



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Name: Cllr Simon Budd (Chair)

Date: 9th March 2023

Signed: {Original Signed}

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

1900hrs on Thursday 9th February 2023.

Present: Councillors Simon Budd (Mayor), David Somers (Deputy Mayor), Sadik Al-Hassan, Roberta Sunderland, Colin Hunt, Caroline Johnson, Patricia Morgan, Christopher Edwardson, Simon Jones, Richard Nichols, Alka Mehta-Graham.

Absent: None.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Ian Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors James Hunt and Rachael Hunt.

Public: Two 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_2022.149 Welcome and Introductions.

Minutes: Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures.

FC_2022.150 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

FC_2022.151 Public Participation.

Minutes: Two members of the public were present. Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) asked if they would like to speak, and explained that this was the only opportunity to participate in the meeting. One gentleman declined. After this, Rebecca Brown, a representative from Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire, requested an audience in relation to the grant application on the agenda. Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) decided that the address could be deferred to that point in the meeting, to facilitate a question-and-answer session from Councillors.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2022.152 Minutes.

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

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 12th of January 2023, 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_2022.153 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 not provided an update.
- The IT Hardware Procurement Strategy has now been agreed by the Finance Committee, and a copy has been circulated.
- The Human Resources consultancy with SLCC is well underway, with interviews arranged this month, and is expected to be ready for Personnel Committee before the end of March.
- The Design a Christmas Street Light Competition 2023 is underway.
- The new Annual Investment Strategy was updated on the website.
- A new Youth Club has been established, and a poster has been circulated. Please share this with your contacts.

GRANTS

FC_2022.154 Citizens Advice.

Minutes: To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Rebecca Brown, a representative from Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire, addressed the Council, providing a summary of the grant application and emphasised several points, including the recent closure of the service at Staple Hill, a reduction in funding from South Glos Council, the cost of living crisis, and an overwhelming increase in demand for their services.

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

“On Thursday 27th October 2022, the Finance Committee resolved that “The Finance Committee provides Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire with a Grant of £1,000 to provide residents of Emersons Green with a free advice service.” At the same meeting, the Town Clerk was instructed to write to the applicant to discuss providing an enhanced service for Emersons Green. On the 24th of November 2022, the Town Clerk delivered the response. As a result, Cllr Caroline Johnson and Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) requested an agenda item to consider the business case

for an enhanced service at the next opportunity. Then, on the 26th of January 2023 the Finance Committee resolved that: “The Finance Committee recommends that Full Council approve an additional Grant to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire for £14,834.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government Act 1972, s.142.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Decide on the merits of the enhanced service.
- If necessary:
- Resolve that: “The Council approves an additional Grant payment of £14,834 to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire for providing residents of Emersons Green with an enhanced free advice service, documents having been circulated.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The merits of the enhanced service itself should be debated.
- The additional amount matches the ‘uplift’ requested in the proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

If the Full Council approves this grant, it can be achieved within the current budget of £40,000, which includes £20,000 for s.137. The level of grants awarded year to date, including liabilities, is currently at £15,569, of which £3,400 is s.137 spending. Therefore, the remaining balance is £24,431 in total, £16,600 for s.137, and £7,831 for regular grants. Whilst this would mean that the budget for regular grants was exceeded, the overall level of grants and awards would remain under budget, with £9,597 available for the remainder of the financial year.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Citizens Advice provides people with the knowledge and confidence to make effective and efficient decisions, such as energy-saving measures, which are likely to reduce the environmental impact.”

Minutes: After this, Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan spoke passionately in favour of the grant, and asked Councillors to empathise with the residents that desperately needed support from Citizens Advice, and highlighted the large numbers of people that would benefit from this decision. Furthermore, it was argued that it would reduce the burden of travel costs, and provide the Council with intelligence about the diverse needs of the community. This was a comment that Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham agreed with, citing it as a reason for joining the Council.

Next, Cllr Richard Nichols asked Rebecca for more details on the difficulties that residents in Emersons Green were facing by travelling to Yate. In reply, public transport was cited as a barrier to accessing face-to-face services, in particular buses.

Finally, Cllr Roberta Sunderland, Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), and Cllr Caroline Johnson all confirmed their support for the motion, which would support a

large number of people with a broad range of advice services, replacing some of the services that have been lost in the most deprived areas.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Caroline Johnson, supported by Cllr David Somers (Mayor), and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council approves an additional Grant payment of £14,834 to Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire for providing residents of Emersons Green with an enhanced free advice service, documents having been circulated.

