



EMERSONS GREEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee**

**4 May 2021**

**Held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions**

**Present:** Councillors C Johnson, P Morgan, and D Somers (Chairman)

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

**In attendance:** Richard Hull (Committee Clerk), Katherine MacConnachie (Town Clerk), Councillor R Sunderland

**230. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Budd and Hill.

**231. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011**

No interests were declared at this time.

**232. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**233. Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 5 March**

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

**234. Outstanding Items from these Minutes**

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

*Emails received too late for the agenda for 4 May from N Gazzard, SGC Tree Officer, so they will be put on the agenda for 6 July.*

219. Tree Asset Management Plan

*The committee clerk will endeavour to complete this action by 6 July.*

228. Items from members

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.

*The committee clerk will endeavour to progress this action by 6 July.*

**235. Grant application for a compostable toilet**

The Town Clerk explained that she needed to submit a grant application as part of her CiLCA qualification and she proposed that she contact the allotment holders to ascertain their level of support for this. It was **Resolved** that the **Town Clerk** can proceed with this.

The Town Clerk left the meeting.

### **236. Fitting a spring to the gate by Vinney Green pond**

Cllr Budd had reported that the gate was not closing properly. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will get a quote to remedy this.

### **237. An information board at Emersons Green common**

Three quotes have been received from one source for different styles of information board. Cllr Sunderland said the information board in Emersons Green Park was supplied by Landmark and Cllr Somers said that the signs that Siston Parish Council had installed were a lot cheaper. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will seek quotes from two other suppliers.

### **238. Repair works for the parking area at Rodway common and the condition of the “keep clear” markings by the metal bollards**

Cllr Hill had reported that the parking area needs re-gravelling and the “keep clear” markings need repainting. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will contact SGC to ask if they will do this work.

### **239. Litter picking**

- a) A request to borrow 30 litter pickers for a future community litter pick;  
Before we lend our equipment we need to have processes in place including a risk assessment. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will advise the resident that SGC should be able to loan equipment.
- b) A request from a resident for her daughter and friends to do litter picking;  
The resident was going to provide further information about what was required from the Town Council but this had not been received.
- c) Members noted that some voluntary litter picking had been done by a resident who has now bought her own equipment.  
Cllr Johnson suggested that litter picking could be put in an Emersons Green Voice article.

### **240. Various requests for bins or more frequent emptying**

The Committee Clerk explained that seven requests have been received. An email from SGC states that once Lyde Green is adopted they will assess any existing bins and review where additional bins are needed. SGC also state that the spine road, consisting of Willowherb Drive, Jenner Boulevard and Acorn Drive, should be adopted by the end of 2021. Discussion took place about the various requests. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will;

- Contact the consortium detailing the requests we have received for bins and asking if they will install some.
- Arrange a site visit to Old Lane with Cllr Johnson. It was **Resolved** to delegate authority to **Cllr Johnson** to if a bin is needed there considering other nearby bins. The cost to install a bin is £448 and £148.96 per year for emptying.
- Inform Mangotsfield Secondary school of the reported problem of litter in the lane from the school to Cossham Street and let Cllr Hunt know of this action. It was **Resolved** not to install another bin in the lane.
- Ask SGC when the bins by the footbridge over the ring road and Acorn Drive will be installed.
- Re-send the map to councillors that was provide by the Lyde Green Open Spaces group.  
Cllr Budd had reported that the bins in Emersons Green Park were overflowing and other councillors were also aware of this. **Cllr Johnson** volunteered to monitor the bins and to report back.

#### **241. Rodent traps for Green Lane**

Some councillors have seen rats in Emersons Green Park and Green Lane. Cllr R Hunt had previously stated that J Morris, SGC, is waiting on recommendations from their pest control team. It is hoped that as lockdown restrictions are eased the amount of rubbish will reduce. It was **Resolved** not to put traps in Green Lane and to monitor the situation.

#### **242. An email from SGC stating that in the future they will look at sorting rubbish from bins for recycling**

This was noted by the members and the **Committee Clerk** will forward this email to Cllr Budd.

