

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 8th of January 2026.

Present: Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Abi Cohen (Deputy Chair), Simon Budd, Kelly Allen, Daryl Hembrough and Lynne Paraskeva.

Absent: Councillors Eli Akatwijuka and Andrej Turk.

In attendance: Committee Clerk, Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: None.

Public: Three members of the public were present.

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

OS_2025.084 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2025.085 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2025.086 Public Participation.

Two members of the public were in attendance from *Adam the Gardener* and made representation regarding the planned Parish Memorial Space.

Notes: The Chair thanked the members of the public for their time and the considerations were noted. Two members of the public then left the meeting.

OS_2025.087 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 4th of December 2025*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2025.088 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_2025.089 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

OS_2025.090 Emersons Green Lane Speeding.

A brief discussion was had regarding the approved signage and the suggested locations for signs.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to seek the necessary permissions from South Gloucestershire Council for the proposed locations and to present these, along with installation costs, at a future meeting.

OS_2025.091 Contracts.

A brief discussion took place regarding the three contracts, Summer Maintenance, Localism, and Additional Services - Grass Cutting.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to ratify the Summer Maintenance Contract. The Localism and Additional Services contracts to be referred to Full Council for final approval.

OS_2025.092 Allotment Fires.

A brief discussion took place regarding the request to permit fires earlier in the season, and the policies of other local allotments.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee concluded that any potential benefits to tenants would be outweighed by the possible negative impacts to local residents. Therefore, no changes to be made to the current permissible dates at this time.

OS_2025.093 Bollards.

A brief discussion took place regarding the locations of missing bollards.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to bring installation costs to a subsequent meeting for the locations agreed.

OS_2025.094 Bye Mead Open Space Improvement.

A brief discussion was had regarding the area and the options for benches.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to purchase wildflower seed for the area at a cost of £29.50, and to bring installation costs of the chosen bench to a subsequent meeting.

OS_2025.095 Blackhorse Common – Tree Work Request

A brief discussion was had regarding the large Oak and the request for pruning work.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee determined that there is currently insufficient need for pruning work and delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to draft an email response and circulate it for approval.

OS_2025.096 Dates and timings.

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

On **5th of February 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:15hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.