OPERATIONS

FC_2022.155 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 significant shift towards criminal damage and arson, along with shoplifting, and other types of theft.

Nevertheless, as usual, violence and sexual offences consistently remain the highest reported crimes on all scales¹. In contrast, anti-social behaviour has now dropped to third place, behind criminal damage and arson. Nevertheless, a tension monitoring form has been introduced for submission to: communitysafetyteam@southglos.gov.uk.

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.*

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.

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 February 2023).

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_2022.156 Strategic Plan Update.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk delivered a short update on the progress of the Strategic Plan, circulating a progress chart with the meeting documents. After this, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) invited questions from members.

FC_2022.157 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. Notably, planning applications were reported to be lower than usual, possibly a reflection of the economy. Interestingly, new signs had been applied for at the Sainsburys Garage, advertising a Greggs bakery. Finally, it was reported that mixed hedging had now been planted around the perimeter of the allotments and it was hoped this would improve security as they grow.

Next, the Town Clerk was invited to provide an update on the work of the Finance Committee. An overview of the previous minutes was provided and a report from Cllr James Hunt (Chair) was circulated. A copy of this can be found at Annex A.

FC_2022.158 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 gave a short verbal summary from the working group, including the launch of the Community Nature Reserve, and plans for a bird box building workshop. After this, attention was directed to a circulated report, asking members to read it. The report can be found at Annex B.

At this point, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) the Town Clerk was invited to provide clarification on the necessity of written reports.

In reply, the Town Clerk clarified that written reports were not mandatory, and should not stifle debate. However, it would be helpful to the Councillors and the public to have a written report as a reference after the meeting, which could be included in the minutes. Similarly, writing a short report ahead of the meeting could help Councillors organise their thoughts, provide brevity and efficiency

² Ranson (2012) *Crime, Weather, and Climate Change* [Online] Available at: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/publications/awp/awp8> (Accessed 8th February 2023).

during the meeting, and avoid potential embarrassment by making statements or comments that were inappropriate to be heard in public.

FC_2022.159 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. The vacancies were announced but no appointments were made.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2022.160 Correspondence.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to a letter from the public, which expressed concern over the levels of maintenance in Emersons Green ward, citing hedges, clearance of paths, litter, and the pond at Vinney Green. The letter also expressed a desire to allow grass to grow, to encourage biodiversity.

In response, the Town Clerk was instructed to draft a reply highlighting the responsibilities of South Glos Council, and the increase in Town Council budgets, covering routine maintenance and localism.

Action: Town Clerk to draft a response.

FC_2022.161 External Audit.

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

Resolved: That the Emersons Green Town Council *Notice of conclusion of audit Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2022* (dated 29/09/22), copies having been circulated, be accepted by the Council.

FC_2022.162 Internal Audit.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to the circulated document and highlighted the one low-priority recommendation, as follows "Procurement Thresholds: The thresholds noted in the Standing Orders & Financial Regulations of £189,330 & £164,176 are out of date, and do not reflect the changes to procurement thresholds in Procurement Policy Note 10/21, applicable from 1st January 2022." After this, the Town Clerk informed the Council that an update to the Financial Regulations would be listed on the next available agenda.

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

Resolved: That the *Emersons Green Town Council In-Year Assurance Audit Report 2022 / 23* (dated 02/02/23), copies having been circulated, be accepted by the Council.

FC_2022.163 Advertising.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to two potential advertisements. Firstly, a poster advertising Councillors' Contact details, was presented. After a short debate, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) held an indicative vote, and it was agreed that the alternative poster, advertising the Calendar Competition, would be used instead.

FINANCE – EVENT APPLICATION

FC_2022.164 The Coronation of His Majesty The King.

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

“The Coronation of His Majesty The King.

