EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL

Name: Cllr Bobbie Sunderland

Date: 1st October 2026.

Signed: Original Signed

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee

held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,

19:00hrs on Thursday 3rd of September 2026.

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

Absent: Councillors Eli Akatwijuka and Ashlea Etches.

In attendance: Environmental Services Manager - Paul Kearsley.

Apologies: Councillors Abi Cohen and Andy Cowie.

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_2026.057 Welcome and Introductions.

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

OS_2026.058 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.

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

OS_2026.059 Public Participation.

Minutes: No members of the public were in attendance.

OS_2026.060 Minutes.

Resolved: The *Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on **2nd of July 2026***, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

OS_2026.061 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_2026.062 Correspondence.

Correspondence and responses were noted by the Committee.

OS_2026.063 Rodway Common Roadside strip.

A brief discussion took place regarding the quote for the installation of bollards together with the proposed additional native hedging.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to accept the quotation of £768 plus VAT for the installation of six bollards, positioned 0.8 metres from the edge of the carriageway, together with the provision and planting of native hedging. Committee members concluded that, as boulders were no longer proposed as part of the scheme, there was no necessity to commission a Road Safety Audit.

OS_2026.064 Emerson Way Planters.

A brief discussion took place regarding the impact of the recent heatwaves on the planters, the increased prevalence of weeds on the surrounding pathways, and the ongoing importance of maintaining the planters as an attractive feature within the local area.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to contact nearby residents and community members to determine whether there would be any interest in adopting and helping to maintain a planter within the local area. Cllr Bobbie Sunderland to liaise with the Friends of Emersons Green Park to ascertain whether the group would be available to look at clearing the pathway weeds.

OS_2026.065 Little Library.

A brief discussion took place regarding the benefits to the community of having a neighbourhood book exchange.

Resolved: The Open Spaces Committee delegated authority to the Committee Clerk to investigate potential installation locations along Dibden Road and obtain quotations for the associated works, with the findings and costs to be presented for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

OS_2026.066 Watermark Town

A brief discussion was held regarding the quote received for the rain water harvesting project at Dibden Lane Allotments.

Resolved: Following discussion, members concluded that, when balanced against the anticipated benefits of the scheme, the level of expenditure could not be sufficiently justified at this time and the project would be put on hold. The Committee delegated authority to the Clerk to further investigate the feasibility of providing IBC tanks for water storage on allotment plots, as this could offer a more practical and cost-effective solution, with the potential to benefit a greater number of tenants across the site.

OS_2026.067 Dates and timings.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland announced that the next meeting of the Open Spaces Committee was scheduled to take place on **1st of October 2026** at 19:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Bobbie Sunderland concluded the formal business of the meeting at 20:23hrs, and announced that an informal ‘roundtable’ discussion would take place afterward.