

Minutes_Full_Council_April_23	2
Annex A Clerks Report April	8
Annex B Climate and Nature Report	17

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

1900hrs on Thursday 13th April 2023.

Present: Councillors Simon Budd (Mayor), David Somers (Deputy Mayor), Bobbie Sunderland, Colin Hunt, Christopher Edwardson, Richard Nichols, Rachael Hunt, Alka Mehta-Graham, James Hunt, Patricia Morgan, and Sadik Al-Hassan.

Absent: Councillor Simon Jones.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Ian Lyons.

Apologies: Councillor Caroline Johnson.

Public: One member 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_2022.190 Welcome and Introductions.

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

FC_2022.191 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

Minutes: Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor) reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest. No interests were declared.

FC_2022.192 Public Participation.

Minutes: Stacy Pearce, a representative from 2nd Mangotsfield Brownies, requested an audience with the Council to support the grant application at agenda item 195. At the discretion of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), it was agreed that this would take place at that point in the agenda.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2022.193 Minutes.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 9th of March 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_2022.194 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 from the previous meetings. A copy of the *Clerk's Report* can be found at Annex A.

GRANTS

FC_2022.195 Mangotsfield Rainbows.

Minutes: To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A.

Briefly, Cllr Richard Nichols raised concerns about the increasing volume of grant applications from the public. In reply, Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan welcomed the increase and asked members to encourage more.

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

Resolved: The Council approves a grant to the 2nd Mangotsfield Brownies for £3,100 towards the costs of a camping trip.

FC_2022.196 Mangotsfield FC.

Minutes: To start with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided clarification that the applicant had requested a deferral to a future meeting of the Full Council.

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

Resolved: The Council defers consideration of this item to a future meeting of the Full Council.

INTEL & CURRENT AFFAIRS

FC_2022.197 **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, which can be found in the *Clerk's Report* at Annex A.

OPERATIONS

FC_2022.198 **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, one meeting of the Planning Committee was not quorate, and the volume of applications was low.

After that, it was reported that the Open Spaces committee had arranged for the repair of a major underground water leak at the allotments. It was also noted that the water troughs had been inspected and required a replacement. Finally, an appeal was made for Councillors to join a working group to discuss the grass-cutting arrangements.

After this, Cllr David Somers commented that the Town Clerk had arranged a visit to Vinney Green Secure Childrens' Home, which had resulted in a positive outcome, with the prospect of benefits for the community. For instance, it was reported by Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham that new raised bed planters had been arranged.

Finance Committee

Next, Cllr James Hunt (Chair of the Finance Committee) provided a summary of the last meeting which included the consideration of two grant applications, CB radios for the Coronation event, and a website upgrade to deliver a Community Directory facility.

Personnel Committee

A detailed written update was provided by Cllr Caroline Johnson. However, this item was deferred to later in the meeting for reasons of confidentiality.

FC_2022.199 To note any updates from Working Groups.

Climate and Nature (CAN).

Minutes: To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Cllr Bobbie Sunderland provided a detailed update from the Climate and Nature working group, which can be found at Annex B.

FC_2022.200 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 deemed necessary due to the election period, and the minimal time left in post.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2022.201 Correspondence.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to circulated letters from two local residents and a PCSO.

In summary, the Emersons Green Ladies group had expressed disappointment over their grant decision, a local Boxing Club had requested support (which was provided), and a PCSO from the Neighbourhood Policing Team offered assistance by attending meetings and providing reports.

FC_2022.202 Advertising.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk directed attention to a poster advertising the new Citizens Advice service, which the Full Council had agreed would take place at Emersons Green Village Hall, as part of a new Strategic Partnership, on the 9th of March 2023¹.

POLICY

FC_2022.203 Risk Register.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A. Members reviewed the *EGTC Risk Register* and noted the report.

FC_2022.204 Safeguarding.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan, and resolved that:

¹ Item FC_2022.188 It was resolved that The Council approves the *Strategic Partnership* letter; copies having been circulated.

Resolved: The Council formally adopts the *EGTC Safeguarding Policy (April 2023)*, copies having been circulated.

PERSONNEL

FC_2022.205 Privacy.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Richard Nichols, supported by Cllr Christopher Edwardson, and resolved that:

Resolved: The remainder of the meeting be conducted in a private session to the exclusion of the press and public.

FC_2022.206 Summary of Achievements.

Minutes: The '*Clerk's Special Report*' was circulated, presenting a list of achievements since the last meeting of the Personnel Committee on the 11th of October 2022. After this, Cllr James Hunt thanked the Town Clerk for a job well done.

FC_2022.207 Human Resources Policy Review.

Minutes: To start with, at the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), Cllr Christopher Edwardson summarised the letter from Cllr Caroline Johnson (Chair of the Personnel Committee), and the draft minutes, to provide an update on the work of the Personnel Committee.

