

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

19:00hrs on Thursday 19th of February 2026

INTRODUCTION

Present: Cllrs James Hunt (Mayor), Bobbie Sunderland (Deputy Mayor), Graham Hutter, Colin Hunt, Abi Cohen, Tina Potter, Simon Budd, and Rachael Hunt.

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

Apologies: Cllrs Kelly Allen, Lynne Paraskeva and Andy Cowie.

Absent: Cllr Andrej Turk, Daryl Hembrough and Eli Akatwijuka.

Public: No 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_2025.085 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.
No declarations made.

FC_2025.086 Public Participation.
None present.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2025.087 Minutes.

Resolved: To approve the *Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 15th of January 2026*, copies having been circulated, as a correct record, and the minutes were signed by the Mayor.

FC_2025.088 Outstanding items.

The Clerk confirmed that the Strategic Planning meeting to discuss the use of EMR's is scheduled for 26th March 2026 at 1900 hrs – EGTC Office. Youth group to meet to discuss additional ideas on how to continue to develop youth provision and community service for Emersons Green parish and use bus to assist service in surrounding areas. Community Awards has launched today and will close on Good Friday; judging was proposed to take place after next Full Council meeting

and awards to be presented by the Mayor on 29th April at the Annual Town meeting. The clerk to provide assessment template with nominations for discussion. Nomination Categories – Volunteer, Young Volunteer and Community Group.

COMMUNICATIONS

FC_2025.090 Correspondence.

The Clerk highlighted Coffee with Claire to discuss the under 16's social media 28th February in Patchway and an invitation to nominate the Town Council for UK Town of Culture Competition – which will be an agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.

OPERATIONS

FC_2025.091 To note reports from:

1. Committees

- a. **Finance & Partnership** – Cllr Graham Hutter reported that the committee approved the renewal of a contract for the annual servicing and maintenance of the fire alarm system.

authorised reserve funding to support dementia-friendly Love to Move sessions at EGVH.

Considered additional IT services was deferred for further info.

Payments for insurance and secure storage for the Community Hub on Wheels were ratified.

Updated policies - including financial and generic risk assessments, the general privacy policy, and the safeguarding policy were adopted.

Bank reconciliations for December 2025 and monthly transactions totalling £107,968.04 were reviewed and signed with closing balances of £1.16 million in investments and £245654.53 in the current account.

Budget monitoring reports were considered – we are on track.

Official correspondence included – reviewed Q3 reports from Creative Youth Network, Library and EGVH, a report from Friends of Emersons Green Park on how they spent their grant and thank you from EGVH for the Kids for Christmas drawdown and the impact it had and St Peters Hospice on monies donated.

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on forthcoming agenda items and projects.

Date of next meeting set for 5th March.

- b. **Open Spaces** – Cllr Bobbie Sunderland reported that:

Members of the Public: two representatives of Manor Grove attended to hear discussion regarding Cole Fun Fair.

Coles Fun Fair: the Council have received a request from Coles to hold a funfair on Rodway in May of this year. It was agreed that this is too soon after the Circus considering disruption to residents and need for the ground to recover. Holding one event per season was felt to be appropriate. ESM to suggest other sites in the area to Coles. The two members of the public left after this decision.

Vinney Green Pond: agreed a budget of £50 to renew signage at the pond about not disturbing the frogs and other wildlife. Agreed to seek impartial advice about a mid-season clear out of the pond. Currently cleared once a year in the winter.

Allotment Trees: a couple of large trees have branches hanging low over allotment plots. Agreed to seek quotes for tree surgery and relevant permissions for the tree with TPO.

Bollards: agreed to spend £624 installing bollards on a section of Emersons Green Lane, Rodway Common and Blackhorse Common, 13 bollards in total.

Bye Mead Open Space Improvement: letter to be sent to houses overlooking the site of the proposed bench to seek their views.

Parish Memorial Space in Lyde Green: agreed to begin a one-month consultation on proposed design.

c. **Youth** – Cllr Abi Cohen reported that: **Community Hub on Wheels (CHOW)**

- The CHOW vehicle has been successfully collected and is now fully operational after 10 months of development.
- Final preparations were completed in January, and the vehicle is delivering exactly as originally envisioned.
- New systems are embedded, and staff training is underway to ensure safe and confident operation.
- Young people are already actively engaging with the vehicle, and membership continues to grow.

School Car Project

- Launching after half term with all safety and compliance measures in place. A Ford Focus has been secured as a donor vehicle.
- The project will provide hands-on mechanical experience typically only available in specialist college settings.

Partnerships & Community Engagement

- Trial session delivered at Mangotsfield School, with further dates requested due to strong engagement.
- Discussions ongoing with South Gloucestershire Council regarding collaborative programmes.
- SNG Housing Association will begin volunteering, supporting Lyde Green delivery and expanding community reach.
- Discussions underway with the Village Hall to provide holiday provision.
- Featured on 4 Legs Radio to promote the provision and highlight the importance of mobile youth services.

