

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

19:00hrs on Thursday 17th of July 2025

Present: Cllrs James Hunt (Mayor), Bobbie Sunderland (Deputy Mayor), Tina Potter, Graham Hutter, Colin Hunt, Andrej Turk, Abi Cohen, Simon Budd, Lynne Paraskeva, and Rachael Hunt (arrived 19:10hrs)

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

Apologies: Cllr Kelly Allen

Absent: Cllrs Daryl Hembrough and Eli Akatwijuka

Public: None.

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone present at the meeting and all safety announcements were made.

FC_2025.027 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.
No declarations were made.

FC_2025.028 Public Participation.
No members of the public were present.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2025.029 Minutes.
Resolved: Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 19th of June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

FC_2025.030 Outstanding items.
No outstanding items were reported.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2025.031 Correspondence.
Correspondence noted.

Cllr Rachael Hunt arrived.

OPERATIONS

FC_2025.032 To note reports from Committees, Working Groups, and External Bodies.
Cllr Cohen reported on behalf of the **Open Spaces Committee**. Key updates and decisions:

- **Ongoing Issues:** Several projects remain in progress, including noticeboards, park improvements, habitat work, and litter management. Notable updates include drone survey data sent for the Rodway bike track and pending life buoy installation at Blackhorse Pond.
- **Resident Correspondence:** Reports addressed across various sites, including abandoned vehicles, tree concerns, and damaged or missing infrastructure. Some matters referred to South Gloucestershire Council.
- **Allotments:** Plot conditions have improved; driving restriction breaches and damage reported. Vegetation management planned post-nesting. Contractor praised for grass cutting.
- **Memorial/Plaque Policy:** Committee declined to introduce a formal policy, citing practical concerns.
- **Bye Mead Open Space:** In-principal support given for wildflower planting and a potential new bench, subject to neighbour consultation.
- **Rodway Common (Manor Road Land):** Agreed to seek a professional environmental assessment due to unclear site boundaries and potential ecological value.

Cllr Hutter reported on behalf of the **Finance & Partnership Committee**. A grant was provided to Green Community Travel towards marketings, a strimmer was donated to Friends of Emersons Green Park, a funds were provided to Lyde Green Community Association for their Summer Sizzler and other summer activities.

Cllr Budd reported on behalf of the **Planning Committee**. Details were shared regarding an application made by a new off licence, originally requiring permission to open until 2am, but conditional approved given for 11pm closure instead.

Cllr Sunderland reported on behalf of the **Climate & Nature Working Group**. CNR members are encouraged to complete the ongoing survey, with quarterly participatory meetings planned in response to current feedback. A photography project led by Sharon Townson will feature members' gardens to promote nature-friendly spaces. The Town Council's photography competition received 75 entries, to be judged soon and exhibited at the **Autumn Gathering** on 4th October 2025, where 2026 calendars will also be available. Upcoming events include **Open Gardens** on 6th June 2026, and a **Clothes Swap** on 23rd November 2025 featuring a talk by fashion consultant Becky Barnes, plus refreshments and family activities. Clothes mending service is being considered. A **bulb planting** volunteer event at Blackhorse Meadow is also planned, pending approval.

Cllr Rachael Hunt provided a report on behalf of **South Gloucestershire Council**. A recent incident on Jenner Boulevard in Lyde Green which resulted in damage to the road surface and therefore closure now has a temporary traffic management solution to retain access. Further work is planned to complete the repairs. The currently closed doctor's surgery is making slow progress and is conscious of preparing for winter pressures that are approaching.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2025.033 Forward Plan.

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

Mangotsfield Festival AGM was noted as Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 19:30hrs at Pomphrey Hill Pavillion. The current event committee have expressed their intentions to stand down and everyone is encouraged to attend and consider if they can help in any way to ensure this fabulous event continues next year.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2025.034 Next Meeting.

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

Thursday 18th of September 2025 at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

This meeting closed at 19:30hrs.

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