

003 FC_2022.152 Minutes Full Council 12th January 2023	_____	3
FC_2022.141 Annex A Climate and Nature Report	_____	11
FC_2022.141 Annex B Youth Work Report OctDec 22	_____	13

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

1900hrs on Thursday 12th January 2023.

- Present:** Councillors Simon Budd (Mayor), Councillors David Somers (Deputy Mayor), Roberta Sunderland, Colin Hunt, Sadik Al-Hassan, Simon Jones, Richard Nichols, Alka Mehta-Graham, Caroline Johnson, James Hunt, and Christopher Edwardson.
- Absent:** Cllr Rachael Hunt.
- In attendance:** Town Clerk, Ian Lyons.
- Apologies:** Cllr Patricia Morgan.
- Public:** No members of the public attended the meeting.
- Notes:** The meeting began at 1900hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

FC_2022.133 Welcome and Introductions.

- Minutes:** Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures. Cllr Simon Jones joined the meeting at 1901hrs.

FC_2022.134 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

- Minutes:** Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest.

FC_2022.135 Public Participation.

- Minutes:** No members of the public were present.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2022.136 Minutes.

- Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Colin Hunt, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 8th of December 2022, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

Minutes: The minutes were signed at the meeting by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor).

FC_2022.137 Outstanding items from the previous minutes.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk delivered a summary of the work undertaken as a result of the resolutions and action points from the previous meetings. As follows:

- The Dibden Lane Allotments lease and the Vinney Green land transfer are still outstanding. Ian Lyons, Principal Surveyor at South Glos, has provided an update, and estimates this will be complete for signature in the next eight weeks. A confirmation has also been received that this will include the debt write-off requested by Councillors.
- The IT Hardware project is still at the consultation stage.
- The Human Resources consultancy with SLCC is well underway and is expected to complete by the end of the month.

OPERATIONS

FC_2022.138 Crime Update.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk delivered an update on the level of Crime in the area, as follows:

Overall, the level of crime in the area, compared to previous months, remains below the annual average. Notably, in January there was a shift towards burglary, away from vehicle crime and drugs.

Nevertheless, as usual, violence and sexual offences consistently remain the highest reported crimes on all scales¹, and anti-social behaviour remains in second place. Recently, EGVH reported that anti-social behaviour had become a particular problem there on a Tuesday evening, and the Council asked Creative Youth Network to provide support. Since then, the problem has been resolved.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Councillors should debate suitable crime prevention measures. For example, recruiting volunteers to establish a new Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

¹ Police.UK (2022) *Boyd Valley, Emersons and Lyde Green* [Online] Available at: <https://www.police.uk/your-area/avon-somerset-constabulary/boyd-valley-emersons-and-lyde-green/?tab=Statistics> (Accessed 8th November 2022).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Council has a legal duty to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder within its Civil Parish boundary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

Of course, this will be strategy dependent. Right now, the Council does not currently have a budget for spending on crime prevention measures. However, an advertising campaign could be funded through regular spending on communications if necessary.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Neutral. Although, there is evidence to suggest a link between rising temperatures and the prevalence of crime². As a result, the Council should expect the overall levels of Crime to rise slightly unless successful interventions are made.

FC_2022.139 Strategic Plan Update.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk delivered an update on the progress of the Strategic Plan, as follows:

The Strategic Plan was adopted by the Full Council 10th of November 2022. Since then, a progress chart has been drawn up and circulated with the meeting notes. The document uses a traffic light system to indicate the level of progress being made, with notes under the ambitions marked green.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government Act 1972, s.142.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Review the plan.
- Ask Councillors to take the lead on projects, particularly those marked red.
- Suggest amendments where necessary (this is a living 'wish list' document).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To communicate the Council's vision and corporate priorities to the public.
- To justify public spending.
- To provide direction to the Council's employees and strategic partners.
- To ensure that the Council's objectives are SMART; Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, and Time-Related.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

As a reminder, the Strategic Plan itself has no financial impact at all. After all, it is not a commitment to spend. In fact, at the last meeting of the Full Council, in the

² Ranson (2012) *Crime, Weather, and Climate Change* [Online] Available at: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/publications/awp/awp8> (Accessed 5th January 2023).

debate, it was argued that this was a 'wish list'. Furthermore, clarification was given that each project would have to be considered on its merits on a case-by-case basis, as usual, along with the financial implications and risks.

Of course, the reputational risks are considerable. So, now that the Council has committed to the Strategic Plan, and it has been published online, it would be advisable to continue supporting the necessary budget spending, to deliver the objectives on time.

