

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 1st of October 2026.

Present: Councillors Bobbie Sunderland (Chair), Simon Budd, Ashlea Etches, Abi Cohen and Andy Cowie.

Absent: Councillors Eli Akatwijuka and Daryl Hembrough.

In attendance: Environmental Services Manager - Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: Councillors Kelly Allen (Deputy Chair) and Lynne Paraskeva.

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_2026.068 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2026.069 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2026.070 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were in attendance.

OS_2026.071 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 3rd of September 2026*, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2026.072 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_2026.073 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

OS_2026.074 Rainwater Harvesting.

A brief discussion took place regarding the quotes received for IBC storage tanks.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to contact allotment tenants to gauge interest in the bulk purchase of reconditioned IBC tanks. Subject to sufficient demand to make a bulk order viable, the Town Council would subsidise more than 50% of the cost, enabling tanks to be offered to tenants at a discounted price of £40 each.

OS_2026.075 Noticeboard.

A brief discussion took place regarding the current locations of Town Council noticeboards and the potential benefits of installing a noticeboard at Pomphrey Hill, taking into account the high levels of footfall and the opportunity to improve the visibility of Council information and community notices.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to confirm to Pomphrey Hill that the Town Council would be interested in exploring the proposal further. However, expressed a preference for the location identified at <https://what3words.com/hotel.boot.sheets> and wished to reiterate that if installed, would be used for Town Council and community information, notices, and events.

OS_2026.076 Rodway Common Events.

A brief discussion took place regarding the improvements made during the 2026 visit from Paulos Circus to Rodway Common.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept the request from Paulos Circus for a visit during 2027. The event to be managed by the Committee Clerk and Town Council Clerk in accordance with the conditions and arrangements in place.

OS_2026.077 Dates and timings.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland announced that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was scheduled to take place on **5th of November 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:08hrs, and announced that an informal 'roundtable' discussion would take place afterward.