



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

11 January 2022 in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors S Budd, S Hill, P Morgan, and D Somers (Chairman)

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

In attendance: Richard Hull (Committee Clerk);

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

2021.80 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Palmer and Sunderland.

2021.81 Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

2021.82 Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

There was no public participation.

2021.83 Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 2 November 2021

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November were a true and accurate record of the meeting and these were signed by the Chairman.

2021.84 Outstanding Items from these minutes

- Damaged fencing where the path from Cave Grove crosses Green Lane
A quote has been received but was not for the correct work and a revised quote has been requested.
- To consider banning the use of weedkiller by allotment tenants
Cllr Bassett has been asked if he would like to put a written proposal to the committee for this matter.
- Open Spaces maintenance procurement
The Town Clerk will be providing a paper at a later meeting.
- Replacing signs that refer to Mangotsfield Rural Parish Council
Cllr Palmer has volunteered to work with Cllr Budd on this matter.

2021.85 Open Spaces budget monitoring

The members noted that there is £282 available for this financial year.

2021.86 A Tree and Hedge policy and a request from a resident for an oak tree and hedge between Pendock Court and the allotments to be cut back

It was **Resolved** to adopt version 3 of the policy after altering section 2 to; “It is not possible to eliminate all risks from trees however there are often indications that a tree may be in decline. EGTC employs a professional and independent arboricultural consultant to undertake a Risk Assessment at the frequency recommended by the arboricultural consultant.”

It was **Resolved** to inform the resident of the following;

- That the request for work to the tree and the hedge is not work that the Town Council will carry out under the Tree and Hedge policy but that the tree is due to be surveyed in October 2022 and any work recommended by the surveyor will be undertaken.
- That the hedge was last reduced in height in July 2019 and that in accordance with section 10.7 of the Tree and Hedge policy the Town Council would consider reducing the height of the hedge to a minimum of 3 metres as long as three years had elapsed.

Action; Committee Clerk

2021.87 A proposal from Cllrs Somers and Sunderland for the location of the information board at Emersons Green common. Delegating any remaining decisions for the information board to a working group

Councillor Sunderland had provided a photo showing the proposed location for the information board. It was **Resolved** to ask Ed Drewitt to site the board to the right of the rough footpath that runs parallel with the wall along the edge of the common, at right angles to the path and about a quarter of the way between the bollards at the edge of the common and the first tree which is just to the right of the path.

It was **Resolved** to delegate authority to Councillors Hill and Somers to agree the artwork for the board and to decide any other matters relating to the board up to and including the point of installation.

Actions; Committee Clerk and Councillors Hill and Somers

2021.88 Quotes for signs similar to the ones on Siston Common

Quotes were received from three companies for four signs intended for the commons at Rodway, Emersons Green, Vinney Green and Blackhorse Road. One of the companies is Arien Designs and their option 1 with recycled plastic posts for four signs is a total cost of £3,867.50 plus VAT which includes delivery and installation. It was **Resolved** to proceed with that quote from Arien Designs (but without the wording “Emersons Green Town Council” as that is on our logo) subject to Full Council approval of budget overspend at the meeting on 13 January.

Action; Committee Clerk and Full Council

2021.89 A report from a resident about a plant on Emersons Green common that could be invasive and some tree saplings

Advice on the plant, which is a Rhus typhina that can put out suckers very rapidly, and quotes were requested from three contractors. Only one contractor, Falkland Little, provided a quote to remove the plant and the saplings at a cost of £280. It was **Resolved** to proceed with the quote (although without the use of herbicides) subject to Full Council approval of budget overspend at the meeting on 13 January.

It was **Resolved** to recommend to Full Council a budget overspend of £7,000 as follows;

£3,900 signs for the four commons

£280 clearance of Rhus typhina plant and saplings at Emersons Green common

£2820 contingency

£7,000 total budget overspend

Action; Committee Clerk and Full Council

2021.90 A report from Cllr Budd of rats in Green Lane

It was **Resolved** that the committee members would monitor the situation.

Action; Committee members

2021.91 An email from the Royal Pigeon Racing Association (RPRA) about non associated organisations who are not covered by their public liability insurance

It was **Resolved** to tell the RPRA that non associated organisations must have public liability insurance of £5,000,000.

Action; Committee Clerk

2021.92 An email from the Royal Pigeon Racing Association asking if the liberations can continue in 2022 at the same cost of £10 per liberation

It was **Resolved** to agree to this request.

Action; Committee Clerk

2021.93 A schedule of localism costs for SGC for 2022 / 23

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the quote of £9,775.33. As this is over £5,000, in accordance with the Scheme of Financial Delegation, this is subject to the approval of Full Council.

Action; Town Clerk and Full Council

2021.94 A report from Cllr Budd that a van has been parked on the hardstanding at Vinney Green common

It was **Resolved** that the committee members would monitor the situation.

2021.95 Dibden Lane allotments

a) To consider an email from a tenant about skips and other issues;

It was **Resolved** to tell the tenant the following;

- That with the current Covid situation the Town Council would not be hiring a toilet.
- That the Town Council does not intend to hire skips this year.
- That their other comments have been noted.

b) To consider an email from a tenant about skips;

It was **Resolved** to inform the tenant that the Town Council does not intend to hire skips this year.

c) To consider an email from a tenant about allocating some plots to community groups;

It was **Resolved** to tell the tenant that a Town Council resident could apply for a plot as a representative of a community group but if they are eligible they would have to join the waiting list which has about 68 people on it.

d) To consider an email from a tenant about the path by plot 63E;

It was **Resolved** to tell the tenant that the Town Council maintains the main carriageways but not the peripheral paths but that the Town Council will monitor the situation with this particular path.

Actions; Committee Clerk

2021.96 Quotes to replace bollards at Vinney Green common, Blackhorse Road common and Rodway common

Three quotes were requested to install 32 wood bollards. Members noted that the Town Council still has a stock of 30 recycled plastic bollards. It was **Resolved** to request quotes to install recycled plastic bollards on the three commons to replace any damaged or missing wood ones. Members noted that Chris Belcher had been instructed to install 20 recycled plastic bollards at Emersons Green common. However, he had installed 13 but because 7 of the wood posts we instructed to replace are sound he installed the remaining 7 at Vinney Green. It was **Resolved** that the 7 recycled plastic bollards can remain at Vinney Green common.

Action; Committee Clerk

2021.97 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted;

1. An email on 6 December from the Bristol Orienteering Club stating “I am pleased to report that our event went ahead on Saturday evening without any incidents that we are aware of. In total we had approx. 40 participants. Thank you for all your help in enabling us to run this event and if you have any further questions or require anything more from me, please let me know.”
2. An email from Cllr Budd with suggestions for Springfield Park and a reply from SGC.

2021.98 Items from Members to report

- Cllr Hill reported that there is a lot of leaf litter on the footpath from Cossham Street to Rodway Hill. It was agreed that this will be reported to SGC Streetcare.

Action; Committee Clerk

2021.99 Next Meeting; 1 March 2022 at 19.00

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.59