As we agreed, the Strategic Plan is ambitious, and the Council has allocated a healthy annual budget accordingly. Moreover, the Council has earmarked considerable resources, in both capital and revenue, to achieve the aims and objectives listed in the Strategic Plan.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Section B of the Strategic Plan seeks to ensure that the climate change agenda is at the forefront in all that the Council does and aims to reduce carbon usage to zero by 2030, and significantly offset the carbon usage of others through green energy production, comprehensive tree planting, and re-wilding projects. The Council will also be leading by example through its network of suppliers and contractors.

FC_2022.140 To note any updates from Committees.

Minutes:

To start with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) provided a summary, as Chair of the Open Spaces Committee and the Planning Committee. Overall, it was reported that the volume of planning applications was lower than usual. Notably, a consultation was taking place at South Glos Council to apply for new powers under Moving Traffic Enforcement. At this point, Cllr Colin Hunt commented that the Police resources are limited and that the move would generate income for South Glos Council.

After this, Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) continued to outline the work of the Open Spaces Committee, which had met recently and approved a memorial for HM Queen Elizabeth II at Rodway Common, which would include a plaque and parade of trees. Likewise, a new tree was being planted at Blackhorse Road Common. Notably, the committee had also approved the summer maintenance contract with the Brandon Trust and installed a new dual-purpose bin at Lyde Green Common. Furthermore, the rent for Dibden Lane Allotments had been reviewed and a small increase agreed upon.

Next, the Town Clerk was invited to provide an update on the work of the Finance Committee, on behalf of the Chair. It was reported that the Finance Committee had proposed the Budget, which was successfully adopted at Full Council. Moreover, the Committee had agreed on a procurement for Enhanced DBS Checks and a contract for the maintenance of the central heating system and roller shutters.

FC_2022.141 To note any updates from Working Groups.

Climate and Nature (CAN).

Minutes: To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Cllr Roberta Sunderland directed attention to a circulated report, asked the members to read it, and requested for it to be included in the minutes. The report can be found at Annex A.

Youth Working Group.

Finally, the Town Clerk circulated a Youth Service report from Michael Waine, Creative Youth Network, which was duly noted. The report can be found at Annex B.

FC_2022.142 To appoint Councillors to Committee vacancies.

Minutes: To begin with, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) asked the Town Clerk to display a list of the current vacancies and highlighted the opportunities to Councillors.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Richard Nichols, supported by Cllr James Hunt, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council appoints Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) to the Finance Committee.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Roberta Sunderland, supported by Cllr James Hunt, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council appoints Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham to the Open Spaces Committee.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr James Hunt, supported by Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council appoints Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan to the Open Spaces Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2022.143 Correspondence.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to a seasonal goodwill message from Emersons Green Village Hall. The Chair of Emersons Green Village Hall had also requested an informal meeting with Cllrs on Thursday the 9th of February at 1800hrs. At this point, it was agreed that Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) and Cllr James Hunt (Chair of the Finance Committee) would join the Clerk at the meeting.

FC_2022.144 Advertising.

Minutes: A circulated poster promoting the Council's *Design a Christmas Light Competition* was noted by the Council. After this, Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) requested

that Councillors' contact details be included in a future edition of the Voice, and a short debate took place on the matter, including suggestions for a QR code link from Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan. The Town Clerk agreed to give this some thought and present ideas at a future meeting.

Action: Town Clerk to draft a suitable advert for the Voice.

POLICY

FC_2022.145 Annual Investment Strategy.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided the following advice:

The Annual Investment Strategy is being presented to the Full Council for Annual renewal and has not changed since the previous year. In the future, this will take place at the Annual Council Meeting in May.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

Financial Regulation 8.5 "The Council shall consider the need for an Investment Strategy and Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the council at least annually."

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Review the plan.
- Resolve that "The Council formally adopts the updated Annual Investment Strategy, copies having been circulated."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To meet the requirements of the Internal and External Audit.
- To comply with the Financial Regulations.
- To remind members of the Council's investment priorities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Annual Investment Strategy exists to ensure that the Council has adequate security, liquidity, and a return on investment.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

The Annual Investment Strategy itself has a neutral impact on Climate Change. However, the choice of investments made by the Finance Committee could.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council formally adopts the updated Annual Investment Strategy, copies having been circulated.

