



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council

1900hrs on Tuesday 1st November 2022

- Present:** Councillors Patricia Morgan, David Somers (Deputy Mayor), Roberta Sunderland.
- Absent:** Councillor Stephen Bassett
- In attendance:** Committee Clerk, Richard Hull.
- Apologies:** Councillor Simon Budd (Mayor).
- Public:** None.
- Notes:** The meeting began at 1900hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

OS_2022.18 Welcome and introductions

Minutes: Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures.

OS_2022.19 Declaration of interest – Localism Act 2011.

Minutes: Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest.

OS_2022.20 To receive representations from the press and public.

Minutes: No members of the press or public were present.

OS_2022.21 To approve the minutes of the 6th September 2022 meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Roberta Sunderland, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 6th September 2022, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Minutes: The minutes were signed at the meeting by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor).

OS_2022.22 Outstanding items from the previous minutes.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), the Committee Clerk delivered a summary of the work undertaken as a result of the resolutions and action points from the previous meetings as follows;

- The Committee Clerk has requested a quote to plant a tree at Blackhorse Road common and will chase for a reply as none has been received.
- Councillor Sunderland has advised that the planters in Emerson Way have been painted and re-planted.
- A survey has been emailed to the allotment tenants about their use of herbicides and pesticides and a lot of them have completed the survey.
- Allotments evening 17 Nov; Chris Sunderland is available to talk about the work of the Friends of Emersons Green Park. An interpreter has been booked.
- MPRC signage; No Parking and Bye Law signs have been ordered. A quote will be obtained for the other signs.
- Hedges at the allotments; this site visit could not take place because of the mourning period following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The visit will be rescheduled.

OS_2022.23 Correspondence.

Minutes: There was no correspondence.

OS_2022.24 Recycled plastic bollards.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), the Committee Clerk provided the following advice:

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.
- Open Spaces TOR Function of Committee 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Resolve that: "A quote is accepted for £1424.50 for 50 recycled plastic bollards as proposed, documents having been circulated."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To have a stock of bollards to enable existing bollards to be replaced when needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council currently has only £343 left available in the maintenance budget which does not leave enough for this expenditure of £1,424.50. Nevertheless, the Council currently has a substantial General Contingency, of £175,614, and other earmarked reserves, totalling £755,307.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Roberta Sunderland, and resolved that:

Resolved: A quote is accepted for £1424.50 for 50 recycled plastic bollards as proposed, documents having been circulated.

OS_2022.25 Dual purpose bins.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), the Committee Clerk provided the following advice:

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.
- Open Spaces TOR Function of Committee 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Resolve that: “SGC are instructed to install two bins at a cost of £1,199.90 to be emptied weekly at a cost of £323.08 per year as proposed, documents having been circulated.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To meet Key Objective A7 in the draft strategic plan “Consider a scheme to improve the litter picking arrangements within the town, including additional bin provision”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council currently has only £343 left available in the maintenance budget which does not leave enough for this expenditure of £1,199.90 plus the ongoing costs. Nevertheless, the Council currently has a substantial General Contingency, of £175,614, and other earmarked reserves, totalling £755,307.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Roberta Sunderland, supported by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), and resolved that:

Resolved: SGC are instructed to install two bins at a cost of £1,199.90 to be emptied weekly at a cost of £323.08 per year as proposed, documents having been circulated.

OS_2022.26 HM Queen Elizabeth II Memorial

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), the Committee Clerk explained that on 13th October Full Council delegated the task of planting a tree, in Memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II, to the Open Spaces Committee and that on the boundary walk it was identified that it may be more suitable to extend the avenue of trees at Rodway Common. The Committee Clerk provided the following advice:

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.
- Open Spaces TOR Function of Committee 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Ask councillors to agree a date for a site visit.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- Agree a date for a site visit to discuss options.
- To meet Key Objective B8 in the draft strategic plan “Draw up a list of potential spaces to be rewilded or used for tree planting, wildflower planting etc.”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

- There is a shortfall of £1,876 in the trees budget. Nevertheless, the Council currently has a substantial General Contingency, of £175,614, and other earmarked reserves, totalling £755,307.

Resolved: That the Committee Clerk will arrange a site visit for 8th November at 1000 hrs.

OS_2022.27 **To note the date and time of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting.**

Minutes: Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) announced that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was scheduled to take place:

Tuesday 10th January at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 1933 hrs and announced that an informal ‘round-table’ discussion would take place afterward.