EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Name: James Hunt (Mayor)

Date: 15th of October 2026

Signed: ORIGINAL SIGNED

Minutes of the Full Council

Held in The Council Chamber of Emersons Green Town Council

19:00hrs on 17th of September 2026

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Present: Cllrs James Hunt (Mayor), Abi Cohen, Catherine Lombardo, Graham Hutter, Simon Budd, Colin Hunt, Bobbie Sunderland, Kelly Allen, Eli Akatwijuka, Andy Cowie, and Daryl Hembrough

Apologies: Cllrs Catherine Lombardo, Tracy Cannard, Tina Potter, Rachael Hunt, Lynne Paraskeva

FC_2026.053 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.
Under Section 31 of Localism Act 2011 and in accordance with the Councils' Code of Conduct (section 27(6) (d)), any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or personal interests must be declared and Standing Orders followed. Requests for dispensations can be considered if received in advance of the meeting and in writing to the Clerk (Proper Officer) – Localism Act 2011 S33.

FC_2026.054 Public Participation.
No members of the public were present.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

FC_2026.055 Minutes.
Resolved: That the *Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Full Council held on the of 16th of July 2026*, copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

FC_2026.056 Outstanding items.
Nothing reported.

FC_2026.057 Correspondence.
The Clerk reported that a Freedom of Information request had been received concerning the UK Town of Culture 2028 bid. The request was acknowledged and was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

OPERATIONS

FC_2026.058 Reports
To receive reports from:
a. Committees
    1. **Finance & Partnership**
    Cllr Hutter report that, aside from standard business, the Committee approved in principle a budget of **£75,000** for recommendation to the Youth Work Committee and Full Council and requested the Youth &

Community Services Committee to review delivery arrangements to reduce costs and rationalise services in future years.
Delegated authority to the Clerk to liaise with South Gloucestershire regarding locating the flagpole between the library and Emersons Green Village Hall.
Approved the Co-Option Policy and Training Statement of Intent, subject to agreed amendments, agreed to redraft the Communication Plan as a formal policy with an accompanying guidance document, and approved the Missing Young Persons Policy.

2. **Youth & Community Services**
Cllr Cohen reported that a £500 Small Sparks Grant has been received for the Big Green Gardening Project and a request from Pucklechurch Revel to use the CHOW vehicle at its 2027 event.
Noted positive progress on the Big Green Gardening Project, strong attendance at holiday sessions, and the Ham Farm Festival. The new Missing Young Persons Policy has been adopted and published.
Youth session attendance across Emersons Green and Lyde Green continues to show a steady increase throughout 2026.
Following a review of youth service tenders, the Committee recommended continuing with CYN for Open Access provision only, while progressively expanding the Town Council's in-house youth services over the next 12 months.
Members welcomed the success of the SNG-funded Big Lyde Social trips, including golf and Go Ape visits, and supported plans for future educational and cultural activities.
Agreed to support neighbouring parishes with youth service delivery on a full cost-recovery basis, ensuring no financial impact on Emersons Green Town Council.
Discussed opportunities to enhance community engagement through pop-up events, additional sessions, and wider participation initiatives.
Noted a current underspend in the Youth Services budget, with expenditure expected to increase as planned projects and operational costs progress.
Considered future opportunities for 2027, including involvement in local festivals and the development of activities for a broader range of age groups, particularly younger residents.

3. **Planning Committee**
Cllr Budd highlighted Lyde Eco Village planning application, which is in the Local Plan, is on the horizon.

4. **Open Spaces**
Bollards and Native Hedging Rodway Common - agreed to spend £768 on installing 6 bollards on the edge of the carriageway on Rodway Hill, south of the current area used for parking, to discourage further parking on the roadside. The project will include native hedgerow planting behind the bollards.
Emersons Way Planters drought and lack of support from local shop owners mean the planters themselves are not looking good. The paving

and parking around the area is also looking very messy with weeds. Considered removing the planters completely.
Decided to seek support from residents in the flats above the shops for watering in future. Have asked Friends of Emersons Green Park if they would be able to weed the paved area around the shops.
Little Library - this is a small cupboard on the street where books can be exchanged, similar to the one in Mangotsfield on Richmond Road opposite St James Church. Committee Clerk is investigating potential sites in Dibden Road and quotes for associated work.
Rainwater Collector at the Allotment – the quotes we have received has led us to pause this project as costs outweigh the benefits. Clerk will now further investigate sourcing IBC tanks for use on individual allotment plots.