On the 13th of October 2022, the Full Council resolved that: “The Council creates an Events Working Group”. Since then, the Events Working Group has met, and discussed ideas. However, the timing of forthcoming elections made the leadership decision a complication. Since then, the Finance Committee has received this application and resolved that: “The Finance Committee approves an event application from the Town Clerk with a budget of £10,000, copies having been circulated.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- *Local Government Act 1972, s.145.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- *Review the application.*
- *Resolve that: “The Council approves an event application from the Town Clerk with a budget of £10,000, copies having been circulated.”*

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- *To meet strategic objective E4 “Draw up a plan to provide more community-based events for local people.”*
- *To deliver the vision for the Council to “play its part in supporting the wider social and economic ambitions and aspirations of the area.”³*
- *To live up to the mission statement of the Council, which states, “Using its allowable powers, Emersons Green Town Council will do all it can to create a welcoming and vibrant town, promoting civic pride and improving the quality of life for those who live, work and visit.”⁴*
- *To increase public participation and engagement with the Council.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has agreed on a £10,000 budget for events in 2023/24, not including the Calendar (£2,000) or Climate and Environmental (£1,500). However, the current budget for events is

³ EGTC (2022) Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 p.4 ‘Our Vision for Emersons Green’.

⁴ EGTC (2022) Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 p.4 ‘Emersons Green Mission Statement’.

£4,500, with current spending of £2,976. Inevitably, some of the invoices for this event will be met in different financial years. Either way, the Council has substantial reserves held in General Contingency, earmarked reserves, with a year-end forecast of £237,772.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

A large proportion of the footprint could be mitigated by encouraging sustainable travel to attend the event, and by reducing the waste created by our partners. In fact, offering a local celebration, which is accessible on foot, could actually mitigate the need for local residents to travel further afield, which would have a greater impact.”

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Colin Hunt, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council approves an event application from the Town Clerk with a budget of £10,000, copies having been circulated.

FINANCE – PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS

FC_2022.165 Contract – Grass Cutting (Localism).

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) introduced the item, and the Town Clerk provided the following advice:

“On the 10th of January 2023, it was resolved that: “The Open Spaces committee recommends to Full Council that a quote from South Gloucestershire Council is accepted, documents having been circulated.” Attached is a plan of the amenity grass (highway verges) that is shaded light green. These are the areas that would be cut if we instruct South Glos. There are some areas shaded in different colours that are not included. For example, Emersons Green park is not shaded light green and is not included.

Without payment, it is expected that SGC will schedule two “core cuts” on the amenity grass, one in April and one in October. The quote SGC has provided is for 8 cuts in between. The spacing of those depends on the weather and the rate of growth.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- *Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.*
- *Localism Act 2011.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- *Consider rejecting the quote from South Gloucestershire Council.*
- *Consider delegating authority to the Open Spaces Committee for any amendments.*

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- *The Council must consider the impact of this decision on the protection of biodiversity, and it is likely this will be adversely affected by this decision.*
- *Corporate Priority 2 – To ensure that the climate agenda is at the forefront in all that the Council does.*

- *Key Objective B8 - Draw up a list of potential spaces to be rewilded or used for tree planting, wildflower planting etc.*
- *To save money, £25,915 (over two years) is a considerable sum that could be spent elsewhere.*
- *South Gloucestershire Council has a responsibility to maintain highways and verges to an acceptable standard, and site-specific issues could be managed on a case-by-case basis.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £20,000 for 2023 / 24 for grass and path maintenance which is more than adequate to cover the costs of this proposal and the Estate Maintenance contract. Should the Council decide against this proposal, £12,580.41 per annum will be available in this budget for virement or to be held in reserve for contingencies, such as ad-hoc maintenance on a case-by-case basis.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

It is highly likely that if the Council decides against this proposal, it will reduce the Council's carbon footprint and protect biodiversity, and vice versa."

Minutes: After this, Cllr Roberta Sunderland expressed support for the motion, expressing the opinion that South Glos Council was undertaking the necessary research to consider the impact on biodiversity, and directed attention to the circulated briefing note *Verges and Public Open Space Grass Management Project Update (February 2023)*. Furthermore, it was argued that "cutting less doesn't [always] cost less". Finally, a concern was raised about the need for a 2yr contract.

Next, Councillor Richard Nichols also questioned the length of the contract, which could impact the ambitions in the Council's strategic plan, such as D2 "to assess and consider providing more services via directly employed staff rather than contracting out".

At this point, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) asked the Town Clerk to provide advice on potential amendments, and a short debate took place about the alternatives.

Amendment: Then, it was moved by Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan, supported by Cllr Patricia Morgan, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council delegates authority to the Open Spaces Committee to negotiate a contract with South Gloucestershire Council for the additional maintenance of highway verges, up to a budget of £25,915, documents having been circulated.

FC_2022.166 Procurement & Contract – Vinney Green Common.

