

**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee**

**held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,**

**19:00hrs on Thursday 4th of December 2025.**

**Present:** Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Abi Cohen (Deputy Chair), Kelly Allen, and Lynne Paraskeva.

**Absent:** Councillors Eli Akatwijuka, Simon Budd and Andrej Turk.

**In attendance:** Committee Clerk, Paul Kearsley.

**Apologies:** Councillor Daryl Hembrough.

**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\_2025.071 Welcome and Introductions.**

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

**OS\_2025.072 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.**

**Minutes:** Cllr Bobbie Sunderland reminded members of the requirement to declare an interest. Cllr Abi Cohen declared an interest in agenda item **OS\_2025.077**.

**OS\_2025.073 Public Participation.**

**Minutes:** No members of the public were present.

**OS\_2025.074 Minutes.**

**Resolved:** The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 6th of November 2025*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**OS\_2025.075 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\_2025.076 Correspondence.**

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

**Notes:** Cllr Abi Cohen left the room before the discussion of agenda item **OS\_2025.077.**

**OS\_2025.077 Smart Bin Pilot.**

A brief discussion was had regarding the project and the benefits that could be seen.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee recommends proceeding with the project and refers it to the Finance and Partnership Committee for approval.

**Notes:** Cllr Abi Cohen rejoined the room for the remainder of the meeting.

**OS\_2025.078 Allotment Water Trough.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the renewed request for an additional trough at the recent Allotment Evening and the current trough locations.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee authorises the Committee Clerk to obtain updated costs for an additional trough and to draft an email to allotment tenants to gauge interest in contributing 50% of the costs through fundraising.

**OS\_2025.079 Allotment Wildflowers.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the recent suggestion from the allotments evening, to plant wildflowers in communal areas.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to purchase wildflowers in spring, with a budget of £100, and to draft an email to tenants to gauge interest in assisting with the planting.

**OS\_2025.080 Watermark Town.**

The Committee held a brief discussion about the project and shared suggestions in anticipation of acceptance onto the program. Ideas included collaborating with the science park and local groups such as Lyde Green Litter Pickers and Friends of Leap Valley. It was also proposed to engage Citizens Advice regarding water debt. Support was expressed for Rainwater Gardens and the installation of water fountains in Emersons Green and Lyde Green.

**OS\_2025.081 Local Climate and Nature Action Plan. (LCNAP)**

A brief discussion was had regarding the LCNAP and the next steps to take.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee agreed to consult with relevant stakeholders and bring the views to a subsequent meeting.

**OS\_2025.082 Extractigator**

A brief discussion was had regarding the tool and its possible uses.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee concluded that there was not enough need to warrant the purchase at this time.

**OS\_2025.083 Dates and timings.**

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

On **8th of January 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:25hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.