

Name:

Date:

Signed:

Minutes of the Youth & Community Services Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Emersons Green Town Council,
18:00hrs on Thursday 17th September 2026

Present: Councillors Abi Cohen (Chair), Simon Budd, James Hunt, Daryl Hemborough.

In attendance: Jo Bryant (Town Clerk), Sarah Parkin (Assistant Clerk)

Apologies: Lynne Paraskeva, Tina Potter, Catherine Lombardo.

Public: No members of the Public Present.

Notes: The meeting began at 18:00hrs. All resolutions were passed with a majority vote, by a show of hands, unless otherwise stated.

Welcome and Introductions.

Cllr Abi Cohen - (Chair) welcomed everyone present at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures and the process of this meeting.

YWC_2026.020 Declaration of Interest – Localism Act 2011.
No interests were declared.

YWC_2026.021 Public Participation.
No members of the Public were present.

YWC_2026.022 Minutes.
That the Minutes from the Youth Community Service Committee meeting, held the 16th of July 2026, as circulated, be approved as a correct record, were signed by the Chair.

YWC_2026.023 Outstanding items.
The Clerk reported that the Mangotsfield School Car project has now started.

YWC_2026.024 Correspondence.
The Clerk reported on correspondence received; copies having been circulated.

- A South Gloucestershire Council Small Sparks Grant was awarded to the sum of £500 to support the Big Green Gardening Project at Emersons Green Village Hall.
- The Chair of the Pucklechurch Revel have been in contact to request the use of the CHOW at the Pucklechurch Revel event in June 2027.

YWC_2026.025 To Note Reports from:

1. Committee Clerk:

The Clerk provided a report on:

- The progression of the Big Green Gardening Project at Emersons Green Village Hall since the last meeting (July 2026). The holiday provision sessions have been well attended with 14-15 young people in attendance each week. The memorial bench has been installed, and the planters are due to be delivered imminently.
- Ham Farm Festival took place in July 2026 and was supported by Emersons Green Town Council. The event was well received.
- A Missing Young Persons Policy was approved and added to the website. This is a mandatory safeguarding document.

2. EGTC Delivery and Youth Engagement Statistics:

The Clerk provided a report of the attendance figures for the sessions across Lyde Green and Emersons Green since January 2026 which show a steady increase in the number of young people attending sessions every week.

3. External Bodies:

A Q3 report from the current provider CYN was provided with copies circulated.

YWC_2026.026 Youth Provision Tender – October 2026

The Clerk reported on the tenders received for the provision of external centre-based youth services.

Resolved:

Following consideration of the submissions, the Committee recommended that the Council continue its contract with CYN on an Open Access basis only. This recommendation was subsequently referred to Full Council for consideration and final determination. The Committee also agreed a longer-term approach whereby Emersons Green Town Council will progressively expand its own youth service provision over the next 12 months, with the aim of increasing open access delivery and ultimately replacing the externally provided CYN open access sessions, subject to ongoing monitoring of participation, demand and service capacity

YWC_2026.027 SNG Funded Big Lyde Social.

The Clerk reported on the two youth trips that had been successfully delivered to date, comprising a golf activity and a visit to Go Ape. Both trips were attended by 16 young people and were well received. Particular note was made of the Go Ape visit, which provided opportunities for participants to challenge themselves, build confidence and step outside their comfort zones.

The Clerk advised that the next proposed trip would be a theatre visit, with the possibility of attending a performance of *A Christmas Carol*. It was noted that this production would complement elements of the English GCSE curriculum and could provide both educational and cultural benefits for those attending. Members were invited to put forward suggestions for future trips and activities.

The Chair expressed an interest in supporting the next trip in a volunteer capacity.

YWC_2026.028 Neighbouring Parishes Collaboration.

The Clerk reported on a proposal for Emersons Green Town Council to provide support to neighbouring parishes, namely Pucklechurch and Downend & Bromley Heath, in the delivery of their youth service provision on a full cost-recovery basis. Members considered the proposal and agreed that this approach would enable the sharing of expertise and resources while ensuring there would be no financial impact on Emersons Green Town Council.

Resolved: That the Committee unanimously supported the proposal.

YWC_2026.029 Developing Community Engagement Events.

The Committee considered a range of opportunities to further strengthen community engagement, including the delivery of pop-up events in local community spaces and the introduction of additional Monday sessions aimed at different groups within the community. Members discussed how these initiatives could help increase participation, broaden the Council's reach and provide opportunities to engage with residents who may not currently access existing services.

YWC_2026.030 Budget Monitoring and Expenditure.

The Committee received a report on the Youth Services budget and expenditure to date. Members noted that current spending levels indicated a significant underspend against the approved budget. The Clerk explained that this position was largely attributable to a number of activities and resources having been obtained at no cost, as well as several planned expenditures that had not yet been processed. These included forthcoming commitments such as vehicle insurance and other operational costs. Members noted the update and were satisfied that expenditure was expected to increase as planned activities and associated costs were incurred throughout the remainder of the financial year.

YWC_2026.031 Forward Planning.

The Clerk reported on several opportunities for youth engagement and community participation planned for 2027. This included the Minty Festival, where the Youth Liaison Officer is exploring opportunities to secure tickets for local families to enable wider access to the event. Members were also advised of the potential for involvement in the Mangotsfield Festival, with discussions underway regarding a partnership with Pomphrey Hill aimed at enhancing community engagement and increasing participation across the area.

During the discussion, Members highlighted the importance of ensuring that activities and engagement opportunities are available to a broad range of age groups. It was suggested that consideration be given to developing initiatives specifically targeted at younger residents, including those of primary school age, in order to further strengthen the Council's community engagement offer.

DATES & TIMINGS

YWC_2026.032 Next Meeting.

To note the next meeting of the Youth Committee will be held on:

Thursday 15th of October 2026 at 18:00hrs in the Emersons Green Town Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 18.53.

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