#### **243. A reply from SGC about the older children's play area at Emersons Green Park**

This was noted by the members and the **Committee Clerk** will forward this email to Cllr Budd.

#### **244. Dibden Lane allotments**

a) An email from a tenant about health problems caused by burning damp weeds

b) An email from a resident about a bonfire and the reply by the Committee Clerk

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will send an email to the tenants stating that damp material must not be burnt, that bonfires must not be left unattended and if this not adhered to the Town Council may need to consider banning bonfires.

c) Quotes to clear two plots and cutting back hedges;

Cllr Somers explained that in general the allotments are well maintained. During the plot inspections on 7 April four plots were identified as not satisfactory and the Committee Clerk has emailed the tenants to inform them of this. Two other plots do not have tenants and are very overgrown. It was **Resolved** to accept the quotes from Brandon Trust of £210 per plot to clear the two plots, £75 to remove in very poor condition and £400 to cut back hedges that are growing over plots or the carriageway. The **Committee Clerk** will instruct Brandon Trust.

The Committee Clerk explained that plot 47 was not as large as he thought when the plot was split several years ago. 47E is a half plot and it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will alter the database to record plot 47W as a third of a plot.

d) Implementing a plot deposit;

Frequent inspections will be maintained and with the process of informing tenants when their plots are not satisfactory and following this up with a termination notice when necessary it is hoped that plots will not become very overgrown. It was **Resolved** not to implement a plot deposit.

e) Plot judging and review of structures;

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange dates in June and May respectively and that the inspections will proceed if at least two councillors can attend.

f) 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 and that one or more tenants had been putting weeds beyond their plots. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenants that this should not be done and let the resident know of this action.

Cllr Sunderland raised the concern about weedkiller being used near to her plot. The **Committee Clerk** will arrange to meet her at the site to ascertain the situation.

#### **245. Quotes to repair the damaged wall alongside Emersons Green common**

Three quotes have been received. Cllr Johnson proposed that the committee accepts the quote of £480 + VAT from Mr C Belcher, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously agreed. The **Committee Clerk** will send an instruction.

#### **246. An email from Cllr Johnson about maintenance of PMR21**

Cllr Johnson explained that following the cutting back of the vegetation she had overhead some members of the public speaking positively about the increased width of the path. She understands that **Cllr R Hunt** will be contacting SGC to ensure that path is regularly maintained to ensure new growth is kept down.

#### **247. Issues at Rodway Common;**

a) A report from Cllr Hill that one of the signposts at Rodway common has been removed and an email from the police;

This was noted by the members.

b) A quote to replace the signs;

Whitehall have provided a quote of £84 for the 8 signs with riveted rails. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote; the **Committee Clerk** will place an order and request a quote to install a post to replace the one that was removed from the bottom of the zig zag path.

c) Damage caused by the excavations;

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will request a quote to repair the damaged areas.

#### **248. An email from a resident about parking on the tarmac area at Vinney Green common**

Members noted that it is believed that the tarmac area has been there for over 30 years, but it is not known who put it there. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the resident of this and that it is part of the common land and hence parking is not allowed there.

#### **249. New plants for the planters on Emerson Way**

The Committee Clerk explained that several of the shops have closed. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask the neighbouring shops if they will water an extra planter and arrange for Elmwood to put some summer plants in subject to a limit of £45 per planter.

#### **250. Quotes for replacing bollards**

Two quotes had been received to install 20 recycled plastic bollards at Emersons Green common. Cllr Johnson proposed that the committee accepts the quote of £560 + VAT from C Belcher, this was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously agreed. The **Committee Clerk** will send an instruction.

#### **251. Strips of unregistered land in Emersons Green Lane**

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will carry this item forward to the next meeting.

#### **252. Correspondence**

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will carry this item forward to the next meeting.

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".
3. An email on 17 March from a resident about a fire in Green Lane.

**253. Items from Members to report**

None

**254. Next Meeting**

6 July 2021 at 19.00, venue to be confirmed

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.07