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

"On Saturday 15th October, Cllr Roberta Sunderland organised a walk around the Town Council Boundary. At the same time, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) raised several issues at Vinney Green common with the Town Clerk, such as parking difficulties, security vulnerabilities, and minor hazards. As a result, the Chair of the Open Spaces (OS) Committee, Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) consulted with the OS Committee Clerk and decided that no further action was necessary at this stage. Since then, the security issue has potentially become more urgent. Therefore, Cllr

Simon Budd (Mayor) has requested that the Council consider taking immediate action to install new bollards.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- *Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.*
- *Inclosure Act 1845.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- *Consider the security threat.*
- *Consider the most appropriate response.*
- *Review the proposal.*
- *Debate the motion.*
- *Suggest any amendments, alternatives (such as trees), or referrals (OS Committee).*
- *Vote.*

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- *To assess the likelihood of a security issue.*
- *To consider alternatives, such as tree planting.*
- *To ensure that the proposal will address the problem.*
- *To consider a more detailed analysis in a sub-committee. However, this will delay a response.*
- *To provide a clear strategy and decision from the Council.*
- *Key Objective B8 - Draw up a list of potential spaces to be rewilded or used for tree planting, wildflower planting etc.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £16,000 for maintenance in 2023/24, which includes new bollards and replacements. However, the current maintenance budget is only £10,143, with £11,749 year to date, and a further £3,245 in committed expenditure. Nevertheless, the Council has a General Contingency, of £175,614, and other earmarked reserves, totalling £719,973.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Whilst the proposal is to use recycled plastic bollards, there may be other alternatives, such as strategic tree planting, which may offer a better solution for the climate. However, the project would require a significantly larger investment, and detailed planning, to achieve this, which would inevitably delay the matter.”

Minutes: After this, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) expressed the view that the security situation warranted an immediate response. In response, Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan supported the opinion that the potential for trespassers occupying Council property had increased. In contrast, other Councillors disagreed and thought the threat was not imminent, suggesting that the item could be debated further at the Open Spaces Committee. Furthermore, Cllr Roberta Sunderland proposed that an alternative to bollards was explored, which could include the planting of fruit trees or other natural barriers.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Richard Nichols, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Council defers this item to the Open Spaces Committee.

FC_2022.167 Contract – Estate Maintenance.

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

“On the 10th of January 2023, it was resolved that: “The Open Spaces committee recommends to Full Council that the quote from Brandon Trust is accepted, documents having been circulated. However, our Financial Regulations require us to strive for three quotations, and this work is underway.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- *Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- *Resolve that: “The Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to commission a three-year Estate Maintenance Contract, with a budget of £15,000, example documents having been circulated. “*

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- *To continue the maintenance of paths, common land, and allotment site.*
- *Corporate Priority 1 - Improve the management and maintenance of the parks & open spaces managed by the Council.*
- *Key objective A5 - Draw up maintenance plans and schedules to drive an improvement in standards within the parks and open spaces.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £20,000 for 2023 / 24 for grass and path maintenance which is more than adequate to cover the costs of this proposal.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

The Council has a responsibility to keep public rights of way accessible and the current maintenance contract is minimalistic. However, there are opportunities for improvement, such as exploring alternative transport solutions for contractors. The Council does not currently have the capacity to bring this work in-house but this could be explored in future.”

Minutes: To begin with, Cllr Richard Nichols questioned the length of the contract, which could impact the ambitions in the Council’s strategic plan, such as D2 “to assess and consider providing more services via directly employed staff rather than contracting out”. In a short debate, other Councillors also raised concerns about the length of the contract and preferred to re-negotiate.

An amendment to defer the item to the Open Spaces Committee was proposed but failed to gain a majority.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Roberta Sunderland, that:

“The Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to commission a three-year Estate Maintenance Contract, with a budget of £15,000, example documents having been circulated.”

Minutes: This matter was not resolved.

FC_2022.168 Contract – Bin Emptying (Localism).

