

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

19:00hrs on Thursday 20th of November 2025

INTRODUCTION

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Rachael Hunt

Absent: Cllr Andrej Turk and Cllr Eli Akatwijuka.

Public: 4 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 Mayor welcomed everyone, described the emergency procedures, and made any necessary safety announcements.

FC_2025.050 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.
No declarations made.

FC_2025.051 Public Participation.
Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions of the council for a maximum of five minutes per person in accordance with the guidance notes.

FC_2025.052 Leigh Farm Renewable Energy Project consultation
A presentation was received from ELCoE and BEN regarding the Leigh Farm Renewable Energy Project (wind turbines), sharing opportunities for local wind energy generation and work of ELCoE and BEN. The consultation has been delayed

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2025.053 Minutes.
Resolved That the *Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 16th of October 2025*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

FC_2025.054 Outstanding items.

The Clerk confirmed no outstanding items.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2025.055 Correspondence.

The Clerk confirmed no official correspondence to the Council.

OPERATIONS

FC_2025.056 To note reports from:

1. Committees:

a. Finance & Partnership Committee

Cllr Colin Hunt reported that grants were approved for St Peters Hospice, 2nd Mangotsfield Guides and Brownies toward the cost of the groups and volunteers attending a county camp, and South Glos Armed Forces Day towards its annual event aligned with the national AFD. A further grant was awarded to Ham Farm who will be providing a live music experience for 240 pupils from three local schools, with Flamenco Raices and Lourdes Fernandez performing. This will create access to live performance that many children will not have the opportunity to experience.

Updates were given on the Strategic Funding arrangements for Lyde Green Community Centre who continue to offer a number of community based activities including 12 weeks of community yoga sessions, room hire and equipment for sewing skills course, free room hire for STAR and Breath Easy Group, and Emersons Green Village Hall to offer free room hire and refreshments to allow Men's Talk to run weekly from Nov 25 – April 26 and free room hire for the Christmas Carol Singing. Community activities from our local centres continue to offer positive outcomes and gather very positive feedback both about them and EGTC involvement.

A contract was awarded, for an updated CCTV security system for the Town Council building, to Goose Tech at a cost of £2,690 plus VAT.

A second draft of the working budget was presented and well received with no changes recommended. To be reviewed in December with any changes coming from South Glos Council's budget presentations and UK budget before presentation to Full Council shortly after.

b. Open Spaces Committee

Cllr Abi Cohen reported that a hard decision had been made to remove two self-seeded oaks from the allotments. In response to research conducted for solutions to the vandalised stone wall at Rodway, we will be looking erect black steel trellis with additional ivy planting. The Local Climate and Nature Action Plan was deferred to a future meeting when more councillors will be available to scrutinise. In response to requests for speeding deterrent solutions the Committee has requested that a leaflet regarding signposting concerns is drafted and circulated via email, and further information to be requested from South Gloucestershire Council regarding the allowances and

constraints for signage. An additional dual-purpose bin was requested for Crocus Road and has been installed today.

c. Youth Work Committee

Cllr Abi Cohen reported that strong progress is being made in youth engagement and infrastructure, with the *Community Club on Wheels* mid-build. Key partnerships (SNG Housing, CYN, police) are driving positive outcomes despite ongoing ASB, e-bike, and safety concerns. Youth continue to request a pump track at Rodway Common and have supported site maintenance. Street engagement is strong - 15 sessions, 114 young people, building trust and visibility. Participation is 68% male, 31% female, with calls for safe evening spaces. The service has logged 122 attendances (projected 568 annually) and 83% youth approval. Focus now shifts to operational readiness, staffing, and sustainability to professionalize and secure a long-term youth provision.

d. Planning Committee

Cllr Colin Hunt reported that a planning application for 150 houses at Cossham Street was reviewed, and we continue to object based insufficient infrastructure and unsuitable access on Cossham Street itself.

e. Personnel Committee

Cllr Tina Potter reported that recruitment for the Lead Youth Work vacancies is ongoing, and the committee will be meeting to ratify an appointment next week. Further recruitment continues.

2. Working Groups:

An update was provided by Cllr Bobbie Sunderland on behalf of the **Climate & Nature Working Group**. Allotment work in local Schools - We welcomed Simon Evans who is a teacher working across 3 local primary schools, Blackhorse, Stanbridge and St Stephen's Soundwell, to engage the children from all year groups in vegetable and fruit growing. The produce is used in the school kitchens, and the children know when their veg are used in particular meals. All the growing is organic and used as an opportunity to teach a wide range of topics. The project runs the year round with Simon maintaining the work over school holidays. This is a very impressive and important piece of work and inspiring to consider if there are ways we can help or extend the project to other schools.

Bulb Planting Blackhorse Meadow 8th November. It was a beautiful autumn day and a lovely atmosphere as we planted about 2000 spring bulbs along the edge of the Meadow opposite Blackhorse School. It only took about an hour and half and suitable for all ages, so we hope to do this regularly in future years in different parts of the Town Council.

CAN would like EGTC to consider becoming a Watermark Town.

Forthcoming Events:

- 23rd Nov 2.00 to 4.30pm Clothes Swap at EGVH including a talk by Becky Barnes, 'How to buy and sell pre-loved clothes like a pro'. There is also a group of people offering mending and altering services at the event as well as a children's play area and tea and cake.

- 20th January 2026 Community Nature Reserve Get together and 3rd Birthday at EGTC.
- We will be seeing a film about the River Frome and exploring citizen science with ways to gather information about wildlife from across the CNR. We have invited members of Warmley CNR to join us.

Other Working Groups - Cllr James Hunt shared that as part of the Strategic Plan Refresh we will be looking at implementing some more working groups like Climate & Nature that will give us opportunities to engage with members of the public on things such as Community Events, giving clearer focus and direction to the Committee Meetings.

3. External Bodies

The Clerk provided an update on the ALCA AGM which took place on Saturday 25th of October 2025.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2025.057 Watermark Town.

Resolved

That participation in the 2026 Watermark Town Programme, a Wessex Water project aimed at helping the community conserve water and improve environmental sustainability was approved.

FC_2025.058 Forward Plan.

The Clerk provided an update on future agenda items and projects.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2025.059 Next Meeting.

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

Thursday 18th of December 2025 at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

The business of this meeting was concluded at 20:00hrs.

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