

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Haydon Wick.

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), E Baker Lee, L Brown, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, V Manro, K Naik R Venkatesh and R Worman

OFFICERS: Clerk, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Administrator, Laura Cutter

AL 78 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor K Naik who had advised the Clerk he would arrive late to the meeting and leave early due to work commitments. The reasons were accepted.

AL 79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor V Manro declared an interest in Item 20.

AL 80 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

AL 81 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman requested that mobile phones were switched off or on silent during the meeting.

AL 82 MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th August 2019.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee **Seconded:** Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th August 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

AL 83 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Venkatesh Has recently attended a Transition Swindon meeting which predominantly focused on public open spaces and planting more trees to reduce air pollution.

Councillor A John Updated the meeting on his progress on the Tree Survey project and confirmed he would bring a report to a future A&L meeting detailing his findings.

19.33 Councillor K T. Naik joined the meeting.

Councillor V Manro Advised that bus hard standings have been done in Queen Elizabeth Drive (Tawny Owl) stop and Queen Elizabeth Drive (Friday Street) stop - a

third stop at Galloway Road has also been done but this one will be funded by SBC and not the Parish.

Councillor R Hailstone Reported a trolley in the brook in Stonecrop Way and the overgrown brambles in Haydon End Lane.

Councillor L Brown Confirmed that the grass had been cut in Seven Fields and the clippings have been left.

Councillor J Jackson Thanked the team for the hedge cutting carried out in Abbey Meads improving visibility on the corner of Elstree Way.

AL 84 **CLERK'S REPORT**

POST Resourcing - last minute resourcing issues have resulted in the Grass Team being under manned next week. This may have an affect on the grass cutting schedule.

Stolen Pole Saw - Pole Saw stolen 4th September whilst working on TDD. Crime logged. Purchasing a new one (c£500) and will investigate if we can claim on our insurance.

Outdoor Gym Location (Covenant Issue) - Received a response from Legal Team who are aware that a number of the play area leases within Haydon Wick have yet to be completed. In part due to securing the original owners (North Swindon Development Companies) permission for the lease grants (this is an absolute requirement of the original land transfer). The Council's legal team have been trying to secure this (for several years now) and have had no cooperation. They are now reviewing other options to resolve this. If this obligation is not resolved before any leases are granted, then the Parish would not then be able to register their new land interests (the leases that you take) at Land Registry and then would be in breach of statutory obligations. SBC do not want to put the Haydon Wick in this position. *Clerk to resend all information (previously sent 5 months ago) to the new contact at SBC.*

Volunteer Works Programme – Requests have been sent to local businesses calling out for volunteers to help on their 'away days'. So far, the response has been positive with two teams of 10+ people from Nationwide who are keen to progress asap. Areas of work have been identified such as painting the play parks, clearing brooks, litter picking, etc.

Winter Projects - POST have identified the following areas for consideration and they need more:

- Cleaning bins and replacing stickers
- Painting play parks
- Clearing brooks from large fly tipped items such as trolleys, etc
- Apple Tree allotment works
- Low hanging branches being cut back
- Leaf blowing especially near drains and Pond Street
- Pathways cleared
- Snow & Ice removal
- CCTV posts installed around parish.

Fessey House Extension - SBC Architect confirmed the new extension and perimeter fencing would be fully secure.

SSSI Field - Cliffords Meadow - Council is receiving complaints to do with the maintenance schedule of this meadow. Tried and failed several times to contact the landowner. Residents would like this to be discussed in more detail at a future council meeting. Meeting raised a query regarding the status of the site and asked Clerk to check with WWT. *Clerk asked for assistance in contacting landowner in order to send formal letters to WWT and Landowners.*

Stour Road Car Park - Suggestion to use two of our posts in storage to prevent access by cars into Cemetery Field. Currently awaiting SBC's approval to proceed.

Heaton Close Play Park – Vandalism reported, have spoken to manufacturers who are currently working on prices, will update at a future meeting.

