



Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 5th of March 2026.

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

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

In attendance: Clerk Joanne Bryant and Deputy Clerk Jane Wray.

Apologies: None.

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_2025.110 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2025.111 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2025.112 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were present.

OS_2025.113 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 5th of February 2026*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2025.114 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. Cllr Abi Cohen also gave an update on the Smart Bin Pilot project.

Notes: Cllr Lynne Paraskeva joined the meeting at 20:06.

OS_2025.115 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

OS_2025.116 Vinney Green Pond.

A brief discussion was had regarding the impartial advice provided by the Commons and Biodiversity Officer.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee decided to continue with the current schedule of only one maintenance visit each autumn and to instead, explore the introduction of an annual reed pull during the same period.

OS_2025.117 Tree Surveys.

A brief discussion took place regarding the quote received for the Parish wide tree inspections due in 2026.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee accepts the quote of £850 for the surveys and delegates authority to the Committee Clerk to instruct the company to proceed.

OS_2025.118 Allotment tree work.

A brief discussion took place regarding the quote options and managing the future growth of the trees.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept the quote to pollard the Willow back to old points, at a cost of £375 and the quote to remove lower branches and deadwood from the Oak, at a cost of £300. The work to the Oak will be subject to the planning application being approved.

OS_2025.119 Bye Mead Open Space Improvement.

A brief discussion took place regarding the opinions of local residents towards the installation of a bench.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to purchase the bench in brown at a cost of £608.40 and to accept the installation quote of £200. Cllr Lynne Paraskeva confirmed that she would make a contribution towards the cost of the bench, with the amount to be confirmed in due course.

OS_2025.120 Dates and timings.

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

On **2nd of April 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 19:27hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.