



**EMERSONS GREEN**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council**

**Present:** Councillors: R Nichols (Chairman), J Adams, S Al-Hassan, S Budd, S Hill, C Hunt, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, U Shepherd, D Somers & I Wiltshire

**Attendees:** Mrs C Davidson (Town Clerk)  
One member of the public  
One representative from Friends of Emersons Green Park (CS)  
Three representatives of Avon & Somerset Police (SC)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure. The Chairman congratulated Cllr R Hunt on the birth of her daughter.

**576. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors P Todd & B Wiltshire. Cllrs T Cannard & C Wilkins were absent from the meeting.

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

Cllr Budd declared an interest in the Mangotsfield Festival Grant application at item 585.

**578. Public Participation**

The Chairman invited CS from Friends of Emersons Green Park to address members. On 18<sup>th</sup> May from 08.00 – 15.00 the Friends are holding a Festival of Nature with various activities including:

- Walk with Ed Drewitt
- Insect Sweep
- Bug Hotels
- Avon Wildlife Trust stall
- Community orchard information

The Friends are aware this clashes with the Food Festival but do not see this as a problem. It is hoped that the Town Council will feel this is a positive community event. The Chairman thanked CS for attending and CS left the meeting at 19.10.

The Chairman invited Police representatives to address members and SC introduced himself as one of two officers managing this area which has a new boundary due to recent changes. The following matters were noted:

- Police use the Clicksense database for recording crime which gives real time figures (although this was not available for this meeting)
- As a general overview things are quiet at the moment but this is expected to get busier with the longer evenings and warmer weather
- The Council can let the Police know what information it wants in advance of meetings
- Anti social behavior in the retail park continues to be a problem and the Police are going to address this matter with the schools
- Members advised that there are problems with motorbikes on Rodway Common as well as Lyde Green Common. SC advised that South Glos Council signage is not effective and a

more effective idea might be to remove the possibility of parking in the area. The Council has met with SGC to discuss this matter and the Police advised that if the vans block the highway then they can take action. Discussion was had about how to stop parking; bollards, moving the bund, shrubs/hedges.

- Members advised that speeding on Willowherb Road continues to be a problem as it is used as a through route. The Police have spoken to the school about organising a walking bus possibly with the children wearing reflective vests reminding drivers of the 20mph zone. The Police will visit the site and monitor the situation next week and advised members that even though this is not an adopted road the speed limit stands and the Police can enforce it.
- Members advised that the 30mph zone by the Metrobus stop on the ring road is dangerous as cars travel at 50mph and beyond, can this be monitored? SC advised that he believes there is a verge just beyond the bus stop where a speed van can park to monitor traffic and will take this matter further.
- Members asked of the 2+ lane on the Ring Road can be policed as there are constantly single occupiers using it and delaying the bus services. SC advised that during a recent operation the Police were overwhelmed due to the number of people using it which caused further delays due to the queue of cars being pulled over. The Force doesn't have the resources to monitor this as regularly as it really needs but will look at tasking this possibly using Specials. Unfortunately, the fact that Officers can no longer give tickets on the roadside has lessened the impact that patrolling the area has. The ideal solution would be an infrared camera which could detect the number of people in the car but this is not suitable for use at the present time.
- Members advised that local schools suffer with parents parking illegally during drop off and pick up times which is a danger to children. The Police advised that they have not targeted schools but can look at this if required in the future. Members were advised that ticketing also attracts a tow-away which is very costly.

The Clerk was advised of the email address directly for the local beat and should the Council wish the Police to report on specific matters requests could be emailed. The Police hope to attend meetings every 3 months.

The Chairman thanked Officers for attending and asked them to liaise with the Clerk in relation to their attendance at future meetings.

**579. To Approve Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**580. Outstanding Items from These Minutes**

The Clerk advised that matters are on the agenda for this meeting.

**581. Correspondence and Actions Required**

The following correspondence was considered:

- Local Resident – Advising of a Festival of Nature event in Emersons Green Park on May 18<sup>th</sup> - *Noted*
- SGC – Advising that Great Expectations Nursery intends to use Leap Valley Woods for a Forest School Monday to Friday between 9am – 11.30am and 2pm-4.30pm, however they would only use it for 2 sessions a week a maximum of 4 hours - *Noted*
- Emersons Green Voice – Asking for details of who is standing for re-election for an elections special in The Voice. – *It was felt not appropriate to respond to this until formal notices have been released by South Gloucestershire Council and members noted that the publications deadlines do not tie in with the date of the election.*

**582. Town Council insurance**

Members were informed that the Finance Committee has considered the Insurance, but some information was not available at the recent meeting in relation to Key Man cover. Key Man cover can be added to the Zurich Policy at a cost of £16.80 per member of staff but it was noted that this covers injury and not illness. It was **Resolved** that if the Finance Committee feels this to be the most appropriate Policy then the Council renews with Zurich.

