

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 4th of September 2025.

Present: Councillors Bobbie Sunderland, Kelly Allen, Lynne Paraskeva, Daryl Hembrough and Simon Budd.

Absent: Councillors Eli Akatwijuka and Andrej Turk.

In attendance: Committee Clerk, Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: Councillor Abi Cohen.

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_2025.036 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2025.037 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2025.038 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were present.

OS_2025.039 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 3rd of July 2025*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2025.040 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.

OS_2025.041 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee. It was agreed that the Committee Clerk would draft a notice regarding dog fouling at Colliers Break, and circulate this with the Committee members via email for comment.

OS_2025.042 Allotment Tenant Complaint.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Allotment Management Policy and the Cultivation Advisory note in relation to the complaint raised.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Chair to write a response to the tenant.

OS_2025.043 Rodway Common Events.

A brief discussion took place regarding the results from the recent public consultation and the request from Paulos Circus to return in 2026.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee approves the hosting of the Circus and will refer the matter to Full Council for final approval.

OS_2025.044 Emerson Way Planters.

A brief discussion was had regarding the seven Town Council owned planters and the reasons for the failure of six of these over the Summer period.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to implement a drought-tolerant perennial planting scheme, with a budget of £250. In addition, the Committee Clerk to approach the remaining shop owners and explore opportunities for re-engagement in supporting a watering scheme.

OS_2025.045 Rodway Common Wall.

A brief discussion was had regarding the vandalism to the dry stone wall at Rodway Common and possible solutions.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to research options for security netting or gabion baskets to prevent further vandalism and to share this with the Committee members.

OS_2025.046 Manor Road Open Space.

A brief discussion was had regarding the three quotes received for the professional environmental reports.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to arrange a site visit for Committee members during winter, when the land will be accessible for viewing.

OS_2025.047 Dates and timings.

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

On **2nd of October 2025** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:09hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.