

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 2nd of July 2026.

Present: Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Simon Budd, Lynne Paraskeva, Ashlea Etches, Daryl Hembrough, Andy Cowie and Kelly Allen (Deputy Chair).

Absent: Councillor Eli Akatwijuka.

In attendance: Environmental Services Manager - Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: Councillor Abi Cohen.

Public: No members of the public were in attendance.

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

OS_2026.044 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2026.045 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2026.046 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were in attendance.

OS_2026.047 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 4th of June 2026*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2026.048 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_2026.049 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

OS_2026.050 Tree Surveys.

A brief discussion took place regarding the quote for the work identified in the recent parish-wide tree inspection survey.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept and commission the quote at a cost of £1,475 +vat, on the understanding that the maximum practicable amount of Tree 1818's trunk would be left standing.

OS_2026.051 Watermark Town.

A brief discussion took place regarding the ideas from the recent feedback request.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to progress the water harvesting project to the next phase and to explore the feasibility of providing IBC tanks for water storage on allotment plots.

OS_2026.052 Guest Avenue Ramp.

A brief discussion took place regarding the recently removed ramp and the current fencing in place.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee resolved that the recent installation of steps significantly reduced the severity of the slope. The Committee therefore chose not to install signage and will recommend that the remaining security fencing is removed at the responsible persons discretion.

OS_2026.053 Rodway Common Ecology report.

A brief discussion was held regarding the quotes received for a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for sites under Town Council ownership.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept the quote from Avellana Ecology at the cost of £685.

OS_2026.054 Rodway Common Roadside strip.

A brief discussion took place regarding the costs associated with the placement of boulders and a road safety audit.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to investigate costs for the installation of bollards as an alternative option and bring this back to a subsequent meeting.

OS_2026.055 Lyde Green Service Charge.

A brief discussion took place regarding the increase in service charge costs.

Resolved: Councillor Kelly Allen agreed to make further enquiries regarding the matter and to obtain additional information relating to the contract with South Gloucestershire Council.

OS_2026.056 Dates and timings.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland announced that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was scheduled to take place on **3rd of September 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:09hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.