



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces & Allotments Committee

30 April 2019, Council Office, Emersons Green Town Council

Present – Councillors: D Somers (Chairman), S Budd & C Johnson

Attendees – Mr R Hull, Committee Clerk

244 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J Adams, S Hill, P Morgan & P Todd. Councillors C Hunt & R Nichols were absent from the meeting.

245 Declaration of Interests under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

246 Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

247 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2019.

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of 19 March 2019.

248 Outstanding Items from these Minutes - none

249 Dibden Lane Allotments

- Rainwater collects in large areas of the car park and there is a pothole in the tarmac area just inside the gate. Two quotes have been received to repair the car park. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £904.22 plus VAT from South Gloucestershire Council. The **Committee Clerk** is to issue a purchase order.
- The skip was delivered on 16 April and has been used for weeds and other plant matter. It is almost full and is to be collected on 2 May.
- The allotment tenant committee have asked for additional chain link fencing along the boundary hedge by Dibden Lane. While Cllr Somers and the Committee Clerk were at the site to meet a contractor who is quoting for the work it was apparent that the water trough will need to be moved away from the hedge if the fence is to be installed, the Committee Clerk has requested two quotes for this.
- The members noted the Natural England guidance on hedgerows and nesting birds <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-hedgerows-regulation-and-management> which states “*You must not do any work which might harm nesting birds or destroy their nests. You’ll usually find nesting birds during the main nesting and breeding season from 1 March to 31 August.*”
- As Resolved under item 235 at the last meeting quotes were requested for work on trees and hedges at the allotments. Only one quote has been received so a decision

could not be made. **Cllr Johnson** will provide the name of tree surgeon whose work she has seen. The **Committee Clerk** will seek at least one more quote.

- An allotment tenant has requested permission to erect a greenhouse with glass panes. The members noted that the tenancy agreement states "All glass for repairs or new structures must be either safety glass or toughened glass." It was **Resolved** to decline the request for safety reasons and because if this request was granted it could set a precedent. The **Committee Clerk** to inform the tenant.
- Whilst an arboriculturist was surveying a tree at the allotments he noticed that a resident may have extended their garden into part of the allotment site that the Town Council rents from SGC. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform SGC.
- The Committee Clerk explained that no rent as been paid to SGC for part of the Dibden Lane allotment site for April 2014 to date, this means there are six years rent that has not been paid at £600 p.a. This is because the members had previously resolved to ask SGC for a lease with zero rent and other changes to the draft lease, but these issues have not been resolved as SGC Legal Services are awaiting instructions from Property Services. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will prepare a report for the meeting on 2 July on the history of this matter and what the unresolved issues are, clarification will be sought from Cllr Hill if necessary as she was the previous chair.

250 Works at Green Lane and installation of bollards

- Two quotes have been received to install 15 wood bollards at Vinney Green. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £825 plus VAT from Frome Valley Landscaping.
- Two quotes were received to install 7 recycled plastic bollards on Emersons Green common. However, as only one of these quotes was for bollards to match the existing recycled ones. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain a second quote.
- Only one quote was received for repairs to fences in Green Lane. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain a second quote.
- One quote was received to remove barbed wire and install recycled plastic bollards along the boundary between Green Lane and Emersons Green park. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will obtain quotes to remove the barbed wire but not to install any posts.

251 A tree safety report and risk assessment has been received covering the trees that have not been surveyed previously.

The members noted that no remedial work is recommended. The report recommends that another survey is conducted in 2022.

252 Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered;

1. The Environment & Community Services department of South Gloucestershire Council have received a request from the Early Years team to hold forest school sessions at Leap Valley woods on various dates in June and July 9 am – 12.00. They estimate that 5 children and 7 adults will attend each session – *noted*.
2. An email from a resident about the safety of pedestrians using Emersons Green Lane and a reply from South Gloucestershire Council – *noted*.

253 Items from Members to Report

Cllr Budd reported the following;

1. SGC have removed a bench in Emersons Green park that was damaged by fire. SGC have said they will replace the bench.
2. Four Sainsbury's trolleys have been dumped in the small stream by the bridge in the corner of Emersons Green park. The Committee Clerk will report this to Sainsbury's.

3. The reply from SGC about Emersons Green Lane referred to under point 2 of the correspondence stated that two issues have been logged with Streetcare; FOE 1130628 And FOE 1130637 to cut back the overgrowth and remove rubbish / litter. The Committee Clerk will check that these have been actioned.
4. There is a large amount of rubbish in a wooded area of Blackhorse Road playing field in the opposite corner to the basketball court. The Committee Clerk will report this to Streetcare.

Next Meeting: 2 July 2019 at 19.00 in the Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.06