



### **Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee**

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

**19:00hrs on Thursday 5th of February 2026.**

**Present:** Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Simon Budd, Kelly Allen, and Andy Cowie.

**Absent:** Councillors Eli Akatwijuka and Andrej Turk.

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

**Apologies:** Abi Cohen (Deputy Chair), Lynne Paraskeva and Daryl Hembrough.

**Public:** Two 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\_2025.097 Welcome and Introductions.**

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

#### **OS\_2025.098 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.**

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

#### **OS\_2025.099 Public Participation.**

Two members of the public were in attendance, residents from Manor Grove, and made representation regarding agenda item **OS\_2025.104**.

**Notes:** The Chair thanked the members of the public for their time and the considerations were noted. It was agreed to discuss agenda item **OS\_2025.104** next.

#### **OS\_2025.104 Coles Funfair.**

A brief discussion was had regarding the request to hold a funfair at Rodway Common during May 2026, including the impact on the Common and to local residents.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee concluded that the request would not be granted at this time. Members noted that the proposed dates were too close to the 2026 visit by the Circus, leaving insufficient time for the Common to recover. They also agreed that holding one event per season on the Common was currently the most appropriate level of activity for the site and for the benefit of local residents. It was delegated to the Committee Clerk to suggest alternative venues for the Funfair, in the hope that the community could still benefit from the event.

**Notes:** The members of the public left the meeting and Councillors chose to discuss agenda item **OS\_2025.100** next.

#### **OS\_2025.100 Minutes.**

**Resolved:** The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 8th of January 2026*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **OS\_2025.101 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\_2025.102 Correspondence.**

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

#### **OS\_2025.103 Vinney Green Pond.**

A brief discussion was had regarding the current signage and the recommendation for a mid-season maintenance visit.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to commission the updated signage, with a budget of £50. The Committee further delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to seek impartial advice regarding a mid-season visit and to present this advice at a future meeting.

**OS\_2025.105 Allotment tree work.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the recommended tree work.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to obtain a quotation for the recommended works and bring this to a subsequent meeting. It was also noted that the planning requirements should be taken into account, and should the planning process delay the timetable, the works - if approved - may instead be carried out in the autumn.

**OS\_2025.106 Bollards.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the quote for the additional bollards.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept the quote for the bollard installation, including the replacement of two additional missing bollards, bringing the total to thirteen, with a labour cost of £624.

**OS\_2025.107 Bye Mead Open Space Improvement.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the bench's proximity to neighbouring properties.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to seek the views of neighbouring properties prior to any installation being approved, and to present these comments at a subsequent meeting.

**OS\_2025.108 Parish Memorial Space.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the early visual concepts of the design.

**Resolved:** The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to begin a one-month public consultation on the proposed designs for the parish memorial space and to bring any comments back to a future meeting.

**OS\_2025.109 Dates and timings.**

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

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

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 19:54hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.