After this, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A, and displayed an example of the services offered by SLCC to support the recruitment of new staff.

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

"The Council defers consideration of the next two agenda items [FC_2022.207 & FC_2022.208] to a future meeting of the Full Council."

To start the debate, Cllr James Hunt argued that there was no benefit for the Council in delaying a decision. Likewise, Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan agreed that a delay would serve no purpose, the strategy had been planned over several years, and the structure of the Council would not fundamentally change, due to uncontested seats in the election.

Furthermore, Cllr Alka Mehta-Graham explained that the matter had been debated at length by the Personnel Committee, and a succession plan for retiring staff was urgently needed.

Finally, Councillor Rachael Hunt shared the view that the strategy of the Council was moving in the right direction, particularly on Open Spaces projects like the Community Nature Reserve, and it was necessary to continue this work.

Failed: The motion was put to the vote, and the majority of Councillors voted *against* the motion to defer.

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

Resolved: The Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to instruct external Human Resource advisors in consultation with the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

FC_2022.208 Recruitment.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A, and reminded members of the purpose of the *Clerk's Report*.

At this point, Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor) questioned the definition of an 'Environment Manager'. In reply, the Town Clerk displayed a draft Job Description for an 'Environment Manager', and explained that both Job Descriptions had been circulated with the meeting documents.

Motion: Then, it was moved by Cllr Simon Budd (Mayor), supported by Cllr Sadik Al-Hassan, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to recruit and appoint a 'Deputy Clerk & RFO' and an 'Environment Manager' on a full-time employment contract in consultation with the Personnel Committee.

FC_2022.209 Dates and Timings.

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

**Thursday 18th May 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.



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF: TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

TO: FULL COUNCIL

REPORT DATE: 12TH APRIL 2023

Contact Details: Ian Lyons
Tel. No: 0117 3026989
Email: clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with official advice and recommendations from the Town Councils proper officer for the following meeting:

**Full Council, The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council,
Thursday 13th April 2023 commencing at 1900hrs.**

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.174

Outstanding Items.

To report that:

- The Dibden Lane Allotments lease and the Vinney Green land transfer are still outstanding. Following a request from Cllr Colin Hunt, Ian Lyons, Principal Surveyor at South Glos, provided an update on the 13th of March 2023 stating that, "It is still very much the intention to complete matters". Furthermore, he promised to "Get the Exec Member Report drafted this week". A further request for an update has been made.
- The Event Management Plan for the Coronation of His Majesty the King on the 6th of May has been submitted to South Glos Council for consultation. A copy is included in the meeting documents. If anyone would like to take part as a volunteer on the day please put them in touch with Nikki, the manager at Emersons Green Village Hall, who will find them an appropriate job.
- The staffing structure review was referred to the Personnel Committee to make recruitment plans, a meeting was held on the 23rd of March, and the recommendations are listed on the agenda for a decision. The Chair has also included a detailed update letter for your attention in the documents for Committee Updates.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.195 2nd Mangotsfield Brownies.

On the 30th of March 2023, at the Finance Committee, it was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), and resolved that: “The Finance Committee refers this grant application to the Full Council.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government Act 1972, s.137.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Decide on the merits of the grant application.
- *If necessary:*
- Resolve that: “The Council approves a grant to the 2nd Mangotsfield Brownies for £3,100 towards the costs of a camping trip.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The merits of the grant application should be debated.
- To meet Corporate Priority 3: Seek to ensure that the youth in the town are catered for in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This application will be among the first grants to be presented in the new financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants. Therefore, the Council easily has the funds to approve this application if it chooses to do so.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

A large proportion of the footprint of this activity will be mitigated by sharing transport to take part in the event. Furthermore, providing young people with the opportunity to experience the outdoors could be a valuable learning experience that fosters an appreciation of the environment. This is a subject matter that Councillors could ask the event organiser to consider including.

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.196 Mangotsfield FC.

On the 30th of March 2023, at the Finance Committee, the members reviewed the application and asked the Town Clerk to clarify company details and accounts with the applicants prior to consideration at Full Council, including match funding approval. Councillors also recommended attendance from a representative at the meeting. At the same meeting, it was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr David Somers (Deputy Mayor), and resolved that: "The Finance Committee refers this grant application to the Full Council."

