



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

14 September 2021 in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

Present: Councillors P Morgan, M Palmer, D Somers (Chairman), and R Sunderland

Absent: Councillors S Bassett, S Budd, S Hill, R Nichols and C Wilkins

In attendance: Richard Hull (Committee Clerk), DT (from South Gloucestershire Council)

Cllr Somers welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedure.

2021.28 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Budd, Hill and Wilkins.

2021.29 Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011

No interests were declared at this time.

2021.30 Public participation (not to exceed 5 minutes)

There were no members of the public present apart from DT to present on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council on the Commons Connections project.

2021.31 Minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 27 July

It was **Resolved** that the minutes are approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting held on 27 July.

2021.32 Outstanding Items from these minutes

- Damage caused by the excavations at Rodway common
Quotes have been requested to reinstate the ground but still not received.
- Grant application for composting toilet
The grant was declined.
- Cllr Hill agreed to do a review of the ash trees and report to the committee.

2021.33 DT gave a short talk on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council on the Commons Connections project

It was **Resolved** to confirm to DT that the Town Council supports the project and looks forward to working with SGC to develop plans and designs as the project evolves.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.34 An email from DT about the strips of land in Emersons Green Lane

This was noted by members and DT stated that two colleagues, ML and JM are continuing to investigate if anything can be done to protect the strips of land.

2021.35 The area within the circle of trees at Blackhorse Road common has been cut by SGC and to consider having an annual cut in future

This was noted by members and it was **Resolved** to ask SGC to do an annual cut around this time of year and to collect the cuttings.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.36 Damaged fencing where the path from Cave Grove crosses Green Lane

It was **Resolved** to get quotes to replace the damaged rail near to the gate and to remove the other damaged fencing.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.37 Dead trees in Green Lane

It was **Resolved** to get quotes to remove the dead trees. Members raised the issue of trees with ash dieback and the Committee Clerk explained that they would be identified when the next professional tree survey is done which will be scheduled for the time recommended in the previous survey. It was **Resolved** to consider having an ecological survey after any work recommended in the next professional survey had been done. Cllr Sunderland said that the Friends of Emersons Green Park may be able to help with clearance work if that was needed.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.38 A request for the branches overhanging 23 Cave Grove from Green Lane to be cut back

The request was received from a resident who wants to rent the property from the owner. The work could not be done last year when the branches overhanging other properties was dealt with as the owner at that time did not give their agreement for the work. It was **Resolved** to seek the agreement of the present owner of the property and if that is provided then to ask the contractor who did the other properties to also do this one.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.39 Funding plants for planters by Lyde Green school

Members noted that SGC have stated that they expect the Town Council or the Community Association to maintain the planters otherwise they will look at alternatives such as bollards. It was **Resolved** not maintain the planters and to inform SGC.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.40 Quotes to plant trees at Rodway Common

Three quotes were requested to supply and plant 10 lime trees. Two quotes were received and it was **Resolved** to accept the quote from SGC of £3750 and £2500 to water the trees, the later will come out of next year's budget.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.41 An information board at Emersons Green common

Cllr Sunderland said that Ed Drewitt has explained to her that he is not in a position to get other quotes. The Committee Clerk has emailed a sign company asking for an estimate for an information panel and will report back at the next meeting.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.42 A quote for replacement "No Parking" signs at Vinney Green common

It was **Resolved** to get accept the quote of £63 + VAT for three signs.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.43 A report from Cllr Budd of vehicles parked on the common land by Windsor Place

Cllr Somers stated the picture provided by Cllr Budd showed a works cabin and vehicle, and that now the works have been completed he had not noticed vehicles parked on the common. It was **Resolved** not to take any action and inform Cllr Budd.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.44 A quote to repair the parking area at Rodway Common

Two councillors and the Committee Clerk met representatives of SGC at the common to discuss works to repair the parking area following which SGC provided a quote. It was **Resolved** to request quotes from two other contractors.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.45 Dibden Lane allotments

- a) An update from Cllr Sunderland on the maintenance of the strip of land bordering the allotments and Crossways Nursery;
Cllr Sunderland confirmed that she and her neighbouring tenants will maintain this strip of land. It was **Resolved** to instruct Brandon Trust to no longer use weedkiller in that area.

Action: Committee Clerk

- b) Use of weedkiller at the allotments;
The Committee Clerk explained that Brandon Trust apply weedkiller twice a year to the car park and the walkway next to plots 58E to 63E. It was **Resolved** to instruct Brandon Trust to no longer use weedkiller on the car park and to ask if they can trim the walkway instead of using weedkiller.
It was **Resolved** to consider at the next meeting banning the use of weedkiller by allotment tenants.

Action: Committee Clerk

- c) A request to hire a skip;
It was **Resolved** to get a quote to hire a skip.

Action: Committee Clerk

- d) A request for a glass door and broken glass to be removed;
It was **Resolved** to get a quote for this work for safety reasons.

Action: Committee Clerk

- e) Quotes to cut back or reduce the height of hedges;
The Committee Clerk explained that two quotes have been requested but none have yet been received. The quotes will be chased.

Action: Committee Clerk

- f) The allotments evening on 19 October;
Members considered holding the event at the Village Hall to provide more room. It was **Resolved** to hold the event in the Council Chamber.

2021.46 An offer from SGC for two trees to plant in celebration of the Queens's Jubilee

The Committee Clerk explained the trees are 2 to 3 feet tall. It was **Resolved** not to take up the offer.

2021.47 Open Spaces budget for 2022 / 23

Members noted that there will be an item on the agenda for 2 November to plan the budget for next year.

2021.48 Signs to be replaced that refer to Mangotsfield Rural Parish Council

It was **Resolved** to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.49 Plans by Cllrs Bassett and Sunderland for the stand at the Three Greens Festival

The plans were noted by the members.

2021.50 An email from Cllr R Hunt about bins in Lyde Green

It was **Resolved** to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.51 An email from Cllr Budd about bollards by Rodway common

It was **Resolved** to decline the request to move one of the bollards and remove the other 3 bollards, and to inform Cllr Budd.

Action: Committee Clerk

2021.52 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted;
An email to Lyde Green Open Spaces group about information boards for Lyde Green common.

2021.53 Items from Members to report

Cllr Palmer reported that motorbikes had again been used on Lyde Green common and that this had been reported to the police.

2021.54 Next Meeting; 2 November 2021 at 19.00

The chairman closed the meeting at 21.02