

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council

9 September 2021

**Present:** Councillors S Budd (Chairman), D Somers, R Hunt, J Dowling, S Bassett, S Hill, R Nichols, C Johnson, P Morgan, R Sunderland, and M Palmer

**Absent:** Councillors C Wilkins, J Adams, J Sweeney, S Al Hassan and J Hunt

**In attendance:** Kath MacConnachie (Town Clerk) and three members of the public

2021.60. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Al Hassan, Wilkins, Adams, J Hunt and Sweeney.

2021.61. **Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011**

Councillor R Hunt declared a potential conflict of interest for agenda items 22 (Dibden Lane allotment lease) and 23 (Emersons Green Skate Park).

2021.62. **Public participation**

There were three members of the public present, representing Blackhorse Sports Association present, who addressed members concerning the club and future plans.

2021.63. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 22 July 2021**

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July were a true and accurate record of the meeting and these were to be signed by the Chairman.

2021.64. **Outstanding Items from these Minutes**

There were no outstanding items from these minutes.

2021.65. **Correspondence**

- Members noted the report from Sight Support West on grant funding received.
- Members noted the letter from resident regarding a tree stump hazard at the retail centre. The Clerk noted that she had contacted the retail centre management company and had provided the resident with their contact details.

2021.66. **Planning Committee update**

A verbal update was received from the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2021.67. **Finance Committee update**

A verbal update was received from the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

2021.68. **Open Spaces Committee update**

A verbal update was received from the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

2021.69. **Personnel Committee update**

A verbal update was received from the Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

2021.70. **Climate Emergency Working Group update**

A verbal update was provided by Councillor Sunderland.

2021.71. **Grant application – Above and Beyond Charity (S137)**

The meeting received the recommendation of the Finance Committee to fund a grant to the Above and Beyond charity using S137 powers. Members considered the application.

The expenditure was considered to be in the interests of local residents and likely to benefit residents in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. As such it was Resolved to grant £300 to the Above and Beyond charity, in accordance with powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Action:** Clerk

2021.72. **Dignity at Work Policy**

It was **Resolved** to approve the draft Dignity at Work Policy.

**Action:** Clerk

2021.73. **Equality and Diversity Policy**

The Clerk suggested a further amendment concerning complaint route for non-employees, and the Clerk undertook to investigate 'impact assessment' provisions for Town Council reports/proposals. It was agreed to bring a revised draft policy back to the October meeting.

**Action:** Clerk

2021.74. **Mangotsfield Old Station/Pavilion Arts Project**

There was discussion concerning whether the Town Council wished to take on the ownership of the project. It was agreed that whilst the Town Council still supported the proposal and had earmarked the grant funding, the Town Council did not wish to take on a more proactive role in the project.

2021.75. **EGTC Strategy development – consultant proposals**

It was Resolved to accept the quote provided by the LCC for support in developing Town Council strategy.

**Action:** Clerk

2021.76. **Communications and Engagement**

It was agreed to pause work on the communications action plan, pending the development of the Town Council overarching strategy.

2021.77. **Internal Auditor Appointment for 2021/22**

It was Resolved to appoint South Gloucestershire Council to provide internal audit services for 2021/22.  
**Action:** Clerk

2021.78. **Events Committee**

It was Resolved to disband the Events Committee.

**Action:** Clerk

2021.79. **2021/22 Events**

It was agreed to carry this agenda item forward to the next meeting, where plans would be discussed. It was suggested that funding could be allocated to local organisations towards events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Clerk updated on the supplier issue regarding the manufacture of the bespoke Christmas lights. It was Resolved to delegate authority and funding of up to £2000 from the Events budget to the Clerk to facilitate alternative arrangements for showcasing the winning designs.

2021.80. **To pass a resolution to exclude members of the public and press for agenda items 21 and 22, due to the COMMERCIALY CONFIDENTIAL and SENSITIVE nature of the business to be transacted**

It was **Resolved** to exclude members of the press and public for the following two agenda items, due to the commercially confidential and sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

Councillor R Hunt left the meeting.

2021.81. **Dibden Lane allotment lease**

The Dibden Lane allotment lease was discussed.

2021.82. **Emersons Green Skate Park**

It was noted that there were a number of complicating factors on the South Gloucestershire Council side, and as such, there was no formal response to the Town Council communication as yet.

Councillor R Hunt re-joined the meeting.

2021.83. **Items from members to report**

- Councillor Johnson gave a short update on the Bristol East Fringe Walking & Cycling Group, in particular that they were looking at extending cycling routes. Members were asked to notify any suggestions.
- Councillor Sunderland enquired as to litter in the car park adjacent to the Town Council building. The Clerk noted that a member of the public had recently been in touch regarding this and that they had complained to the Premier Inn management. The Clerk noted that they were currently advertising for a litter picker on local social media.
- Councillor Palmer noted a report from Leep Utilities in relation to reports of high water charges in Lyde Green. The Clerk undertook to circulate this to members.  
**Action:** Clerk

- Councillor R Hunt updated on an issue raised with South Gloucestershire Council by Councillor Sunderland concerning overgrown shrubbery that was impeding visibility at the ring road pedestrian crossing by the Science Park. It was noted that this had now been trimmed back.
- Councillor R Hunt noted that works would be taking place at the Emersons Green Sainsburys roundabout over the next few weeks.
- Councillor Budd drew attention to the South Gloucestershire South Gloucestershire Heritage Partnership Meeting on Wednesday 6 October 2021 from 10.00am to 12.15pm.

2021.84. **Next Meeting**

7.00pm on Thursday 14 October 2021 at the Town Council offices.