

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Tuesday 6th of February 2025.

Present: Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Abi Cohen, Kelly Allen, Rosemary Shakespeare, Lynne Paraskeva and Andrej Turk.

Absent: Councillor Eli Akatwijuka.

In attendance: Committee Clerk, Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: Councillor Simon Budd.

Public: None.

Notes: The meeting began at 19:00hrs. All resolutions are passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

OS_2024.077 Welcome and Introductions.

Minutes: Cllr Bobbie Sunderland welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures.

OS_2024.078 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

Minutes: Cllr Bobbie Sunderland reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest.

OS_2024.079 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were present.

OS_2024.080 Minutes.

Motion: It was moved by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland, supported by Cllr Abi Cohen, and resolved that:

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 3rd of December 2024*, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes were signed at the meeting by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland.

OS_2024.081 Outstanding items.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Committee Clerk circulated a summary of the work undertaken as a result of the resolutions and action points from the previous meetings. It was delegated to the Committee Clerk to revisit seeking permissions for the Notice Board at Lyde Green.

OS_2024.082 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee. It was agreed to set up a working group to progress the BMX tracks at Rodway Common.

OS_2024.083 Terms of Reference.

The Committee reviewed the draft updated terms of reference including the change of frequency and day of the meeting.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee adopted the updated Terms of Reference.

OS_2024.084 Summer Maintenance Review.

A brief discussion took place regarding the previous work contracted out and how this could mostly be now completed in-house.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to update the Summer Maintenance contract, to cover the Grass Mowing aspects at Dibden Lane Allotments and Rodway Common only. The Committee Clerk to bring quotes to a subsequent meeting.

OS_2024.085 Bollards.

A brief discussion was had regarding the recent installation of bollards and the final remaining bollards, to currently be replaced.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to commission the installation of the nine bollards.

OS_2024.086 Allotment Judging Criteria.

A brief discussion was had regarding the current judging process and the limitations that this currently has.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to Cllr Bobbie Sunderland (Chair) to update the judging criteria, creating a scoring system, to be adopted throughout the year.

OS_2024.087 Litter Bin Request.

A brief discussion was had regarding the current provision of litter bins opposite Blackhorse Primary School.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to commission the installation of a dual purpose bin at the location discussed.
<https://what3words.com/major.tuck.worry>

Notes: Cllr Andrej Turk made apologies and left the meeting at 19:55.

OS_2024.088 Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Plaque.

A brief discussion was had regarding the budget agreed at Full Council and the scale of event to be held.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee agrees on a small scale event inviting Cllr`s and the local press, to be held at a convenient time in March. Cllr Bobbie Sunderland to discuss possible dates with the Mayor.

OS_2024.089 Donated Oak Tree.

A brief discussion was had regarding the donated Oak Tree.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to commission a simple sign, incorporating an identification label with the wording " Grown and Donated by Richard Hull, Assistant Clerk at EGTC for over 10 years". To be commissioned once we are certain the tree has survived the

transplantation process.

OS_2024.090 Lyde Green Wildlife Corridor.

A brief discussion was had regarding the build up of litter on the pathway leading from the retail park at Emersons Green to Acorn Drive in Lyde Green.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to reach out to the land owners of the two sites involved requesting permission to install litter signs.

OS_2024.091 Dates and timings.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland announced that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was scheduled to take place:

On 6th of March 2025 at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:35hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.