FINANCE

FC_2022.146 Internal Audit.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk informed the Council that the Internal Audit was underway. The questionnaire will be completed by Tuesday 17th January, and a formal inspection will take place the week commencing 23rd January. No problems were anticipated. However, the Town Clerk explained that improvements could be made to the Asset Register that would benefit members of the public and the Town Council.

PERSONNEL

FC_2022.147 Councillor Vacancies.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to the Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor, copies having been circulated.

In sum, two casual vacancies had arisen, on the 27th of December 2022, in the Emersons Green Ward, which would not require an election, due to Rule 6 of the Local Elections (Parish and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006, where the vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the Councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired.

After this, a short discussion took place about the possibility of co-option, and the Town Clerk provided a summary of events for the previous advertising period. In short, one candidate had applied but later withdrew, preferring an alternative voluntary role. After that, it was explained that the Town Council had a co-option policy, which would make the timings for advertising further vacancies impractical.

As a result, there was no proposal to re-advertise for co-option.

FC_2022.148 Dates and Timings.

Minutes: Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) announced that the next meeting of the Full Council was scheduled to take place:

Thursday 9th February 2023 at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Finally, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 1950hrs and announced that an informal 'round-table' discussion would take place afterward.

From: Bobbie Sunderland

To: Ian Lyons for Full Council on 12th Jan 2023 Meeting

Date: 9/1/2023

Subject: **Report on Climate and Nature**

Home Energy Conversation 8/12/2022

A number of us met at Resound for a lively discussion. There was a presentation from Chris Sunderland about making a house fossil fuel free and Dave Tudgey from Bristol Energy Network shared about a range of projects taking place in other areas and encouraged us to come up with actions we could take as individuals and as a community.

It was noted that many houses in Emerson Green may have been built without cavity wall insulation. We also discussed how energy affects the most vulnerable people and the potential for a local warm room, or energy resilience place in the event of a blackout.

It is proposed to have a further meeting on these issues in February and one of the CAN group is going to make contact with the Fishponds and Downend Energy Network Group to help us develop more ideas.

Community Nature Reserve.

The launch takes place on 19th January at 7.30pm at Emersons Green Village Hall.

The poster and an article have appeared in Emersons Green Voice. Posters are being placed around the area and posting on various social networks is ongoing.

There are a number of small exhibitions about the Community Nature Reserve around the area, in the Village Hall, Lyde Green Community Centre, the Library, St James Church Hall and St James Church. *If you know of another public space that could take an exhibition, please let Bobbie know.*

The Competition to design the logo for the Community Nature Reserve closes on Sunday 15th January – *you still have time to have a go at designing the logo – details on EGTC website.*

Currently we have hard copy sign up forms for people wishing to register their gardens and are in the process of designing an on-line version of the form that will be on the EGTC website shortly.

This week I met with David Tibbatts and Jenny Griffiths from Common Connections, S Glos. They are interested in how the Community Nature Reserve idea can benefit other areas of S Glos and are keen to help us with our own project. David will also share with us environmental reports commissioned by Commons Connections that relate to areas in our Town Council area. This will help with developing out LNAP.

David Tibbatts will speak at the launch and put the initiative into the wider context of what Common Connections is aiming to achieve across the County. Sophie Bancroft from AWT will also be at the launch and will be giving information on how to make gardens friendly for wildlife.

Local Nature Action Plan – meeting with Daisy Finniear, Climate and Nature Officer Frampton Cotterell Parish Council.

On the 14th December 2022, I met with Daisy to discuss ways of developing our Local Nature Action Plan. Frampton have the advantage of having a dedicated Climate and Nature Officer. Her advice was very helpful and she has shared the Frampton Local Nature Action plan with us.

Future plans

Further meeting of the Home energy Conversation Group

Develop on going ways of engaging with people who sign up to the Community Nature Reserve – Social Media, events, etc

Write up first draft of Local Nature Action Plan

Detached

Our local area detached youth work has continued as Autumn turned into Winter. As expected, the number of young people we have seen has declined with the colder and wetter weather becoming more frequent, but we have continued to see young people and, I feel, the quality of conversations has improved. Young people are particularly grateful for a hot chocolate and a chat when it is cold and dark, so we have been able to engage well with those we have seen. We had particular success on Halloween, which fell this year on a Monday (our weekly detached evening), and saw high numbers in spite of the weather. On that particular evening, seeing several larger groups, we were able to have some good conversations about a potential youth club and what those young people would like out of it. Detached has proved a reliable means of consulting local young people and will continue to be an opportunity to promote our work to those who might not otherwise hear of it or access it.

