No mow May".
*It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will put an item on an Open Spaces agenda to consider not mowing the verges in Emersons Green in May.*
3. An email on 17 March from a resident about a fire in Green Lane.
4. An email from SGC about the maintenance of the wildflowers on the roundabout by the Shell garage.
5. An email from SGC about the use of Leap Valley Woods by a nursery.
6. An email from the Lyde Green Open Space group with information on their plans.

2021.26 Items from Members to report

Cllr Sunderland reported that the section of Green Lane starting near Emersons Green common is impassable. The Committee Clerk believes that Brandon Trust are

scheduled to cut back the vegetation in September and it was agreed that the **Committee Clerk** will ask Brandon Trust if they can do this work in August.

2021.27 Next Meeting; 14 September 2021 at 19.00

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.02

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