Lyde Green Mural Project

- A large-scale community mural has been created with young people's designs incorporated.

- Participants were involved in tile placement and production, developing creative skills.
- The mural is in final preparation and will soon be installed at the community building.
- The project has received very positive community feedback.

Impact & Growth

- 66 attendances at Lyde Green sessions over six weeks.
- 140 total attendances across multiple sites since early January.
- 76 young people registered as CHOW members, with numbers increasing steadily.

Community Initiatives

- Planning involvement in Ham Festival, potentially providing a teenage chill-out space and first aid/refreshment area.
- Exploring support for Heathfest in June, including opportunities for young people interested in music and DJing.

f. Personnel Committee – Cllr Tina Potter advised that there was no report as no meeting had been held.

e. Planning – Cllr Simon Budd reported that the committee had objected to the felling of 2 oak trees as no survey had been provided within the supporting documentation. They also objected to the erection of a single storey extension for form a store by Vino and Pane as this would create a loss of parking spaces, and finally, Cllr Budd highlighted the council's response to reducing the prevalence of private estate management – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Citizen Space stating that the Committee welcomes the consultation.

2. Working Groups

Climate & Nature – Cllr Bobbie Sunderland reported that Sharon Townson who has been a member of CAN for the last year and is now stepping down and thanked her for her contribution.

CNR Get Together 20th January, held in Council Chamber- very encouraging meeting with members of Warmley Nature Reserve and launched the I Naturalist programme to gather data from the area and to increase our understanding of the impact of the CNR.

Spring Gathering this Saturday 21st February, 2.00 to 4.30pm in EGVH
This is a joint celebration with S Glos Common Connections Team – programme attached. Come along and invite your friends and neighbours.

Local Climate and Nature Action Plan - Stakeholder Meeting 4pm Thurs 26th February Council Chamber

Invited all local businesses and groups to contribute to our questionnaire and come to the meeting if they can. All Councillors welcome to contribute.

Water Mark Meeting 5pm Wednesday 4th March Council Chamber

This is a Wessex Water initiative that supports communities to save water, manage rainwater, reduce runoff, and care for the local environment. We have invited various groups to contribute to develop our programme of projects and campaigns over the next year. All Councillors welcome to contribute.

Nature in our area Photography Competition now open – closes on 30th June. Winning photos will feature in our 2027 calendar. Photo Exhibition and prize giving will take place at the Autumn Gathering – date tbc.

Developing 2026 programme, ideas include – litter pick in April, CNR event during EarthFest – ‘Wine and Chat, birds and bats!’ clothes repairing day, possibly another clothes swap.

3. External Bodies

- a. **ALCA** – moving to a Helpdesk ticketing system for member queries to the ALCA Advice Service so proper management and metrics can be collated.
- b. **Mangotsfield Secondary School Breakfast** – Lunchtime clubs for years 7 & 8 are increasing with club resources for Y7 Basketball, Crochet, Lego (or Uno) and War Games.

Partnerships & Community Links: DBHPC’s Janet Biggin has offered use of the Pavilion car park for the Youth Bus, and S&MPC’s new clerk, Malcolm Evans, will meet after the holiday to explore collaboration, with Shea already linked to Rob at Staple Hill Youth Hub. Resound’s Phillipa reported more young people being referred by our youth team, while Lisa at St James Church is setting up an after-school SafePlace offering homework space, Wi-Fi, and refreshments. Pomphrey’s new trustees and staff are seeking ideas for after-school and daytime use, with interest in joint work and a possible coffee morning pending a viability survey. At Mango School, Family Support Worker Louise Ballard shared details of their community hub, food-bank top-ups, and a weekly young carers lunch club. Friends of Mangotsfield School are fundraising for a new minibus, with around £15k raised so far, recognising it may need to operate as a community bus; they will also re-wrap the old bus with MS branding and are seeking support due to limited experience. The next breakfast meeting is on 27th March.

- c. **Mangotsfield Village Festival** – next meeting 25th March 2026 at EGTC – Chambers – 1900 hrs.
- d. A very positive meeting has been held with the Council and all agencies in relating to the forthcoming circus.
- e. Cllr Rachael Hunt provided an update on South Glos budget meeting and confirmed that council tax will be increasing by 4.99% due to the strain on their finances. A reduction in black bin collections to 3 weekly, green bin price increase and moving to car par charging. South Glos have also introduced a Handy Man service.

FC_2025.092 The Horizon Project

Resolved: That Dr Maurizio Sibilla progresses to the next stage of the application process to participate in the Horizon Project with the support of Emersons Green Town Council.

FINANCES

FC_2025.093 EGTC Risk Register.

Resolved: To approve the updated Risk Register.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2025.094 Forward Plan.

The Clerk presented an update on future agenda items and ongoing projects, highlighting working with the local food bank and engagement with DBHPC and S&MPC to share best practices and look at ways of working together moving forward.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2025.095 Next Meeting.

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

Thursday 19th of March 2026 at 1900hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

The business of this meeting was concluded at 19:40hrs.

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