5. **Personnel Committee**
   Cllr Potter reported that the next meeting of Personnel Committee will be 28th September but in the meantime the Clerk has kept the chair of the committee updated on staffing needs, training and performance.

b. Working Groups

1. **Climate & Nature Working Group**
   CAN met on 8th September. We had an inspiring talk from Peter Coleman-Smith. He has worked as part of a volunteer group on the Trym near Westbury for several years on all aspects of water pollution. Lots of helpful advice to support our Watermark campaign.
   Repair Café launch 12th Sept Good atmosphere, plenty of people bringing items, mostly electrical and mechanical and one garment. Most things repaired on the day, and a couple of items taken by a volunteer to repair later. Paul did a very good job setting up the Council Chamber and managing the reception of items. Time flew by, looking forward to the next one on 10th October.
   Clothes Swap – this Saturday, 19th September, 2.00 to 4.30 in EGVH. This will be the first time we have run it without help of Chepstow Clothes Swap. Come along and help if you can.
   Watermark update – good response to the art competition about Water. Artwork will be on display at the Autumn Gathering on 4th Oct EGVH.
   There will be a display of posters at the Clothes Swap to show the impact of fast fashion on water consumption and water pollution.
   Autumn Gathering is on 4th October at EGVH and includes the exhibition from the Photography Completion. James will be giving the prizes to the winning photographers, and the Calendar 2027 will be on sale.
   Climate Emergency Briefing – this will be screened at Resound on Wed 25th November at 7.00pm. We will be inviting all relevant local groups, and it will be followed by discussion groups. Please get the date in your diary.
   Bulb Planting in November – date tbc and planning to plant in the newly sewn grass on the area recently excavated by Wessex Water between Emersons Green Park and Church Farm Road. Currently seeking landowner permission.

Sustainable Fashion Show 14th March 2027 -planning for the fashion show next year now started.

c. External Bodies

1. **Avon & Somerset Police** –

Parish Council Updates - Following staffing challenges and increased summer demand, monthly reports are now being resumed. A single monthly update will be circulated to all eleven parish councils. Officers will attend meetings where possible to present reports and answer questions.

Community Engagement

Regular "Talk to Us" events continue at Sainsbury's, Emersons Green every four weeks, providing residents with opportunities to discuss concerns with local officers.

Police will attend a sustainable travel event at Lyde Green Community Centre in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, offering bike marking services.

School patrols will resume with the new academic year to promote road safety, address parking concerns, and build relationships with pupils and families.

Schools and youth groups are encouraged to invite officers to deliver talks on policing and safety topics.

Residents are reminded to report concerns directly to police rather than relying solely on social media groups.

Rural Policing

Rural burglaries remain a concern, particularly involving farm buildings, machinery, and high-value vehicles.

Property owners are encouraged to review security arrangements and seek crime prevention advice from the neighbourhood policing team.

Patrols have increased on the Bristol to Bath cycle path, with further action planned to tackle illegal scooter use.

Additional patrols will be conducted at Tog Hill and Beacon Lane Plantation to address reports of inappropriate behaviour affecting public use of these areas.

Business and Retail Crime

Tackling anti-social behaviour at Emersons Green Retail Park remains a priority, with concerns including shoplifting, nuisance behaviour, and dangerous scooter use.

Several youths have received banning notices preventing access to the retail park, and four illegal scooters have been seized.

Police are working with site management to address car meets and racing. Measures include speed humps and planned ANPR installation.

Current Local Priorities

Targeting prolific shoplifting offenders impacting Emersons Green Retail Park.

Addressing youth anti-social behaviour in Emersons Green and Lyde Green through partnership working and enforcement measures.

Investigating rural burglaries through local enquiries, CCTV evidence gathering, and support for victims.

Community Information
Residents are encouraged to report all crimes and incidents, as reporting helps police identify patterns and allocate resources effectively.

PLANNING & STRATEGY

FC_2026.059 Youth Provision Tender – October 2026 onwards
Resolved: That an award be made to Creative Youth Network for Open Access only, effective 1st October 2026 for 12 months, with contract value of £ 45,645.46 plus VAT. The Clerk is delegated authority to sign the subsequent contract.

FC_2026.060 Local Choice Special Expenses - Wave 1 Expressions of Interest
Resolved: That following review of the current offer from SGC concerning the Local Choice Special Expense Policy, it is delegated to officers to tentatively progress negotiations with SGC, with the outcome reported back to Full Council for approval as appropriate.

FC_2026.061 Forward Plan.
The Clerk reported on upcoming agenda items and projects.

DATES & TIMINGS

FC_2026.062 Next Meeting.
To note the next meeting of the Full Council, currently scheduled for:

Thursday 15th of October 2026 at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chambers.

The meeting was closed at 19:40hrs.