**Action: Clerk to implement Insurance as appropriate**

**583. S106 Funding – Lyde Green Farm Development**

Members received proposals from South Glos Council in relation to the allocation of Community Spaces funding from this development.

Members responded positively towards the proposals particularly those in relation to car park improvements at Pomphrey Hill and Johnson Road Playing Fields. The Clerk is to advise that EGTC is working with SGC to agree a lease on Betts Green (which is the land adjoining the Skatepark) and highlight this as an opportunity to create a positive open space for the community.

**Action: Clerk to respond to SGC**

**584. Town Council Signage**

Members were informed that SGC has offered to install directional signage to the Town Council Office. It was **Resolved** that two signs are installed with “Emersons Green Town Council Office” on. One is to be located by the Beefeater roundabout and one by the roundabout at the end of Emerson Way.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with SGC**

**585. Grant Applications**

To consider the following application as recommended by the Finance Committee:

- Mangotsfield Festival - £1,000 towards the café marquee and displays within it. Members were advised that the Finance Committee has concerns that the Festival distributes £1,000pa to other local causes but recommends payment of the grant. Cllr S Budd declared an interest as a member of the Festival Management Committee. Members discussed this matter and asked the Festival Committee to consider the awarding of grants only in the years it makes a profit. It was **Resolved** that the grant of £1,000 is approved.
- Emersons Green Primary School - £20,000 towards outdoor trim trail and accessible roundabout. Members were informed that the Finance Committee met with a school representative and considered this application at length and the recommendation is to award a grant of £7,000 for the provision of a trim trail. It was **Resolved** that a grant of £7,000 toward the provision of a trim trail is approved.

**Action: Clerk to arrange payment of the grants**

**586. Community Project**

The Chairman advised members the Clerk and himself met with SGC Officers in relation to a Youth Library and this is progressing with a Feasibility Study. Some discussion was had about the provision of a public convenience as part of the extension and it was **Resolved** that the inclusion of an accessible, self cleaning facility with external access was a priority within the building and that Emersons Green Town Council would be wholly responsible for the maintenance of such.

Members noted that despite numerous emails chasing officers there is no news on the lease on the skatepark and adjoining land. Discussion was had about making a formal complaint but District Councillors advised they would chase the matter.

**Action: Cllr C Hunt to chase Property Services  
Clerk to liaise with MB of SGC**

### **587. Events Committee**

Cllr Budd advised that the Committee has considered the installation of a permanent Beacon within the Town, possibly on Rodway Common. Discussion was had about this and it was noted that the Council does have a portable Beacon. It was suggested that discussion is had with the Pomphrey Hill Management Committee about having a Beacon on the site which is high and has facilities on site. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting.

A Family Disco has been booked for 10<sup>th</sup> April at Lyde Green Community Hall. The Clerk is setting up ticket bookings with Eventbrite.

The Christmas Party has been booked for 7<sup>th</sup> December at Emersons Green Village Hall.

The Clerk is investigating a number of events for children during the summer holidays including:

- Fizz Pop science workshops
- Twinwave Music Workshops
- Circus Skills
- Visits from Bristol Zoo (including small animals)

**Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Pomphrey Hill members**

### **588. Planning Committee**

Cllr Somers reported that the committee has considered an application from the Science Park as well as a number of standard applications from local residents.

Cllr Al-Hassan advised that a resident has contacted him in relation to the building of some large fuel tanks within the Science Park extensions. Whilst permission has been granted for an automotive site there is no permission for fuel tanks and a local resident has raised concerns. The Clerk asked for the information to be forwarded to her so she could investigate the matter.

**Action: SAH to send information to the Clerk**

### **589. Finance Committee**

The Chairman reported that the Committee recently spent some time considering the Council Insurance and the grant applications which were approved earlier in this meeting. In addition, the Staffing Committee has met and approved various staffing matters which were then ratified by the Finance Committee.

### **590. Open Spaces Committee**

The next meeting has been postponed allowing the Committee Clerk time to obtain quotes for land maintenance following the withdrawal of Landcare. The next meeting is on 19<sup>th</sup> March and there is a lot to discuss.

Cllr Somers and RH have met with an SGC tree officer to consider some trees in the allotments.

The recent strong wind has destroyed several green houses on the allotments.

The Allotment Holders Committee has recently met and has asked that the Council prioritises repairs to the car park and improved boundary security. It was felt that there is no need to build a permanent toilet and a portable one is to be hired during peak times. A skip is to be hired at the beginning and end of the season to enable holders to dispose of non-compostable waste.

### **591. Items to Report**

No items were reported at this time.

### **592. Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> April, 19.00, Council Chamber**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40