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

“On the 10th of January 2023, it was resolved that: “The Open Spaces committee recommends to Full Council that the quote from South Gloucestershire Council is accepted, documents having been circulated.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- *Litter Act 1983, ss5,6.*
- *Localism Act 2011.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- *Resolve that: “The Council accepts a quote from South Gloucestershire Council of £11,782.23 for waste disposal services, documents having been circulated.”*

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- *To continue the maintenance of paths, common land, and allotment site.*
- *Corporate Priority 1 - Improve the management and maintenance of the parks & open spaces managed by the Council.*
- *Key objective A5 - Draw up maintenance plans and schedules to drive an improvement in standards within the parks and open spaces.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £14,000 for 2023 / 24 for the SGC Bin Contract, which is more than adequate to cover the costs of this proposal.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

The Council has a responsibility to keep public rights of way accessible and the current maintenance contract is minimalistic. However, there are opportunities for improvement, such as exploring alternative transport solutions for contractors. The Council does not currently have the capacity to bring this work in-house but this could be explored in future.”

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

Resolved: The Council accepts a quote from South Gloucestershire Council of £11,782.23 for waste disposal services, documents having been circulated.

FC_2022.169 Dates and Timings.

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

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

Finally, Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 2005hrs and announced that an informal 'round-table' discussion would take place afterward.

Finance Committee Report to Full Council 9th February 2023

By Cllr James Hunt

- After thorough discussion it was agreed to recommend to Full Council that additional services be procured from Citizens Advice Bureau to enable enhanced access and support for the residents of Emersons Green at a cost of £14,834. The current cost of living crisis highlighted the very real and urgent needs currently facing our constituents.
- The finance committee approved the EGTC IT Procurement Strategy ensuring there is clarity and consistency over what are appropriate IT resources for staff and councillors. Subsequently we delegated to the clerk to procure mobile phones for the staff indicated eligible in the EGTC IT Procurement Strategy, this will enable staff to avoid using personal equipment when working remotely or offsite and also provide remote and backup internet to ensure continuity of service.
- The committee discussed how best to handle funding for events and decided to follow the current financial thresholds employed by grants, that being under £5,000 able to be approved directly by the committee and over £5,000 being recommended to Full Council. Subsequently the committee agreed to recommend to full council that an event be financed to mark the Coronation of His Majesty The King with a maximum allowed budget of £10,000.

From: Bobbie Sunderland

To: Ian Lyons for Full Council on 9th Feb 2023

Date: 6/2/23

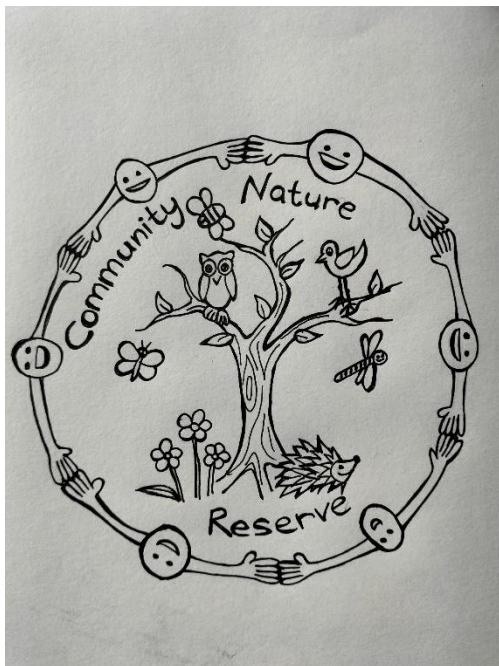
Subject: **Report on Climate and Nature Working Group**

CAN group met on the 17th February at 7.30pm at EGTC Offices

Photography Competition for 2024 Calendar now launched

- Agreed subject : Nature in our community through the seasons.
- Photos should be landscape.
- Up to three entries per person.
- This year the closing date will be 30th June 2023
- Exhibition and prize giving later in year date tbc

Launch Community Nature Reserve 19th January 2023 at Emersons Green Village Hall



Over 50 people attended this lively meeting. 17 people have already signed up their gardens to be part of the CNR.

Here is the winner of the logo competition, winning entry submitted by Christine Griffiths.

This has been made into **window stickers** for gardens that register to join the CNR.

There is now a **Facebook site - EGTC Community Nature Reserve.**

Also you can **register your garden via an on-line form on the EGTC website.**

Bird Box building workshop – Saturday 25th February – 3 sessions 1pm, 2pm and 3pm Emersons Green Village Hall

Chris Amos is helping to put this on. It is part of a series of events to keep the CNR in the spotlight and to encourage people to make their gardens friendly to wild life and to join the CNR. The sessions are free, but booking is via Eventbrite as places are limited.

Next meeting of CAN - Tuesday 21st March at 7.00pm at EGTC Offices