As a result, an email was sent to the applicant asking for clarification. However, a reply was given verbally on the 11th of April 2023 from Mr. Pete Brown stating that the application should proceed from the Blackhorse Sports and Community Association alone, and that a representative would attend this meeting to provide an update on the match funding and answer any other questions.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Decide on the merits of the grant application.
- *If necessary:*

Resolve that: "The Council approves a grant to the Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for £15,000 towards the cost of LED floodlights."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- Only the Full Council can approve a grant application over £5,000.
- To meet Corporate Priority 3: Seek to ensure that the youth in the town are catered for in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This application will be among the first grants to be presented in the new financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants. Therefore, the Council easily has the funds to approve this application if it chooses to do so.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

[LED floodlights will have a much lower footprint than traditional lighting systems.]¹

¹ This advice was provided at the meeting but omitted in error on the original circulated document.

INTEL & CURRENT AFFAIRS

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.197

Crime Update.

Overall, the level of crime in the area, compared to previous months, is slightly below average. Notably, in February anti-social behaviour has risen dramatically to second place. Nevertheless, as usual, violence and sexual offences consistently remain the highest reported crimes on all scales².

Councillors are reminded that a tension monitoring form has been introduced which can be submitted to: communitysafetyteam@southglos.gov.uk. and a letter from a local PCSO can be found under correspondence.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Neutral. Although, there is evidence to suggest a link between rising temperatures and the prevalence of crime³. As a result, the Council should expect the overall levels of Crime to rise slightly unless successful interventions are made.

² 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 11th April 2023).

³ Ranson (2012) *Crime, Weather, and Climate Change* [Online] Available at: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/publications/awp/awp8> (Accessed 11th April 2023).

POLICY

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.203 Risk Register.

An accurate Risk Register can help the Council to better understand the potential costs associated with different types of risks and take proactive steps to mitigate those risks.

Every year, the auditors require the Council to provide a copy of the minutes where risk management was considered. Therefore, this represents an ongoing opportunity to review the EGTC Risk Register and suggest any amendments prior to adoption.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Local Government Act 1972, s.111.
- *EGTC Financial Regulations March 2023 s.17.*

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Review the existing Risk Register.
- Suggest Amendments.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The Council has a responsibility to manage risk.
- To prevent material or financial loss.
- To help prevent reputational damage.
- To enable adequate mitigation and insurance coverage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

In most cases, the cost of risk mitigation is either already in place or has been identified and budgeted for, such as investing in new technology and hiring more staff.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

A risk register can help the Council to address the impact of climate change on its operations. It can help identify climate-related risks, encourage sustainable practices, foster stakeholder engagement, and promote regulatory compliance. By taking proactive steps to mitigate these risks, the Council can contribute to the global effort to address climate change and build a more sustainable future.

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.204 Safeguarding.

“Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child’s needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.”⁴

Article 3, of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, states that “The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.”

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Resolve that: “The Council formally adopts the updated EGTC Safeguarding Policy (April 2023), copies having been circulated.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To comply with the law.
- The Council has a responsibility to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.
- To meet Corporate Priority 3: Seek to ensure that the youth in the town are catered for in as comprehensive a manner as possible.
- To provide clear guidance to members of staff, volunteers, and Councillors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

In most cases, the cost of risk mitigation is either already in place or has been identified and budgeted for, such as enhanced DBS checks and event management costs. Of course, the risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, or the potential damage to the Council’s reputation, is incalculable.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

While a safeguarding policy itself may not directly impact climate change, the measures taken by the Council can contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by promoting the resilience of young people.

⁴ (HM Govt, 2018) *Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf (Accessed 11th April 2023).

PERSONNEL

AGENDA ITEM: FC_2022.205 Privacy.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Resolve that: “The remainder of the meeting be conducted in a private session to the exclusion of the press and public.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- Publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

AGENDA ITEM: FIN_2022.207 Human Resources Policy Review.

On the 23rd of March 2023, it was resolved that “The Personnel Committee recommends that the Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to instruct external Human Resource advisors in consultation with the Chair of the Personnel Committee.”

A lengthy debate took place about the merits of instructing professional Human Resources advisors. The committee explored several alternatives, most of which did not seem viable, due to the limited availability of human resources. Likewise, given the volume of policies and employment contracts to be reviewed, and the importance of the decisions, Councillors did not feel able to undertake this commitment themselves.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Personnel Committee Terms of Reference, Function 8.
- Employment Act 2002.
- Employment Relations Act 2004.
- Employment Act 2008.
- The Work & Families Act 2006.
- The Equality Act 2010, s.149 and schedule 19.
- The Human Rights Act 1998, s.6.
- Working Time Regulations 1998.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- Resolve that: “The Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to instruct external Human Resource advisors in consultation with the Chair of the Personnel Committee.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To comply with employment law.

- To recruit using a free, fair, transparent, and independent process.
- To use professional adverts, job descriptions, and person specifications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £201,000 for Staff Expenditure in 2023/24, an increase of £130,830 on the 2022/23 budget, which is more than adequate to confidently begin the recruitment process and employ professional HR assistance. The Council has also specifically budgeted £6000 for professional/legal expenses in anticipation of a recruitment campaign.

