

Friends of Emersons Green Park Meeting

Emersons Green Town Council Office

Monday 24th February at 7:30pm

Minutes of the Meeting



Committee Members Present: Graham Johnson (Chair), Sue Fenton (Deputy Chair), Ann Birkett, Sharon Bonson, Elizabeth Fusine, Roberta Sunderland, Paul Kearsley

ITEM	TOPIC	ACTION
	Welcome Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
	Approval of the Minutes The minutes were approved with the following points for further action. Licence The volunteer agreement with South Gloucestershire will be up for renewal at the end of March. Graham Johnson will consider whether any new additions need to be added. Examples of agreed tasks, management and group responsibilities under the present agreement include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical works e.g. Litter picking, planting of bulbs, plants or small trees provided or source-approved by SGC• Guided walks and events• Cutting back of encroaching and overhanging vegetation from public paths• Use of equipment• Monitoring and reporting e.g. Fallen trees and fly-tipping• Project leader• Risk assessment• First aid cover• Insurance cover Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community orchard• Willow structures• Wildlife garden• Hexagon garden *Please see full document on FEGP website under 'Key Documents' for comprehensive listing. Calendars Bobbie Sunderland has returned a box of unsold calendars to the council. Recruitment Signage now promotes the work of FEGP each Thursday morning. It explains the current activity of the members to passing members of the public and encourages new volunteer involvement.	GJ

	<p>Woodchip Woodchip has been delivered and spread by the volunteers in Green Lane to improve pedestrian access. Paul Kearsley was informed by Graham Johnson, that, if possible, volunteers would benefit from having future deliveries closer to the required location.</p> <p>Social Events 2025 An early morning bird survey was carried out by members on 27th February, logging 25 – 30 different species, followed by breakfast at The Avenue Café. On Thursday 27th March, the members plan to visit Arnos Vale Cemetery on a self-guided tour after gardening in the orchard. Three representatives from the group attended the Emersons Green Town Council ‘Volunteer Thank You Party’ at Barley Close Community Primary School on Thursday 13th February. Group social events continue to be informally sourced and organised monthly.</p> <p>Weekend Sessions Update February’s session was cancelled due to sickness. Elizabeth Fusine will lead the next session on the 3rd Saturday in March (15th). She would like to advertise the event on the group’s Facebook page in the hope that it would encourage a bigger turn out and inform her of possible numbers. Elizabeth is planning to carry out a park litter pick during these sessions, focussing on areas around the benches, children’s play area, the formal ‘signpost’ garden and possibly the common. Responses to the event, will indicate how many litter grabbers (adult and children’s sizes) she will require from the council. A poster promoting the event will be posted on the park noticeboards.</p> <p>Data Collection Elizabeth Fusine has been collating volunteer hours for Friends of the Park. This information could be useful when applying for grants.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Adults</td><td>School Age</td><td>Pre School</td><td>Litter Picks</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>32</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>18.5</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>16</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>21.5</td><td>38</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>54</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>25</td><td>79</td></tr><tr><td>Jan</td><td>92</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>25.75</td><td>124</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>42</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>236</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>90.75</td><td>333</td></tr></table> <p>Website Graham Johnson continues to keep the website updated with relevant photos.</p> <p>Dinosaur Garden We await a response from Kirsty Newberry (South Glos Council) regarding the purchase of a magnolia tree.</p>		Adults	School Age	Pre School	Litter Picks	Total	Oct	32	0	0	18.5	51	Nov	16	0	0	21.5	38	Dec	54	0	0	25	79	Jan	92	4	2	25.75	124	Feb	42	0	0	0	42	TOTAL	236	4	2	90.75	333	<p>PK GJ</p> <p>AB</p> <p>EF</p> <p>EF</p> <p>GJ</p>
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1.	<p>Agenda Items</p> <p>Bog Garden Although, some of the original planting has survived, spring growth will determine what has survived in the bog garden. Attention needs to be given to the drainage channels. We may remove them as there is concern that they have become trip hazards. Moving away from the bog garden towards the toolbox, there is a naturally occurring ‘puddle’ which could be scraped back further to accommodate extra water to prevent it from overflowing and creating a channel when spilling</p>																																											

	across the path. As this is a naturally boggy area, there may be potential for volunteers to develop this area in the future with other water loving plants.	
2.	Grass Maintenance Graham Johnson has started to look at the prices of strimmers. Graham, Sue Fenton and Ann Birkett are attending a strimmer and brush cutter course on Thursday 13 th March, organised by South Gloucestershire Council at Grimsbury Farm. After the course, the group will have a better idea of the requirements and safety equipment that is best suited to the orchard. The insurance company will then need to be informed. Chris Sunderland will not be renewing his brushwood cutter training. A sharpening tool will need to be purchased as the original has gone missing after the toolbox was raided. Volunteers will be shown how to sharpen tools during a Thursday session.	GJ SF AB
3.	Earth Fest 2025 Paul Kearsley, Graham Johnson and Chris Sunderland have been delegated by the committee to oversee the initial planning of Earth Fest. Numerous activities, events and specialists have already been organised and contacted. These include 'Planning for Nature' by Ed Drewitt, a bat walk by Steve England, the annual photographic competition, a sensory walk, yoga day, art, pottery and creative listening workshops, a Ukrainian choir, an eco-themed day and a pop up Vegan Chef. Emily Correa is currently drumming up musical interest in four local primary schools to create a children's choir and UWE students plan to work with pupils and teachers at Mangotsfield School on a curriculum based eco project during the festival. A grant application has been submitted to Emersons Green Town Council requesting £5,000 to cover costs. The delegated group will oversee the spending of the grant. All invoices will be sent to Graham for payments to be made. A meeting to attract recruitment for Earth Fest activities will take place on Monday 24 th March at 7:30pm at Emersons Green Town Council Offices. This date is after the council's decision whether to award Earth Fest the funding. If successful, the delegated group will meet before this date to create the draft programme.	GJ CS PK
4.	Wildlife Garden Bobbie Sunderland pointed out that the bird box in the wildlife garden has fallen. This will be rehung on a Thursday morning session when a maintenance check will also be carried out.	GJ
5.	Tidy Up Volunteers have noted that rubbish has accumulated in and around the muddy gullies of the lake. When conditions are right, a tidy up will be built into the Thursday schedule. Litter picking equipment could be brought in to assist with this task.	GJ
6.	Large Tent Chris and Bobbie Sunderland are currently storing a very large tent which has been used for Earth Fest events in the past. They asked the group whether it was still useful to the group and if not, was the committee happy for it to be passed on. FEGP agreed to their request as presently the group has newer, lighter canopies and gazebos which are currently more practical for the cause.	CS BS
9.	Suggestions from Group Members Chris Sunderland suggested that the next FEGP meeting could be elsewhere to relieve Paul Kearsley of his commitment to the opening of Emersons Green Town Council Offices. The committee agreed to try The Huntsman pub as a venue for the next meeting.	

Date and venue of next meeting: Monday 28th April 2025 at The Huntsman, BS16 6UB.