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## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

1900hrs on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

**Present:** Councillors James Hunt (Mayor), Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), Simon Budd, Colin Hunt, Rachael Hunt, and Bobbie Sunderland.

**Absent:** None.

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Ian Lyons.

**Apologies:** Councillors Alka Mehta-Graham, and Pat Morgan.

**Public:** Four members of the public attended the meeting. Steve Brown, Peter Brown (Blackhorse Sports & Community Association), and Michael Waine (Creative Youth Network). One child attended the meeting in the care of Councillor Rachael Hunt.

**Notes:** The meeting began at 1900hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

### FC\_2023.039 Welcome and Introductions.

**Minutes:** Cllr James Hunt welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures.

### FC\_2023.040 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

**Minutes:** Cllr James Hunt reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest. At this point, the Town Clerk highlighted a circulated document from the external auditor: *Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP*.

No interests were declared. The document was signed at the meeting by Cllr James Hunt.

### FC\_2023.041 Public Participation.

**Minutes:** Three adult members of the public were present. At the discretion of the Mayor, it was agreed that members of the public would be invited to address the Council during the appropriate agenda item on this occasion.

## COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

### FC\_2023.042 Minutes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr James Hunt, supported by Cllr Colin Hunt, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The *Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 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 James Hunt.

### FC\_2023.043 Outstanding items.

**Minutes:** At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk delivered a summary of the work undertaken as a result of the resolutions and action points from the previous meetings. Details can be found in the *Clerk's Report* at Annex A.

## GRANT APPLICATION

### FC\_2023.044 Blackhorse Sports and Community Association.

To consider a grant application from the Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for £15,000 towards the cost of LED floodlights.

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

After this, at the invitation of the Mayor, Steve Brown provided a summary and background to the grant application, and described the ambitions of the charity, including details of a new lease for a playing field and the provision of an all-weather pitch. Peter explained that the Town Council's grant would also help the charity to access large amounts of match funding from other organisations towards its overall goals.

To start with, Cllr James Hunt questioned if the new lease was already in place. In reply, the applicants confirmed that the lease was still subject to contract, consultation, and the planning process. However, this was unlikely to be refused. Nevertheless, Cllr James Hunt sought confirmation that the applicants would be comfortable with a conditional award, subject to a signed lease. The applicants confirmed that this was the case.

Next, Cllr Bobbie Sunderland questioned why only one quote for lighting had been sought. In reply, the applicant explained that, for insurance purposes, it was necessary to use an approved supplier from the Football Foundation (Sport England), and that a tendering process took place independently.

Finally, Cllr Colin Hunt spoke in favour of the application, which would provide better facilities for young people in the Town, and congratulated the applicants for their effort.

**Motion:** Then, it was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Dave Somers, and resolved that:

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

**Action:** Council to issue payment on condition of a signed lease being presented.

**FC\_2023.045 University Hospitals Bristol & Weston Charity.**

To consider a grant application from the University Hospitals Bristol & Weston Charity for £450 towards the cost of supporting people in hospital.

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

After this, Cllr Dave Somers highlighted that the grant amount was relatively small in proportion to the benefit.

**Motion:** Then, it was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The Council approves a grant to the University Hospitals Bristol & Weston Charity for £450 towards the cost of supporting people in hospital.

**FC\_2023.046 St Peter's Hospice.**

To consider a grant application from St Peter's Hospice for £3,000 towards the cost of a reclining Chair.

**Minutes:** To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr James Hunt, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A. After this, it was agreed that it would be preferable to support the cost of an entire chair.

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

**Resolved:** The Council approves a grant to the St Peters Hospice Charity for £3,250 towards the cost of a reclining Chair.

## **INTEL & CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FC\_2023.047 Crime Update.**

To begin with, at the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A, and highlighted a circulated report from Avon and Somerset Police.

## PLANNING & STRATEGY

### FC\_2023.048 Strategic Plan Update.

**Minutes:** At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk delivered a short update on the progress of the Strategic Plan, circulating a progress chart with the meeting documents. Notably, Cllr James Hunt expressed satisfaction that so many items were coded green, indicating a positive level of progress towards the Council's goals.

## OPERATIONS

### FC\_2023.049 To note any updates from Committees.

**Minutes:** To start with, at the invitation of the Mayor, Cllr Dave Somers provided a brief summary, as Chair of the Open Spaces Committee and the Planning Committee.

Initially, Cllr Dave Somers indicated that planning activity was quiet, perhaps as a reflection of the economy. Furthermore, no controversial applications had been considered for some time.

