



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

5 January 2021

Held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions

Present – Councillors: S Budd, S Hill, C Johnson, P Morgan, M Palmer & D Somers (Chairman).

Attendees – Richard Hull - Committee Clerk.

185. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

Councillors S Bassett, R Nichols and C Wilkins were absent from the meeting.

186. Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

187. Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

No members of the public joined the meeting.

188. Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 17 November

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 are a true and accurate record of the meeting and these will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity

189. Outstanding Items from these Minutes

177. We are awaiting information about the plant and animal life at Vinney Green pond. Cllr Hill asked for clarification on who was doing the work to raise the canopy level on the trees by the cycle path at Rodway Common and the oak that had been damaged by a storm. The committee clerk said this was Cole & Sons and Bristol Tree Services, respectively.

190. A report by Ed Drewitt on the Park, Green Lane and Emersons Green common. To consider having an interpretation panel as referred to in section 7.4.1

Cllr Budd said there is a board with good graphics in the park. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will find out who supplied the board and ask Ed Drewitt to supply information about the plant life at the common and how it is cared for by the Town Council.

191. Quotes for grass verge cutting

The committee clerk explained that three quotes were requested but only one was received. The quote is for one year. Members were concerned that the cost had increased by £2700 to

£10571. The committee clerk explained that SGC had stated that the cost would be less per cut if the contract was over a longer period. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will confirm to SGC that we intend to place the contract with them and to ask them to supply quotes for 2 and 3 years so that a decision can be made at the meeting on 2 March. Cllr Johnson joined the meeting at 19.20.

192. An email from a resident stating the excavation of the BMX track at Rodway common has started again

Members noted that from the photo the works do not look dangerous. **Cllr Hill** agreed to check the area when walking regularly on the common, it was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will inform the resident of this.

193. Dibden Lane allotments

- a) Members noted that the working party of Cllrs Hill and Somers expect to meet in January and will report to the committee on the results of the survey.
- b) An email from a tenant asking for a lock on the gate that can be operated from both sides; In addition to the cost of buying and fitting such a lock there would be the cost of issuing new keys to all 104 tenants. Members also thought a lock like this might not be as secure as the existing one. It was **Resolved to** decline the request and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenant.
- c) Review of the rent for 2021 / 22; The committee clerk had distributed figures for 12 months ended October 2019 showing that the Town Council had spent about £740 more on the allotments than was received in rent. The rent was increased last year from £48 for a full plot to £51. Cllr Hill proposed, and Cllr Morgan seconded to increase the rent for 2021 / 22 to £57 for a full plot (and pro rata for part plots) this was unanimously agreed, and the **Committee Clerk** will inform the tenants. This will increase income by £337.
- d) A tree survey has been received recommending works for eight trees. The committee clerk explained that one of these trees may be outside of the allotment boundary and that some of them are on the land rented from SGC. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will arrange a site visit with Cllr Somers to; clarify the position of the willow and report to the committee; and to seek agreement from SGC for the Town Council to carry out the works to the trees on their land.
- e) Tenant's replies to emails following the September plot inspections; It was **Resolved** to allow the extra time the two tenants requested to cultivate their plots and the **Committee Clerk** will inform them of this.

194. Further information about the damaged wall alongside Emersons Green common

The committee clerk explained that the boundary search from the land registry did not clarify who is responsible for the wall between the common and 23 Home Field Close. The committee clerk had distributed Parish Council minutes from 1998 and 1999 stating that Bellway Homes had rebuilt the wall and done other works to it. It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will contact the planning department of SGC to try to obtain documents for the planning application for these works as that may give information about who is responsible for the wall.

195. Quotes for tree work at Rodway common

Three quotes were requested but only one quote was received. It was **Resolved** to accept the quote of £1450 + VAT from Bristol Tree Services and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.

196. An email from a contractor about the council's policy on contracts and a reply from the committee clerk

Members noted the emails and had no comments to make.

197. A request from Cllr Palmer to find out who owns land between Westerleigh Lane and the ring road

It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will contact SGC to find out the ownership.

198. Emails from SGC and Cllr Johnson about bins and particularly at Pomphrey

Cllrs Hill and Johnson reported that the bins at Pomphrey were not overflowing on the occasions they had been there.

199. Quotes to remove a signpost at Rodway Common and install signposts at Vinney Green

Quotes of £40 + VAT to remove the signpost and £255 + VAT to install 3 signposts were received from S Bracey Builder. It was **Resolved** to accept the quotes and the **Committee Clerk** will instruct the contractor.

200. The annual risk assessments have been completed and are available for inspection

This was noted by members.

201. An email from SGC about parking at Blackhorse Road / Elmtree Avenue

Cllr Hill agreed to phone Chris Harris at SGC to about this matter.

202. The hardstanding at Vinney Green common

Cllr Budd had asked whether the Town Council should consider removing the hardstanding. It is not known when the hardstanding was installed or who by, but Cllr Hill stated it had been there over 30 years. It was **Resolved** to monitor the parking and see if the situation improves once the "No Parking" signs have been installed.

203. SGC have not provided any more plans for the proposed tree planting discussed under item 181 at the meeting on 17 November

This was noted by members.

204. Correspondence

The following correspondence was considered and noted;

1. An email from SGC to Cllr C Johnson stating that the hedge cutting on PMR21, the cycle / footpath that connects Church Farm Road & Colliers Break and goes past Mangotsfield Primary school, will be done on 22 February.
2. An email on 11 December from Barry King stating he will cut Emersons Green common as soon as weather permits; *It was **Resolved** that the **Committee Clerk** will ask Ed Drewitt when would be latest that the common should be cut before the summer from the point of view of protecting the wildflowers.*
3. An email from the Bristol Orienteering Klub asking for permission to use Rodway Common on 23 January for an orienteering event subject to compliance with the prevailing advice on Covid 19. And an email from South Gloucestershire Council about the same event; *Members noted that the event will no longer be permitted with the more stringent Covid 19 restrictions that have been introduced this week. The **Committee Clerk** will inform the organiser.*
4. The Committee Clerk has emailed Frome Valley Landscaping to find out when the tree will be replaced at Blackhorse Road common.

205. Items from members

- Cllr Hill reported there are about 10 bollards missing at Emersons Green common. The committee clerk confirmed he had a note to get quotes to replace these and to check the situation with the other commons.
- Cllr Hill said that SGC should have reinstated the access to Vinney Green House.
- Cllr Budd asked if we could plant more trees. This will be included with the next agenda.
- Cllr Palmer said that matters previously dealt with by the Lyde Green Open Space group will now go to the Lyde Green Community Association; they have appointed a community worker. Cllr Palmer confirmed that the LGOS group have planted some trees at Lyde Green common.

206. Next meeting

2 March 2021 at 19.00 online

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.33