Basketball

The Friday night basketball sessions have continued to evolve over these past months. We have seen more growth in numbers who attend and a transition to having more younger teens participating. Where originally we had predominantly 17-25 year olds, we now have mostly 13-18 year olds, and most new young people being at local schools, if not living in the area.

Though there are some limits to this work supporting young people from Emerson's and Lyde Green, there have been some notable successes that are worth mentioning. My colleague from LPW (Learning Partnership West) who runs the sessions with me, was asked to write a case study and send it to the South Gloucestershire Violence Reduction Unity, who then have passed it on to the chief of Avon and Somerset Police and, in turn, someone from the home office, showing it as a model for positive engagement. Here is a short extract from that case study (most of the rest is information that you'll already know):

"The sessions take place on a Friday evening every week, and we supply water and snacks for all for free, the community that it has grown into naturally supports each other, ensures safe and secure environment, for all of them dealing with all sorts of issues that they can talk about or express.

Some examples are three brothers attend, all in their 20's last year they lost their father to suicide, and they have stated that this is the one thing they look forward to each week, as they know the offer of talking is there if needed, but also the support and friendships they have developed have directly impact in a positive way the mourning process and the mental health of the young people.

As well as this there are young people whom have struggled to fit in to the perceived view of society at a young age so have started to work, and do 40 hrs a week and this is their one release. An example of this is that ,last week, one young person literally walked in, stripped his work clothes off to show his basketball kit beneath and straight onto court to play, exploding the pent up frustration and sheer joy of playing the game.

We have disillusioned young people whom have struggled in the (basketball) Academy system that has ruined their dreams though poor coaching, to which they voiced their concerns over bullying of other players then were not supported back in to the team, so have left feeling disillusioned with the sport, they now attend and thrive and help to include new young people and organise the teams and are an integral part of what the young people do- but he doesn't realise it, and that's the joy of it.

For instance, we had a young person from Kuwait who was over for 4 months. He came to use the gym but it was shut and he heard the ball bouncing, he came in, he sat down and was then approached by the aforementioned young person asking him to join in, he didn't speak much English hence why he was here, but soon enough although he hadn't played before he was on court, and he became part of the community for the next 4 months, making friends learning a language and a sport he hadn't played before.

Most recently we are attracting young people from the surrounding schools, when asked why they come, its again to do with being able to play as the school system doesn't lend its self to Basketball, so this is the only place they can play socially, again in a safe and secure environment, allowing them to learn social emotional and sporting skills form others around them, and make new and positive friends, securing good mental and physical health along the journey."

It is understood that as this work does not, any longer, directly target and serve the young people of our community, though it is open to them, that we might need to re-evaluate our engagement with it. That said, it has been an effective way of engaging and supporting a wide range of (broadly speaking) local young people in a positive, healthy activity.

Mangotsfield Lunch Club

In November, I was able to start going into Mangotsfield Secondary School to run a lunch club. This followed a time of conversation with pastoral support staff at the school, who identified a need to support a group of year 7s who had found the transition into secondary education to be a difficult one and who had a range of barriers to excelling socially – some with additional needs, others with anxieties and mental health issues. The group, then, has served to be a safe space for a small group to build confidence (which was identified by the school as their primary aim) and develop social skills. Though initially this group was only 4 or 5 young people, with the intention of keeping it as a small group, after only a few sessions there were a few more added to that number, who it was thought would really benefit from that support.

What's next?

- We are *almost* at the point of launching our Emerson's Green Youth Club! After a period of trying to balance finding the right space with a space appropriate for the group's needs, an opportunity arose to secure the Resound building for the club. This is a large building that has previously run a youth club and comes equipped with some of the relevant equipment for such an activity.
Now, it is just a matter of planning with the team (a combination of CYN and Resound) and advertising the sessions. It is our hope that we can begin to run these by the end of January and then be open every week on a Monday evening, 18:00-20:00.
- Once a cohort emerges as part of the Youth Club, we can begin to plan activities and trips to further engage the young people. A first opportunity for this might be during February half term, or if not, the school's Easter break.
- Having formed an initial connection with Mangotsfield Secondary School, and having relationship with some senior staff at Downend School too, I hope to build on these connections to begin to search for suitable young people who might be interested in forming a youth council/panel. I will liaise further with the EGTC (especially the youth working group) to develop this.
- As mentioned, we will evaluate how best to use our delivery time over winter – with particular focus on detached and the basketball sessions.