

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

19:00hrs on Thursday 18th September 2025

Present: Cllrs James Hunt (Mayor), Bobbie Sunderland (Deputy Mayor), Graham Hutter, Colin Hunt, Abi Cohen, Simon Budd, Kelly Allen, Lynne Paraskeva, Daryl Hembrough, and Rachael Hunt.

In attendance: Jo Bryant (Town Clerk) and Jane Wray (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Tina Potter and Andrej Turk.

Absent: Cllr Eli Akatwijuka.

Public: 9 members of the public were in attendance.

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

Welcome and Introductions.

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

FC_2025.035 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

Cllr S Budd declared an interest in Mangotsfield Festival, item FC_2025.040.

FC_2025.036 Public Participation.

9 members of the public were present, 4 to make a representation for agenda item FC_2025.039, 2 for item FC_2025.040 and 3 for item FC_2025.045.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2025.037 Minutes.

Resolved: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 17th of July 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

FC_2025.038 Outstanding items.

No outstanding items were reported.

FC_2025.039 Rodway Common Events

At the invitation of the Mayor, a representative addressed the Council to express objections to Paulo's Circus return to Rodway Common in 2026, highlighting concerns raised by local residents.

Resolved: That Paulo's Circus be permitted to return to Rodway Common in 2026, subject to the successful negotiation of terms and implementation of a formal contract.

Authority is delegated to the Clerk to:

- Conduct contractual negotiations with the circus;
- Identify and implement appropriate mitigations; and
- Develop and implement a communications plan for residents and other relevant stakeholders.

FC_2025.040 Mangotsfield Festival

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Chair of Mangotsfield Festival was invited to present a report on the current status of the committee and the future organisation of Mangotsfield Festival, including a request for support from the Town Council. A constructive discussion followed, during which numerous ideas were shared. It was agreed that the Council and representatives of the Festival would collaboratively undertake further investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2025.041 Correspondence.

No correspondence noted.

OPERATIONS

FC_2025.042 To note reports from Committees, Working Groups, and External Bodies.

Cllr Hutter reported on behalf of the **Finance & Partnership Committee** meetings held in August and September. Key updates and decisions:

- Summary of grant applications that had been approved.
- Recommendation that the 3 quotes for build costs for a community vehicle be referred to Full Council for final consideration.
- Flag Flying Policy be referred to Full Council for consideration.

Cllr Sunderland reported on behalf of the **Open Spaces Committee** key updates and decisions:

- Allotment Complaint – A tenant disputed an informal warning about grass and raised management concerns. Jo Bryant and Paul Kearsley met with him in August. A letter from the Mayor has since addressed the issues. The Committee will review the Allotment Advisory Note on nature-friendly growing.
- Rodway Common Events – A spring survey (41 responses) showed strong support for the Circus. Paulos Circus requested to return in 2026; the Committee approved this, subject to Full Council.
- Emersons Way Planters – Six planters died this summer due to lack of watering. A decision was made to replant with drought-resistant perennials and seek renewed support from local businesses for upkeep.
- Rodway Common Wall – Recently replaced fencing and part of the stone wall were vandalised. The Committee Clerk will research security netting or gabion baskets to prevent further damage.

Cllr Budd reported on behalf of the **Planning Committee** key updates and decisions:

- Objected to the building of 34 houses plus 2 industrial buildings and 393 houses due to loss of wildlife habitat and insufficient infrastructure.

Cllr Cohen reported on behalf of the **Youth Working Committee** key updates and decisions:

- The Mangotsfield School Car Project is gaining momentum, and the Youth Liaison Officer is awaiting potential start dates.

- The Youth Liaison Officer provided an update on a proposal for partnership work between SNG Housing Association and Lyde Green Community Association.
- Creative Youth Network will be offering Open Access sessions beginning 1st week in October 2025.
- Developing Youth Provision Strategy – Update given on street-based youth work: 33 members, 70 young people engaged, 60 hours delivered over 5 weeks.

Cllr Sunderland reported on behalf of the **Climate and Nature Group: Autumn Gathering & Photography Exhibition**

- Sat 4 Oct 2025, 2pm, Emersons Green Village Hall. Calendar on sale; donations to Friends of Blackhorse Meadow. Please share the poster.

Upcoming CAN Meetings

- Tues 14 Oct, 7pm – Gary Meyers (Water management in EG Park)
- Tues 11 Nov, 7pm – Simon Evans (Growing veg in schools)

Forthcoming Events

- Beaver Film: Tues 16 Sept (5–6pm), Wed 17 Sept (6–7pm), EGTC offices
- Bulb Planting: Sat 8 Nov, 10am–12 noon, Blackhorse Meadow
- Clothes Swap + Talk (Becky Barnes): Sun 23 Nov, 2–4.30pm, EGVH

The Town Clerk reported that the Avon Local Council Association 52nd AGM is to take place on Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10.15am via Zoom. All Councillors, and Staff, are encouraged to attend. Guest Speaker for this AGM will be Claire Hazelgrove MP.

FC_2025.043 Committee Terms of Reference.

Resolved: That the updated Youth Work Committee Terms of Reference be approved. Cllr D Hembrough was appointed to the Committee.

FC_2025.044 Youth Guarantee Trailblazer.

Resolved: That membership of the South Gloucestershire Council (WECA funded) Youth Guarantee Programme partner scheme be approved.

FINANCE & LEGAL

FC_2025.045 Commissioning and contracts.

Resolved: Masters be appointed for the build of the community vehicle at a cost of £129,115.00 ex VAT.

FC_2025.046 Policies and Procedures

Resolved: 1. Flag Flying Policy (Updated)

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2025.047 Mangotsfield Festival.

Minutes: Previously discussed at FC_2025.040.

FC_2025.048 Forward Plan.

The Town Clerk provided an update on upcoming agenda items and projects.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2025.049 Next Meeting.

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

Thursday 16th of October 2025 at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

This meeting closed at 20.22hrs.

Councillors were invited to make Parish announcements and take part in a general discussion after the meeting.