

Original Signed



EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

1800hrs on Thursday 25th of May 2023.

- Present:** Councillors James Hunt (Mayor), Dave Somers (Deputy Mayor), Simon Budd, Colin Hunt, Rachael Hunt, and Pat Morgan.
- Absent:** None.
- In attendance:** Town Clerk, Ian Lyons, and Donna Simmons, Clerk's Assistant.
- Apologies:** Councillors Alka Mehta-Graham and Bobbie Sunderland. In addition, Avon and Somerset Police, Pennie Jones (Mangotsfield Guides), and Michelle Sparano (a member of the public).
- Public:** Thirteen members of the public attended the meeting.
- Notes:** The meeting began at 1800hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.
- Beforehand** **Welcome and Introductions.**
- Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) welcomed everyone present at the meeting, introduced members of the Council, and explained the emergency procedures.
- ATM_2023.001 Election.**
- Minutes:** A single nomination was received for Councillor James Hunt (Mayor) to be elected as Chairman for the meeting.
- Motion:** It was moved by Cllr Colin Hunt, supported by Cllr Simon Budd, and resolved that:
- Resolved:** Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) be the Chairman for the Annual Town Meeting.

INITIALS

ATM_2023.002 Apologies for absence.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr James Hunt (Mayor), the Town Clerk confirmed and read aloud the list of apologies received.

ATM_2023.003 Minutes.

Minutes: At the invitation of Cllr James Hunt (Mayor), the audience was invited to make comments or suggestions. There were none. After this,

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

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 19th of May 2022, copies having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

ATM_2023.004 To announce the winner of the Christmas Lights Competition 2023.

Minutes: Cllr James Hunt (Mayor), announced the winner as Noah Coles from Mangotsfield Primary School, who did not attend the meeting. After this, the four runners-up who attended the meeting were presented with prizes and given a round of applause.

ATM_2023.005 To address questions from Local Government Electors of the Town.

Minutes: Cllr James Hunt (Mayor), invited members of the public to ask questions. There were none.

ATM_2023.006 To receive any other presentations.

Minutes: To begin with, at the invitation of Cllr James Hunt (Mayor), Chantal Watts, the Chief Executive Officer from Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire, gave a short presentation outlining the new enhanced service for Emersons Green being funded by the Town Council. This was described as being well attended, and gathering momentum, largely thanks to the excellent location at Emersons Green Village Hall, where hospitality was already available. Then, it was reported that statistics would be available towards the end of the project, and questions were invited from the audience.

To start with, Cllr Dave Somers asked about advertising. In reply, Chantal confirmed that the service was being well advertised in the local press and social media, with posters being displayed at key locations. However, word of mouth continued to produce the most referrals.

Next, Emily Correa asked a question about the level of support available for Ukrainian Refugees, in particular housing availability. In reply, Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) explained that Emersons Green Town Council does not have responsibility for housing, which was a South Gloucestershire Council matter.

However, it was explained that the Town Council's role does include the provision of information and signposting to other organisations. For example, through the enhanced Citizens Advice service for local residents.

Furthermore, Chantal Watts highlighted the twice-weekly coordination visits to Emersons Green Village Hall from the Julian House project, which has been commissioned by South Gloucestershire Council to provide support for new arrivals to the community.

ATM_2023.007 To receive reports from Councillors.

Minutes: To begin with, Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) invited Cllr Simon Budd, the former Mayor, to speak about his four years in office.

Cllr Simon Budd said, "It was an honour to serve on the Town Council as the Chair and the Mayor".

After this, Cllr Simon Budd took the opportunity to highlight the Mangotsfield Festival taking place on the 10th of June at 1100hrs, at Johnsons Road playing field, and invited everyone to attend the parade starting opposite the Lamb Pub at approximately 1030hrs.

Next, Cllr Dave Somers briefly spoke about the work of the Planning Committee. For example, an objection the Council raised had proved influential in the planning decision for a 20-metre high 5G mast that had been planned for the Blackhorse Road/Westerleigh Road junction with several large cabinets. As a result, the application was refused.

After that, Cllr Dave Somers outlined the work of the Open Spaces Committee, which included the management of several areas of common land and woodlands, where the Council was responsible for undertaking tree surveys and routine safety inspections. In sum, Cllr Dave Somers said, he was proud of how the Open Spaces looked.

Finally, Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) spoke about the difficulty of coping with the rapid expansion of the Town. As a result, he explained that it would be necessary for the Town Council to grow, to meet the challenge, and to deliver on the vision in the Council's Strategic Plan, which aims for Emersons Green to be a vibrant, cohesive, and prosperous place where people want to live. However, whilst the Town Council would be growing, and commissioning more services, the Town Council would also ensure that it provided good value for money to residents.

Minutes: In conclusion, Cllr James Hunt (Mayor) concluded the formal business of the meeting at 1915hrs and announced that an informal discussion would take place afterwards, with hospitality provided.