

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19.00hrs on Thursday 17th of April 2025

INTRODUCTION

Present: Cllrs James Hunt (Mayor), Bobbie Sunderland, Simon Budd, Colin Hunt, Tina Potter, Lynne Paraskeva, Rachael Hunt.

In attendance: Joanne Bryant (Town Clerk), and Jane Wray (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO).

Apologies: Cllr Abi Cohen, Andrej Turk, Kelly Allen, Graham Hutter.

Absent: Cllr Daryl Hembrough and Eli Akatwijuka

Public: 1 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_2024.178 Welcome and Introductions.

The Mayor welcomed everyone present, and the emergency procedures were explained.

FC_2024.179 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

The Mayor reminded members of the requirements to declare an interest. No interests were disclosed.

FC_2024.180 Public Participation.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ward Cllr Katrina Al-Hassan made representation regarding a proposed memorial garden for Lyde Green, item FC_2024.192.

The Mayor brought forward item FC_2024.192* for discussion.

Resolution: To withdraw the current proposal for a memorial garden off Willowherb Road in Lyde Green. This project will be stopped and brought through the appropriate channels within EGTC for consideration with an alternative location.

Ward Cllrs Katrina Al-Hassan and Rachael Hunt committed to assisting with engagement with South Gloucestershire Council to further investigations closer to the Science Park.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2024.181 Minutes.

Resolution: That the *Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 20th of March 2025*, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

FC_2024.182 Outstanding items.

The Clerk reported that a statement regarding the 2025/26 precept is to be included in the next edition of *The Voice* – expanding on FC_2024.174 from 20th of March 2025.

FC_2024.183 Internal Audit Report.

The Clerk reported that the interim Internal Audit had been successful with a few recommendations that have already been implemented. The Finance & Partnership Committee has reviewed the full report and action plan.

INTEL & CURRENT AFFAIRS

FC_2024.184 Crime Update.

No report received.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2024.185 Correspondence.

Official correspondence to the Council noted, copies having been circulated. The resignation of Rosemary Shakespeare was also noted.

OPERATIONS

FC_2024.186 To note reports from Committees, Working Groups, and External Bodies

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland provided an update on behalf of the *Open Spaces Committee*. The planters along Emersons Way are set to be refreshed in the coming weeks, with volunteers from the Friends of Emersons Green Park carrying out the new planting.

The summer maintenance contract for mowing the allotments and the Rodway border has been reviewed and awarded to Town & Country Assets and Services at a cost of £2,500 + VAT.

At our previous meeting, several residents raised their concerns about Paulo's Circus, which operated on Rodway Common over the Easter period. Subsequently, a request from Coles Funfair to use Rodway over the May Day weekend was received and has been declined.

In other updates, artwork rescued from Mangotsfield Station has now been installed at Barley Close Community Primary School, preserving an important piece of local heritage.

Finally, the plaque commemorating Queen Elizabeth II was unveiled on 21st March 2025 on Rodway Common, beside the Avenue of Limes.

Cllr Simon Budd gave an update for the *Planning Committee* and the submission made to the SGC Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation. Our response focused on green space encroachment, infrastructure, and protection of green belt.

Cllr Tina Potter provided an update on behalf of the *Personnel Committee*, confirming that a review of the 2025/26 precept process had been undertaken. The review offered a clearer understanding of how the process was conducted and outlined the steps taken to address and rectify any issues identified.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland gave an update for *Climate & Nature Working Group* – Spring Gathering is in final planning phase. Taking place on Sunday 4th of May 2025 at Emersons Green Village Hall, 2.00-4.30pm. There will be tea and cakes, and it is a terrific opportunity to encourage people to get involved in our Community Nature Reserve, Litter Champions, and other connected groups, Ben's Ukulele Band and chickens will also be in attendance. Open Gardens takes place on 24th May 11am to 3pm. We are planning to survey our Community Nature Reserve members to find out what has been happening since we started in January 2023, and we will be talking about it on Community Radio on 3rd June at 11.00am.

FC_2024.187 Localism – Grass Cutting and Bin Collection.

Resolution: 1. To accept Localism bin charges, from South Gloucestershire Council for 2025/26, of £13858.08, and contracts to be signed by an EGTC Officer.
2. To accept Grass cutting quotation, from South Gloucestershire Council for 2025/26, of £8911.25, and contracts to be signed by an EGTC Officer.

FC_2024.188 To consider establishing a Youth Committee

Resolution: To establish a Youth Committee, to support work of the Youth Liaison Officer, with members appointed of Cllr James Hunt, Tina Potter, Abi Cohen, Lynne Paraskeva, and Simon Budd.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2024.189 Forward Plan.

To note Annual Town Meeting taking place in the Chambers on 30th April 2025, from 6.30pm with speakers from the local community sharing their news.

FC_2024.190 Strategic Plan.

To consider strategic planning update. Members will be polled to set up a working group to oversee this update and bring forward ideas from all stakeholders.

FC_2024.191 Armed Forces Day.

Resolution: To accept the event engagement offer that had been extended, and to take a half page advertising space, free of charge. Mayor James Hunt will also attend the event to meet with serving personnel and veterans.

FC_2024.192 Lyde Green Memorial Space.

*Considered after public participation, item FC_2024.180.

Any future development of this nature will be created as a tribute to VE80.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2024.193 Next Meeting.

To note the next meeting of the Full Council, the Annual Meeting, is currently scheduled for:

Thursday 15th of May 2025 at 19.00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

The meeting was closed at 20.10hrs

At the discretion of the Mayor, Councillors were invited to make Parish announcements and take part in a general discussion after the meeting.

To commemorate VE80, Councillors have been invited to gather by the flagpole at the Council Offices on Thursday, 8th May at 17.30 hrs, ahead of the Finance & Partnership Committee meeting.