

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council
1900hrs on Tuesday 30th May 2023

Present: Councillors Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), Pat Morgan, Bobbie Sunderland.

Absent: None.

In attendance: Committee Clerk, Richard Hull.

Apologies: Councillors Simon Budd and Alka Mehta-Graham.

Public: None.

Notes: The meeting began at 1920hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

Beforehand Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2023.001 Election.

Minutes: A single nomination was received for Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor) to be elected as Chairman for the municipal year.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, supported by Cllr Pat Morgan, and resolved that;

Resolved: Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor) be the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the municipal year.

OS_2023.002 Election.

Minutes: A single nomination was received for Cllr Bobbie Sunderland to be elected as Deputy Chairman for the municipal year.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Pat Morgan, and resolved that;

Resolved: Cllr Bobbie Sunderland be the Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for the municipal year.

OS_2023.003 Declaration of interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2023.004 To receive representations from the press and public.

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

OS_2023.005 Minutes.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Pat Morgan, and resolved that;

Resolved: The Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 7th March 2023, 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 Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor).

OS_2023.006 Outstanding items from the previous minutes.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), the Committee Clerk referred members to a summary of the work undertaken as a result of the resolutions and action points from the previous meetings, as detailed in the *Committee Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A

OS_2023.007 Correspondence.

Minutes: Members noted two of the items of correspondence to the Committee.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that;

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee approves the letter to Vinney Green Children's Home, copies having been circulated.

OS_2023.008 Lyde Green Common.

Minutes: Members debated the future management of the Common. Members were encouraged to learn that the land is subject to a *Scheme of Management*, dealt with by South Glos Council, and is part of the Commons Connections Project.

OS_2023.009 Mangotsfield Folly.

Minutes: Members noted that some members had inspected the area around the Folly on the 14th of March to consider the problem of litter that had been reported. Members noted that the area is remote and did not feel that it was appropriate to install any litter bins.

OS_2023.010 Allotments Evening 17th October.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), supported by Cllr Pat Morgan, and resolved that:

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to organise the allotments evening.

OS_2023.011 To set a date for allotment judging and plot inspections.

Minutes: Members agreed to have separate dates for these two matters.

Action: Committee Clerk to arrange site visits on the 11th of July and the 6th of June for the allotment judging and the plot inspections respectively.

OS_2023.012 Dates and timings.

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

Tuesday 4th July at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Finally Cllr Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 2013 hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF:	Committee Clerk
TO:	OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
REPORT DATE:	26th May 2023

Contact Details:	Richard Hull
Tel. No:	0117 3026989
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COMMITTEE CLERK'S REPORT

<p>PURPOSE OF REPORT</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with official advice and recommendations from the Town Councils proper officer for the following meeting:</p> <p>Open Spaces Committee, The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council, 30th May 2023 commencing at 1900hrs.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM: OS 2023.006 Outstanding Items from the previous minutes.

To report that:

- The vegetation and debris on the land at the rear of 51 Meadgate has been cleared.
- The replacement Field Maple at Blackhorse Road Common has been replanted in the correct position.
- The Friends of Emersons Green Park have put new plants in the planters in Emerson Way.
- Some of the Open Spaces committee councillors met with Dan Marchant, SGC, and his colleague, to consider options for the car park at the allotments. Their thoughts are awaited.
- New “No Parking” and Bye Law signs have been installed at Vinney Green and Blackhorse Road commons. Other signs to replace ones with MRPC have been received and will be installed at Green Lane and Rodway common.

Annex A

- The Committee Clerk is to register the Town Council's ownership of the land at the East side of the allotments with HM Land Registry.
- The Committee Clerk is to commission the procurement and installation of recycled plastic bollards and a retractable metal post at Vinney Green Common.
- The Committee Clerk is to arrange an allotments site visit for members to consider a location for a compostable toilet.

OS 2023.007 Correspondence.

In relation to item 2 of correspondence;

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- Standing Order 15x.

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

Resolve that: "The Open Spaces committee approves the letter to Vinney Green Children's Home, copies having been circulated."

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council does not have any land that would be suitable for the type of exercise equipment that has been offered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

None.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

None.

OS 2023.008 Lyde Green Common

Councillor Simon Budd requested this agenda item on 23rd February 2023. To explore the committee's ideas for managing the Common.

LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT

- LGA 1972, ss.124, 126 & 127

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS

- To note that the common has the benefit of a management scheme run by South Gloucestershire Council.
- That members debate the matter.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- Corporate Priority 1; Improve the management and maintenance of the parks & open spaces managed by the Council.
- The management of this land is not in the Town Council's current strategic plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RISKS

- The present office staff do not have enough time to investigate options for the Common. Possibilities include the investigation being; done by a Councillor or Working Group; outsourced; done by an Environment Manager once in role.
- There will be legal and other professional costs even to investigate this matter. Quotes will be needed to find out the costs but they are likely to be several thousand pounds.
- Agreement would need to be sought from Full Council as Open Spaces does not have a budget for legal and other professional costs.
- Focusing resources on this land would reduce resources available for the land the Town Council owns.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

None at this stage.