



## Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

**11 December 2019**  
**in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council**

- Present:** Councillors S Budd (Chairman), S Bassett, S Hill, R Hunt, C Johnson, P Morgan, R Nichols, M Palmer, D Somers, P Todd, J Sweeney
- Attendees:** Kath MacConnachie (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure.

**101. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Al-Hassan, Wilkins, Hunt and Adams.

**102. Declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011**

No interests were declared at this time.

**103. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**104. To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14 November 2019**

It was **Resolved** that the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting of the meeting held on 14 November 2019.

**105. Outstanding Items from these Minutes**

It was confirmed that all outstanding actions had been completed or were on the agenda for this meeting.

**106. Correspondence and Actions Required**

- A local resident has visited the Town Council office complaining about the amount of nitrous oxide canisters in the office car park.

It was noted that this was not an isolated incident and that rubbish generally was an issue, which reflected poorly on the image of the Town Council.

It was **Resolved** to write to the Premier Inn management asking them to address the issue, as the car park was their responsibility.

- Further to the issues raised with South Gloucestershire Council following the last Full Council Meeting, a response has been received from the Department for Environment & Community Services, the content of which was relayed to those present. The Clerk undertook to forward the email to Councillors.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **107. Audit Report and Action Plan**

The meeting received the internal audit report. The Clerk went through the actions and undertook to bring the risk register to the January meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **108. Grant Applications**

The councillors considered the recommendations of the Finance Committee to approve grants as follows:

- Blackhorse Sports & Community Association – Grant applicant for £5000 for ride-on mower. This was Proposed by Councillor Somers and Seconded by Councillor Palmer.
- Open Spaces Society - £45 annual subscription to society.

It was **Resolved** to fund both applications.

#### **109. Finance Committee Update**

Councillor Nichols reported on the Finance Committee meeting of 28 November. The Finance Committee had considered the precept for 2020/21 and would be recommending to the January meeting that the precept is maintained at the current level.

#### **110. Planning Committee Update**

Dave Somers provided an update from the planning committee. In particular he outlined what was considered to be a controversial plan for a 20 metre high 5G telecommunications mast at the Westerleigh Road/Blackhorse Road junction. The existing equipment was to be removed and replaced with seven cabinets and a 20m high mast to be installed on the other side of the road, where the old post office was formerly located. He explained that it was next to Crossways preschool. There was some concern expressed that the preschool had not submitted a reply to the consultation, amidst concern that they may not have successfully received the notification. There was also concern that the Resound caretaker appeared to be unaware of the application.

The Planning Committee had raised an objection to the plans. There was concern that the claim that it would 'blend in with existing street furniture' was unrealistic, and there were

concerns around potential emissions, especially given the site is next to the preschool and a densely populated residential area.

Councillor Todd asked if the application could be forced through regardless. Councillor Hunt explained that if the application fitted in with national government policy. then yes, it would likely be approved.

Councillor Somers highlighted an application relating to a small pocket of common land the other side of Lyde Green Road. The owners had applied for planning permission with a view to selling the site to developers for better access to the proposed estate at Lyde Green farm. Councillor Somers had investigated 1920s maps and found that the common land was allocated in replacement for the land lost to accommodate the tunnel under the motorway. Councillor R Hunt noted that the land in question was designated as 'can be built on' but did not form part of a master plan. Councillor Somers explained that the planned Edward Ware homes would consist of circa 270 houses and noted that the application was for outline planning permission at this stage.

#### **111. Town Youth Council**

The councillors considered a briefing document from the Clerk giving consideration to the potential for a Youth Council.

It was considered that a Youth Council would be valuable to the Town Council in terms of engagement and planning for youth projects and councillors were keen to progress it.

It was agreed that a working group should be formed to consider next steps and Councillor Budd asked for volunteers to sit on the working group. Councillor J Hunt had volunteered in advance of the meeting. Councillors Palmer and Bassett also volunteered.

Councillor Palmer suggested that there may be a requirement to fund a youth worker to join the Youth Council to assist them. There was some discussion around whether youth worker input was required and Councillor Bassett was keen to undertake this role himself, and cited previous experience of setting up a Youth Council.

The Clerk noted that consideration should be given to the fact that a Youth Council is about empowering young people; giving them ownership. The Clerk suggested that there may be training available for Youth Council members and undertook to research Youth Councils elsewhere.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **112. Meeting Dates 2020**

The previously circulated schedule of Town Council meeting dates for 2020 was noted by the meeting.

#### **113. South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards 2020**

The Town Council had received information promoting the South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards 2020 and requesting nominations. Councillor Budd asked councillors to consider any potential nominees from the local community. councillors

were requested to make nominations directly. The deadline was noted as 8 January 2020. The Clerk noted that she had posted the information on the Town Council website and Facebook page, in order to encourage nominations more widely.

**114. Meeting etiquette**

Councillor Budd reminded councillors to ensure that mobile phones were kept on silent setting during meetings.

**115. ALCA Good Councillor Course**

Those present were asked to consider if there was demand for a further ALCA Good Councillor Course, to be hosted at Emersons Green Town Council. There were at least four or five members who expressed interest. Evenings were preferred. The Clerk undertook to seek a potential date. Surplus places would be offered to other Parish/Town Councils, which would offset the cost.

**Action: Clerk**

**116. Items from Members to Report**

- Councillor Palmer reported that he had been made aware of potential plans to use on APR cameras on the entrances and exits of Lyde Green due to suspected drug activity.
- Councillor R Hunt noted that the Lyde Green community were hoping to locate a defibrillator at the community centre, which may result in a grant application. It was noted that Sainsburys may be looking to buy one to put on the side of the small Sainsburys and one the side of the community centre, so there would need to be some coordination. The meeting considered whether there may be other suitable locations for a defibrillator, for example at the Park & Ride.

It was noted that Sainsburys would not provide a lock box, so there may be funding required for these. It was also noted that the Emersons Green Village Hall defibrillator had a tracker fitted, as they were known to be a theft risk.

- Councillor Bassett raised concern around the level of litter generated in Emersons and asked if there was a programme for education in the schools or some such. Councillor R Hunt undertook to check with South Gloucestershire Council if they offered any such sessions in schools.

**Action: Councillor R Hunt**

Councillor R Hunt noted that Lyde Green Opens Space group ran litter picks and asked whether this might spur a similar initiative in Emersons Green. Councillor Bassett suggested that education would be required alongside litter picking.

The Keynsham 'wombles' were discussed, and the potential for a 'Big spring clean' run by the Town Council was considered.

Councillor Palmer suggested that more public bins were required in Lyde Green. Councillor Todd suggested it was more of a cultural issue, rather than a lack of bins.

- Councillor Hill reported that the Children's Christmas Event at Emersons Green Village Hall had gone well and she thanked all those who volunteered. Councillor Nichols felt it would have been nice to see more councillors in attendance.
- Councillor Budd reported that a member of the public had visited the Town Council office to report an issue with a manhole on the footpath by the lake, on the other side of the Town Council carpark: When it rained the manhole cover was lifting by around an inch, which posed a trip hazard. This was noted to be a South Gloucestershire Council responsibility and it was **Resolved** to raise this with them.

**Action: Clerk**

- Councillor Budd noted that there was a HR grievance appeal ongoing. Councillor Budd asked for two volunteers, not previously involved in the case, and a notetaker to hear the appeal. The initial proposed date was 21 December. Councillors were asked to get back to him with their availability. Councillor Morgan volunteered to take part. The Clerk suggested she would be willing to act as note taker, but would not be available on 21 December.

**117. Next Meeting:** 9 January at 19:00 in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:50.