



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Full Council

11 March 2021

held via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions

Present: Councillors S Budd (Chairman, n), D Somers, P Morgan, M Palmer, R Hunt, C Johnson, J Dowling, R Sunderland, J Sweeney, R Nichols, C Wilkins and J Adams

Absent: Councillors J Hunt, S Al Hassan and S Hill

In attendance: Kath MacConnachie (Town Clerk)

321. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Hill and J Hunt.

322. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations of interest.

323. Public participation

The meeting was joined by a member of the public, LG, who addressed the meeting regarding ideas for activities for 11-19 year olds in the area. LG had investigated setting up a 'hang out' area for young people in the area and was interested to know the Town Council's thoughts.

LG also spoke of the potential for an online hub for young people.

Councillor Budd updated LG on the youth consultation that was in process, with a view to developing youth provision and facilities within the Town Council area.

324. To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11 February 2021

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

325. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

There were no outstanding items from these minutes.

326. Hedgehog houses

It was noted that the Downend Men in Sheds were no longer able to build the hedgehog houses. The Clerk updated that she had contacted Brandon Trust, whose woodwork division were interested this. A quote was awaited.

Councillor Adams suggested that there were other Men in Sheds around who may be able to help as an alternative to Brandon Trust.

It was **Resolved** that if the Brandon Trust could build the hedgehog houses for the same prices as Downend Men in Sheds originally quoted (£20) they should automatically be instructed to carry out the work.

Action: Clerk

327. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for consideration.

328. Planning Committee update

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

329. 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.

330. Open Spaces Committee update

Councillor Somers gave an update from the Open Spaces Committee.

331. To co-opt a member to the Planning Committee

There were no volunteers to fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee.

332. Grant application – Citizen’s Advice South Gloucestershire (£2,500)

Having considered that the expenditure was in the interests of the area and its inhabitants, and that the benefits were commensurate with the expenditure, it was **Resolved** to fund a grant to Citizen’s Advice South Gloucestershire, for the value of £2,500, using powers conferred under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

333. To consider the recommendation of the Events and Finance Committees to earmark any uncommitted 2020/21 Events budget for events ‘catch-up’ funding in 2021/22

It was **Resolved** to carry forward any unspent 2020/21 Events budget to the 2021/22 Events budget.

Action: Clerk

334. 2021/22 Budget correction

The Clerk noted that there was an error on the ‘total expenditure’ line of the approved budget, which was a calculation error. The Total expenditure should read £238,003 rather than £236,203. This was noted by members.

335. Bin emptying services 2021/22

It was **Resolved** to accept the quotation of £8,647.43 from South Gloucestershire Council for bin emptying services for 2021/22.

Action: Clerk

336. Grass cutting services 2021-2023

It was **Resolved** to accept the quotation from South Gloucestershire Council of £21,133.93 for grass cutting services from 2021-2023.

337. Results of survey on speed awareness bin stickers

Members considered the outcome of the survey that was carried out to establish interest from residents in 20mph speed awareness bin stickers.

Having considered the results, it was **Resolved** to not pursue this initiative.

338. MHCLG Model Design Code consultation – NALC consultation response (deadline 12 March)

Members considered options for responding to this consultation. It was agreed not to submit a response on this occasion.

339. New Development Management Charges

Members discussed the press article circulated by Councillor Al Hassan on Warwickshire Council's banning of management charges on new housing developments

Councillor R Hunt noted that in July 2018 the Liberal Democrats at South Gloucestershire Council put forward a motion, which gained cross-party support, to ask central government to take action. Councillor R Hunt noted that it was a central government issue and was therefore surprised by the content of the Warwickshire article, which seemed ambiguous.

It was generally considered that any action would be too late for the area of Lyde Green.

It was **Resolved** to contact South Gloucestershire Council and NALC to ask what their positions were, and enquire as to what action they were taking, on this issue.

Action: Clerk

340. Annual Plan 2021/22

It was **Resolved** to adopt the draft 2021/22 annual plan, subject to the addition of a statement at the bottom setting out mechanisms for review, specifically quarterly update to Full Council by the Aim Leads.

341. Change of dates for May 2021 meetings

It was confirmed that, due to the legislation allowing virtual meetings expiring on 7 May, the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and the Annual Assembly/Annual Public meeting were both brought forward to 6 May 2021 at 6.30pm and 8.00pm respectively.

342. Items from members to report

Councillor R Hunt noted that the planning application for the Lyde Green secondary school was on the circulated schedule this week.

Councillor R Hunt also gave an update on the Linking the Greens project progress.

Councillor Somers noted that at night, travelling from the Lyde Green Roundabout to the Willy Wicket, the lights on the new Travel Lodge were bright blue, which appeared as though it were emergency services.

Councillor Dowling had attended the mass transit webinar run by WECA. He reported that it seemed unlikely that such transit systems within the area would be realised in the near future.

Councillor Palmer noted that at the Lyde Green Partnership meeting it was asked whether Green Square would be able to allocate any land for planting trees on. Councillor Hunt said that she would follow this up.

Action: Councillor Hunt

343. Next Meeting

19:00 on 8 April 2021, to be held remotely via Zoom