Similarly, many items on the Open Spaces Committee were discussion items only, such as the management of Lyde Green common, which appeared to be well maintained. Also, it was reported that the Allotment site was fully let, plot inspections had been completed, and judging for competitions was underway.

### FC\_2023.050 To note any updates from Working Groups.

#### Climate and Nature (CAN).

**Minutes:** To begin with, at the invitation of the Mayor, Cllr Bobbie Sunderland gave a short verbal summary on the activities of the working group, including a garden open day to showcase the Community Nature Reserve, and an update on the Photography Competition. The full report can be found at Annex B. After this, Cllr Bobbie Sunderland highlighted a circulated document, detailing the groups' financial activities, which were within budget.

#### Youth Working Group

Next, Michael Waine from Creative Youth Network (CYN) provided a verbal update on the youth work being commissioned in Emersons Green on behalf of the Council, and a written document was circulated to support this. Overall, it was reported that progress had been positive, with many successes, including the establishment of a new Youth Club, which had become a focal point for activity and was going from strength to strength. Average attendance was high, between 40 and 50 individuals, with over 70 registered. However, this was not without challenges, and it was reported that procedures had been tightened following an incident involving a hostile grandparent.

**FC\_2023.051 To note any reports from external bodies.**

There were no items to report.

**FC\_2023.052 To appoint Councillors to Committee vacancies.**

**Minutes:** To begin with, the Town Clerk displayed a list of the current vacancies and highlighted the opportunities to Councillors. The vacancies were announced but no appointments were made.

**FC\_2023.053 Councillor Surgeries.**

To arrange attendance at the EGVH Coffee Mornings.

**Minutes:** To begin with, Cllr Simon Budd explained that Emersons Green Village Hall Coffee Mornings were funded by the Council and represented an opportunity for Councillors to meet the public, provide advice, and answer questions. Cllr James Hunt asked members to co-ordinate their diaries after the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**FC\_2023.054 Correspondence.**

**Minutes:** At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk directed attention to a circulated letter from South Glos Council Community Learning & Skills Service team offering to engage with residents at the Coffee Morning and offer career coaching, which was well received.

Next, Cllr Simon Budd suggested that a banner, advertising the Coffee Morning would attract more visitors. Following this, a debate took place about advertising in general. In particular, reviewing the provision and positioning of noticeboards, and it was agreed that Open Spaces Committee would be the right forum to investigate options.

**Action:** Town Clerk to consider a banner advertising the Coffee Morning / Councillors Surgery.

**Action:** Open Spaces Committee to consider the positioning of noticeboards.

**FC\_2023.055 Advertising.**

**Minutes:** At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk directed attention to a poster advertising the vacancies for Councillors, which was well received. It was agreed to use the format of this poster in future adverts.

**Action:** Town Clerk to commission adverts for Councillor vacancies.

## POLICY

### FC\_2023.056 Publication Scheme.

**Minutes:** To begin with, Cllr Bobbie Sunderland questioned if the document was new. In reply, The Town Clerk explained that Councils are required to have a publication scheme, which explains to the public how to access key documents and information, such as contacts, budgets, and decision-making. The circulated document was a reviewed and updated version of the existing publication scheme displayed on the Council website.

After that, Cllr Rachael Hunt asked for clarification on how Councillors' contact details could be obtained. In reply, the Town Clerk displayed the website on the projector and demonstrated how contact details were made available. In particular, through the publicly available *Declarations of Interest*, submitted to South Gloucestershire Council.

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

**Resolved:** The Council formally adopts the updated *EGTC Publication Scheme (June 2023)*, copies having been circulated.

## FINANCE - YEAR-END

### FC\_2023.057 Balance Sheet.

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

**Resolved:** The document: *Emersons Green Town Council 2022/23 Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023*, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

**Minutes:** The document was signed at the meeting by Cllr James Hunt.

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2022/23 FORM 3

### FC\_2023.058 Internal Auditors Report

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

**Resolved:** The document: *Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23*, copies having been circulated, be received and noted by the Council.



**FC\_2023.059 Annual Governance Statements**

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

**Resolved:** The document: *Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23, and Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for Emersons Green Town Council*, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

**Minutes:** The document was signed at the meeting by Cllr James Hunt and the Town Clerk.

**FC\_2023.060 Exercise of Public Rights.**

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

**Resolved:** The Council sets the commencement date for the Exercise of Public Rights as Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2023 to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, copies having been circulated.