In contrast, without professional advice, the Council risks future legal action through employment tribunals, etc.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

N/a

AGENDA ITEM: PER_2022.24 Recruitment.

Following a series of reports and consultations, on the 13th of March 2023, the Full Council resolved that “The Council refers the [HR] report to the Personnel Committee to make recruitment plans and submit recommendations to the Full Council.”

Then, on the 23rd of March 2023, it was resolved that: “The Personnel Committee recommends that the Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to recruit and appoint a ‘Deputy Clerk & RFO’ and an ‘Environment Manager’ on a full-time contract in consultation with the Personnel Committee.” The minutes of the meeting are included in the supporting documents along with a letter from the Chair.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Personnel Committee Terms of Reference, Function 8.
- Employment Act 2002.
- Employment Relations Act 2004.
- Employment Act 2008.
- The Work & Families Act 2006.
- The Equality Act 2010, s.149 and schedule 19.
- The Human Rights Act 1998, s.6.
- Working Time Regulations 1998.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- At a minimum, resolve that: “The Full Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to recruit and appoint an Environment Manager on a full-time contract in consultation with the Personnel Committee.”

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To meet the current demands of the Council.
- To achieve the aims of the Strategic Plan.
- To comply with employment law.
- To improve community infrastructure (CIL spending).
- To provide continuity and a robust workforce.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

The Council has budgeted £201,000 for Staff Expenditure in 2023/24, an increase of £130,830 on the 2022/23 budget, which is more than adequate to confidently begin the recruitment process, and cover the costs of additional staff. In particular, for the Environment manager, this can be funded entirely by the increase in CIL receipts, which must be spent within five years. This would also provide the Council with an immediate increase in officer hours where demand is currently the highest, and management liabilities exist.

In contrast, without immediate action, the Council risks a reduction in services to a more sustainable level, given the retirement schedule of current staff, and the current deficit in working hours. In turn, this will inevitably lead to reputational risks, such as failing to deliver the Strategic Plan. In conclusion,

“It is absolutely clear that the current staff capacity of about 1.75 fte is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of EGTC moving forwards.” (Williams, 2023)⁵.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

A full-time Environment Manager will help to ensure that the climate change agenda is at the forefront in all that the Council does (Corporate Priority 2). It will also allow other members of staff the time to develop projects that will reduce our carbon footprint to zero by 2030.

⁵ Willams, R. (2023) *Review of the staffing structure, salary levels and future needs*. Society of Local Council Clerks.

To: Ian Lyons for Full Council

From: Bobbie Sunderland

Date: 12/4/23

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

Community Nature Reserve

37 Gardens registered

111 members of Facebook Group

We have developed a Foundation Document for the CNR which is now published on the EGTC website and we have also developed a set of FAQs about the CNR, also now on the website.

Jenny Griffiths from Commons Connections, S Glos, is about to mail the whole Town Council area inviting people to join the CNR. People will be encouraged to sign up on line or to fill in the hard copy forms at Lyde Green Community Centre or Emersons Green Library.

Emersons Green Primary School has been approached and we are exploring ways in which they can get involved in the CNR.

Photo Competition

Posters now gone up round the area

The Exhibition and Prize Giving will be at Emersons Green Village Hall on Thursday 7th September

Gardening for Wildlife Garden Open Day 17th June

Email has gone out to members of the CNR inviting them to open their gardens for the Garden Open Day. Allotment holders will also be invited to open their allotments on the same day.

It was decided to combine the Open Gardens and visits to the Allotments into one event.

Earthfest 1st July in Emersons Green Park, Emersons Green Village Hall and the Library.

This is the festival put on by Friends of Emersons Green Park, in previous years called Three Greens Festival. The Climate and Nature Group are planning events and displays throughout the day, including things like, Birdbox building, treasure hunts, exhibitions on making gardens wildlife friendly and nature walks.

Seed Swap and Autumn Gathering Sunday 22nd October 2.30pm to 4.30pm at Emersons Green Village Hall.

Draft plans for this include seed swap, workshops, afternoon tea, possibly live music.

Grant Application to the Community Pollinator Fund

An application has been submitted to the Community Pollinator Fund for £1,000 to run two workshops to build insect houses including a talk on caring for insects. This would be similar to the birdbox building workshops that were run earlier in the year. If the application is successful we would aim to run one in Emersons Green and one in Lyde Green.

Veg growing Workshop at 29th April 10am to 12.00 Lyde Green Community Centre

Chris and Kelly from the CAN group are working with Laurence Binks of Lyde Green Open Spaces to put on a veg growing workshop at Lyde Green Community Centre.

Holly Chantrill-Cheyette from Action for Conservation attended the March CAN meeting to tell us about their work to get young people engaged in conservation projects.