



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

8 April 2021

held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

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

Absent: Councillors J Hunt, J Sweeney, R Nichols and J Adams

In attendance: Kath MacConnachie (Town Clerk), Jack Fitzsimmons (Youth Work Manager, Creative Youth Network), Ellen Wilson (Youth Worker, Creative Youth Network) and Michael Waine (Youth Worker, Creative Youth Network).

344. Apologies

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

345. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations of interest.

346. Public participation

There were no members of the public present other than those in attendance to present to the meeting from Creative Youth Network (detailed above).

347. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11 March 2021

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March were a true and accurate record of the meeting and that these would be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.

348. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

The Clerk noted that The Brandon Trust had confirmed that they were able to make the hedgehog houses and that the cost would be £20 per house. In accordance with the agreement at the previous meeting, the Clerk would instruct them to proceed with the construction of 25 hedgehog houses.

There were no other outstanding items from these minutes.

349. Youth Consultation conclusion

The consultation outcome report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Jack Fitzsimmons reported to members on the outcome of the consultation and answered queries from members.

A range of points were covered including:

- Not one size fits all, there was a wide range of interests.
- A multi-faceted approach would be beneficial – to run a number of activities/projects.
- Update on survey was noted to have been good with good detail submitted.
- General positivity noted – the area was considered a good place to live (good community, friendly, clean, people are polite).
- Young people would benefit from a ‘safe space’ where they could be themselves.
- Outreach youth work was considered to be an important element.

Jack Fitzsimmons, Ellen Wilson and Michael Waine left the meeting.

350. Correspondence

Correspondence from a resident concerning the cutting down of a tree on registered land to the rear of Emersons Green Lane was noted. This was clarified as the wildlife corridor between Emersons Green Common and Vinney Green Common. This item was to be considered by the Open Spaces Committee. It was noted that the Town Council had previously tried to adopt the land but failed as there had been insufficient evidence of Town Council maintenance.

Discussions were had around whether the Town Council should try once again to adopt the land in question. It was suggested to seek support from South Gloucestershire Council in any application, citing the Linking the Greens project and the South Gloucestershire Council Climate Emergency in the request.

It was noted that planning enforcement had been contacted.

It was agreed to add this to the agenda for Open Spaces to consider, including whether to try again to adopt the unregistered land, and whether to seek support from South Gloucestershire Council.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Palmer joined during this agenda item.

351. Planning Committee update

Councillor Somers gave an update from the Planning Committee. Minutes of meetings had been circulated to all Councillors.

352. Finance Committee update

The Chairman of the Finance Committee was not present, so the Clerk gave a short update from the meeting. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors.

353. Open Spaces Committee update

Councillor Somers gave an update from the Open Spaces Committee. It was noted that the digging of makeshift BMX tracks was increasing again. Councillor Somers noted that the allotment inspections had taken place and that they were looking good.

354. EGTC Risk Register (for review)

Members noted and reviewed the Town Council risk register which had been circulated in advance. Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk if they were aware of any issues that should be included but were not. Councillor Dowling raised non-Covid-19 related business continuity planning, and the Clerk noted that this was a noted item for review and action, but that the risks were believed to be relatively low for the Town Council.

355. High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy

It was **Resolved** to adopt the draft High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy as circulated.

356. Climate Emergency Working Group update

Councillor Johnson gave an update from the Climate Emergency Working Group. She explained that the group were trying to come up with ideas actively kicking off the project, but that another meeting would be required to take this forward. It was noted that virtual meetings were not conducive to brainstorm format sessions.

357. Wessex Water allotment survey – essential works

The Clerk explained that following an inspection by Bristol Water, the Town Council was required to carry out remedial works to the water supply at the Dibden Lane allotments to comply with Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations. This involved some pipe lagging work and the installation of a double check valve.

The Clerk noted that three quotations had been sought, but only one had been received in time for this meeting. It was noted that the works were time critical, as Bristol Water would be reinspecting on 19 April 2021. The Clerk also noted that the area to be excavated for the works was located on the South Gloucestershire owned side of the allotments, so permission had been sought and obtained to carry out the works from Property Services at South Gloucestershire Council.

It was **Resolved** to instruct Masters Facilities Management Service at a cost of £995 to carry out the remedial works required.

358. EGTC Youth project

It was agreed that an Extraordinary Full Council meeting should be called for 22 April to allow enough time for full discussion and consideration. As such, no resolution was considered to exclude members of the public and press.

There was some discussion around potential venues for youth works activities.

359. Items from members to report

- Councillor Sunderland reported that the Friends of Emersons Green Park were hoping to run a Festival in the Park in the Autumn. The Clerk noted that there were two options; to award a grant to the Friends of Emersons Green Park towards the costs of the event, or for the Town Council to offer to join with the Friends of Emersons Green Park to run it as a joint event, using Events budget funding.
- Councillor Wilkins reported concerns around the electric scooter trial that was ongoing, noting that young children (circa 12 years old) had been using the scooters. Councillor R Hunt noted that members should report any concerns to Voi, the operator. It was requested that this be included as an agenda item for the May Full Council meeting.

Action: Clerk

- Councillor Johnson reported back from the East Bristol Fringe Cycling and Walking Group meeting. It was noted that Cycle Works had done a survey on the Bristol and Bath cycle path. Councillor Johnson had been asked if there was anything particular areas in the Emersons Green area that needed improvement. Councillor Johnson asked members to consider this, and feed back to her by email. The next meeting was noted to be 19 April. Councillor Dowling requested more cycle parking in the area.

- Councillor J Dowling requested that the potential for the Town Council to support a project involving the Engine Winding House and how to progress this. It was suggested that this be included on the next Events Committee agenda.

360. Next Meeting

Extraordinary Full Council meeting 19:00 on 22 May 2021, to be held remotely via Zoom.

DRAFT