**Action:** Town Clerk to publish the document: *Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023.*

**FINANCE - ROUTINE**

**FC\_2023.061 Bank Reconciliations.**

**Minutes:** The committee read the circulated documents and they were signed by the Chair.

**FC\_2023.062 Monthly Payments & Investments.**

**Minutes:** Members examined the schedule, and the Mayor invited questions from members. There were none.

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr James Hunt, supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The monthly payments list, copies having been circulated, be approved, and signed by the Mayor.

**Minutes:** The Mayor signed the payments list.

**FC\_2023.063 Budget Monitoring.**

**Minutes:** Members reviewed the circulated documents and Cllr James Hunt invited questions from members. There were none.

**FINANCE - PROCUREMENT**

**FC\_2023.064 Procurement – Changing Room.**

**Minutes:** At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk provided the background, summary, and advice, which can be found in the *Town Clerk's Report* at Annex A.

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

**Resolved:** The Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk to commission the installation of a shower and changing room facility, example copies having been circulated.

**CIVIL AFFAIRS AND JOINT VENTURES**

**FC\_2023.065 Emersons Green Village Hall (EGVH).**

To consider a strategy for supporting EGVH.

**Minutes:** To start with, at the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A, and displayed a circulated document on the projector, '*EGVH Negotiation Comparison*'.

To begin with, Cllr Bobbie Sunderland asked for an explanation of the comparison chart. In reply, the Town Clerk demonstrated the discrepancies between the Councils' 'wish list' and the reply from EGVH. Likewise, Cllr James Hunt clarified that there were some overlaps in potential services, but not many, and that it would be sensible to arrange a further meeting to negotiate the Council's position.

After this, Councillors debated the most appropriate overall strategy and considered each item on the list of potential services. Then, it was agreed that Cllr James Hunt and Cllr Simon Budd would join the Town Clerk in the next phase of negotiation.

**Action:** Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with EGVH.

**PERSONNEL**

**FC\_2023.066 Privacy.**

To consider excluding the public and press due to the confidential nature of the following items.

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Simon Budd, supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that:

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

**FC\_2023.067 Recruitment.**

To confirm the appointment of any new employees.

**Minutes:** To start with, at the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A. After a short debate,

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The Council confirms the employment of Jane Wray in the appointed role of Deputy Clerk.

**Minutes:** After this, it was agreed that the next step in the recruitment process for an Environment Manager should be started as soon as possible. At the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk displayed the action plan and the previously agreed staff structure for debate. Next,

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The Council starts the recruitment process for an Environment Manager as soon as possible.

**FC\_2023.068 Honorary Titles.**

To nominate eligible candidates for honorary titles.

**Minutes:** To start with, at the invitation of Cllr James Hunt, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A. Cllr James Hunt formally requested this item. A letter nominating Richard Nichols had been circulated. Then,

**Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Dave Somers, and resolved that:

**Resolved:** The Council nominates Richard Nichols for the Honorary Title of Alderman.

**Minutes:** Finally, Councillors debated the potential arrangements for a civic ceremony if the candidate accepts the nomination. It was agreed that the candidate would be consulted on any potential arrangements, which might set a precedent.

**Action:** Town Clerk to consult Richard Nichols on the arrangements for a civic ceremony.

**FC\_2023.069 Annual Leave.**

**Minutes:** To start with, at the invitation of the Mayor, the Town Clerk provided advice from the *Clerk's Report*, which can be found at Annex A. Then,

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

**Resolved:** The Council approves the Town Clerk's Annual Leave dates; copies having been circulated.

**FC\_2023.070 Dates and Timings.**

**Minutes:** Cllr James Hunt announced that the next meeting of the Full Council was scheduled to take place:

**Thursday 27th of July 2023 at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.**

Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 2052hrs and announced that an informal 'round-table' discussion would take place afterward.

**REPORT OF: TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**TO: FULL COUNCIL**

**REPORT DATE: 26<sup>TH</sup> of July 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 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 commencing at 1900hrs.**

### **COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION**

#### **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.075**

#### **Outstanding Items.**

To report that:

- The Dibden Lane Allotments lease and the Vinney Green land transfer are still outstanding. The last written update from South Glos is that this is still in the process of obtaining Executive Committee approval and the delay was attributed to the local elections (25<sup>th</sup> May 2023). Chased again on 26/06/2023, and a verbal report indicated a protocol issue about decision-making that was being resolved this week. Chased again 25/07/23, and Ian is away on leave until 7<sup>th</sup> of August.
- As a reminder, the recruitment process for a 'Deputy Clerk' has now concluded and Jane Wray started work 24/07/23. Contact details are [Jane@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Jane@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). The RFO role is in the process of being handed over and it is expected to be ready for confirmation at the next Full Council meeting in September.
- All the grants from the last meeting are listed for payment.
- Advertising banners for the Coffee Morning are being designed by EGVH.
- The changing room facility is making progress. Contractors have been commissioned, and details are being finalised.
- A Strategic Partnership negotiation meeting with EGVH has been arranged and is scheduled for delegates on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of August at 1900hrs in the Town Council Chamber.
- Arrangements for an Alderman Civic Ceremony for Richard Nichols is listed on the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.077 Co-option to the vacant positions.**  
To vote on the co-option of new Councillors.

Three applications have been received by the Council:

Kelly Allen: Badminton Ward (deferred to the September meeting)  
Graham Hutter: Emersons Green Ward  
Neil Willmott: Emersons Green Ward

Vacancies:

x 1 Badminton Ward  
x 1 Blackhorse Ward  
x 4 Emersons Green Ward  
x 2 Pomphrey Ward

**LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT**

- Local Government Act 1972 s. 89

**RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS**

- Decide on the merits of the applications.
- *If necessary:*
- Resolve that: “The Council co-opts Graham Hutter and Neil Willmott to the vacant positions in Emersons Green Ward”.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- To ensure the suitability of candidates.
- To ensure adequate representation for Emersons Green Ward.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

Co-opting Councillors with an interest in this subject could have an impact.

## INTEL & CURRENT AFFAIRS

### AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.079

#### Crime Update.

A crime update has been circulated for Councillors attention. Councillors are reminded that a tension monitoring form has been introduced which can be submitted to: [communitysafetyteam@southglos.gov.uk](mailto: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.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Neutral. Although, there is evidence to suggest a link between rising temperatures and the prevalence of crime<sup>1</sup>. As a result, the Council should expect the overall levels of Crime to rise slightly unless successful interventions are made.

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<sup>1</sup> Ranson (2012) *Crime, Weather, and Climate Change* [Online] Available at: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/publications/awp/awp8> (Accessed 25th July 2023).

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.080**

To consider a grant application from the Emersons Green Village Hall charity for £10,300 towards the cost of a renovation project.

### **LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT**

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19 & s.133.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS**

- Decide on the merits of the grant application. If Councillors approve:
- Resolve that: “The Council approves a grant to Emersons Green Village Hall for £10,300 towards the cost of a renovation project.”

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- To meet Corporate Priority 5: Strive for continuous service improvement and efficiency, support our economy and the town.
- To enable community events and other support available to residents and key groups.
- To increase rapport with an important community stakeholder and a strategic partner.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This application is second round of grants to be presented in this financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants.

- £15,000 has been earmarked for a grant to Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for LED floodlights.
- £3,700 has been spent in s.137 grants.

If all the grants in this round were approved the overall spending on grants would be £41,200 (£8,700 on s.137), £1,200 over budget. However, the Council easily has the funds to approve this round of applications if it chooses to do so. For example, the Council has a General Contingency, earmarked reserve of £142,000.

Likewise, a significant revenue underspend is forecast for YE 2023, mainly due to the delay in staff recruitment, saving at least £45,000. Similarly, revenue is forecast to be higher than expected. For example, CIL receipts were £9,088 higher than forecast, and bank interest is also likely to be healthier.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

- Energy Efficiency: The replacement of the old fire doors with newer, insulated ones with weather rubber seals will help maintain the temperature inside the main hall and reduce heat loss during colder months.
- By offering a variety of local activities, the hall can reduce the need for residents to travel long distances for entertainment and recreation, thus potentially lowering transportation-related emissions.



## **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.081**

To consider a grant application from the registered society: Green Community Travel Ltd for £550 towards the cost of an advertisement. Ordinarily, private organisations operating as a business to make profit or surplus funds do not meet the criteria for a Town Council grant. However, Green Community Travel Ltd is a registered society, which is a legal entity which operates for the economic, social and cultural benefits of the community it serves.

### **LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT**

- Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.26-29.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS**

- Decide on the merits of the grant application. If Councillors approve:
- Resolve that: “The Council approves a grant to the registered society: ‘Green Community Travel Ltd’ for £550 towards the cost of a community transport advertisement.”

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- To meet Corporate Priority 5: Strive for continuous service improvement and efficiency, support our economy and the town.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This application is second round of grants to be presented in this financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants.

- £15,000 has been earmarked for a grant to Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for LED floodlights.
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### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

Councillors could encourage the organisation to use sustainable vehicles and fuels.

## **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.082**

To consider a grant application from Lyde Green Community Association charity for £5,000 towards the cost of a 'Community Connector' project.

### **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 Councillors approve:
- Resolve that: "The Council approves a grant to the Lyde Green Community Association charity for £5,000 towards the cost of a 'Community Connector' project."

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- To meet Corporate Priority 1: Improve the management and maintenance of the parks & open spaces managed by the Council.
- To meet Corporate Priority 5: Strive for continuous service improvement and efficiency, support our economy and the town.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This application is second round of grants to be presented in this financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants.

- £15,000 has been earmarked for a grant to Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for LED floodlights.
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### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

Councillors could encourage the new role to include sustainable initiatives. The project already proposes food surplus collections, which could help reduce food waste and its associated environmental impact. Less food waste means fewer greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing organic matter in landfills.

## **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.083**

To consider a grant application from Sudafest CIC for £6,650 towards the cost of an environmental art project for young people.

### **LEGAL POWER OR DUTY TO ACT**

- Local Government Act 1972 s.145.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS, CONDITIONS, AND OTHER CONTROLS**

- Decide on the merits of the grant application. If Councillors approve:
- Resolve that: “The Council approves a grant to Sudafest CIC for £6,650 towards the cost of an environmental art project for young people.”

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- To meet Corporate Priority 2: Ensure that the climate change agenda is at the forefront in all that the Council does.
- 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 is second round of grants to be presented in this financial year. The Council has budgeted £40,000 for grants in 2023/24, with £20,000 allocated for s.137 grants.

- £15,000 has been earmarked for a grant to Blackhorse Sports and Community Association for LED floodlights.
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Likewise, a significant revenue underspend is forecast for YE 2023, mainly due to the delay in staff recruitment, saving at least £45,000. Similarly, revenue is forecast to be higher than expected. For example, CIL receipts were £9,088 higher than forecast, and bank interest is also likely to be healthier.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT**

An initial meeting took place with the Town Clerk, Councillor Bobbie Sunderland, Isra Elhag (artist), Nikki Frost (EGVH Manager), and Meryem Ahmed (University of Cardiff), which indicated that the project theme would involve environment and sustainability practices, and an impact study would be conducted by the University of Cardiff.

## **AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.091**

### **Annual Investment Strategy.**

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 Council could.

**AGENDA ITEM: FC\_2023.098 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.



To: Ian Lyons

From: Bobbie Sunderland

Date: 24/7/23

Subject: **Report to Full Council from Climate and Nature Working Group**

### **Community Nature Reserve**

231 registered members

183 on Facebook group

We are developing criteria for groups to join the CNR as well as private gardens. This was prompted by an enquiry from a Community Orchard. Such groups need to be caring for a defined area of land, have an agreement with the landowner to care for that land and should manage the area in a wildlife friendly way.

### **Earthfest 1<sup>st</sup> July**

The CAN group organised a range of activities at Earthfest in Emersons Green Park. This is the festival run by Friends of Emersons Green Park. There was a great atmosphere and many people joining in with making bird boxes, insect houses, painting pebbles and doing scavenger hunts. We also did teas and coffees and had a display area highlighting the Community Nature Reserve.

### **Photography Competition**

We have had a superb set of entries this year with 113 in total. Judging took place last Thursday. The first two page spread of the calendar will carry a message from James and information about the Community Nature Reserve. The calendar will be available in time for the Exhibition and Prize Giving on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept in Emersons Green village Hall. There will be a talk by photographer Nick Wilcox-Brown and prizes will be presented by James. The poster for this will be in the August edition of the EGV. As last year the calendars will be given to local groups to sell to raise funds for their groups. This year we suggest selling the calendars for £3. If you have somewhere to display a poster please take one.

### **Adrian Cooper from Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve**

Adrian started the first community nature reserve in England and we have invited him to join us by Teams for our September CAN meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **S Glos Climate and Nature Emergency Community Engagement Group 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Three of us from the CAN group attended the meeting at Frampton on Thurs. Full of really interesting ideas and very encouraging. Hope to be able to develop some of these into future campaigns and events.

### **Planning on going for future events**

**Sunday 2.00pm 22<sup>nd</sup> October Autumn Gathering**, Apple Pressing, Seed Swap and afternoon tea - Emersons Green Village Hall.

**Thurs 7.30pm 16<sup>th</sup> November showing of the film Garden of a Thousand Bees.** This is a film made by a Bristol Filmmaker, Martin Dohrn, during lock down when he set out to film all the bees in his garden.

**January 2024 First Birthday Celebration of the CNR**-planning to do interesting presentations to help people make their gardens wildlife friendly eg pond making, planting a succession of flowers etc.