AL 85 LEISURE GARDEN RENTS

The meeting agreed the rent renewal prices for 2019/2020 and suggested that the minimum rate should be reviewed prior to the 2020/2021. A full report of the running costs of each site should be established and presented to a future meeting.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree the rent renewal prices for 2019/2020.

AL 86 LEISURE GARDEN APPLICATION

The Committee received a request from the 7th Swindon Abbey Meads Cubs to be allocated a community plot at Goodearl site, to encourage the Cubs and Beavers to grow their own food. After discussion, Plot 22 was identified as a suitable location and the Committee agreed to allocate the plot. Publicity would be encouraged as part of the agreement.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To accept the request and allocate Plot 22 Goodearl to 7th Swindon Abbey Meads Cubs.

AL 87 LEISURE GARDENS

The Committee noted the Officer's report and agreed to distribute the work to POST. The last inspection of the season will be held at the end of September.

AL 88 GRASS AND HEDGE CUTTING UPDATE

The Committee noted the Officer's report. Councillor R Worman gave a verbal update on Seven Fields explaining that he has received positive feedback about the new benches situated along Pond Street. Cyclists are using the benches as a rest stop. Complaints received over dog waste in Seven Fields, but a quick inspection didn't identify too much of an issue. Pickets Field has not been cut and there were several paths identified that need the hedges cutting back. Benches in Long Meadow and Spring Fields need repairing.

20.15 Councillor K T. Naik left the meeting.

AL 89 PARKS & OPEN SPACES TEAM (POST) STATISTICS

The Committee noted the statistics report for POST enquiries that have been dealt with or passed to SBC.

AL 90 PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE

The Committee noted the Officers' report and after discussion, resolved to the recommendations in the report.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson **Seconded:** Councillor R Worman

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree to repair three benches at Seven Fields (Long Meadow and Spring Fields). Cost up to £100.00 - 4308/307.

AL 91 CREATION OF WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

A working party meeting with residents, councillors and officers took place prior to the Committee meeting. The Committee was given an update and after discussion it was agreed to proceed with their recommendations for Full Council's approval on the 17th September 2019.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee **Seconded:** Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council the following proposal to commence the creation of wildflower meadows in the Parish:

- Four locations across the Parish to trial:
 - Tawny Owl Hill (Fallow)
 - Henchard Crescent (Fallow)
 - Land opposite Catherine Wayte School (Treat and Seed)
 - Barriers between Old Blunsdon Road (Treat and Seed)
- Communicate with the local community to manage expectations particularly as areas will be left uncut
- Liaise with SAC and share best practice with other local town and parish councils
- Involve the local residents who joined the Working Party and use the workforce internally and our groups from our volunteer programme
- Acknowledge generous donation of £100 towards initial order of seeds
- Allocate a budget of £2,000 from Council's general reserves.

AL 92 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted Month 4 operational income and expenditure against budget report for the Parks & Open Spaces cost centre.

AL 93 GRASS CUTTING MACHINERY MAINTENANCE

Members received and noted the overspend in the machinery maintenance budget to date. The meeting heard how the Grass Team has an Operative who is specialized in doing the minor maintenance to the machinery and as such, the costs presented could be more if the Council had to use an external company.

AL 94 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be given to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting.

AL 95 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

RESOLVED: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted and in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw'. Reason: Contractual and Complaint.

AL 96 POST DEPOT UPDATE

The Clerk confirmed that the vehicles need to be cleaned off site in a designated washing bay. SBC will consider whether the Council can make use of Waterside Depot and further information is being sought.

AL 97 VEHICLE TRACKING

The Committee noted the report and after discussion agreed to the recommendations within the report. A suggestion to contact the insurance company to ensure that fitting a tracker would not invalidate any future insurance claims.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson **Seconded:** Councillor L Brown

Vote: Agreed with one (1) abstention.

RESOLVED: To proceed with one-month free trial with Quartix on one vehicle to establish if the system works well and is fit for purpose. A review on the equipment and subsequent proposals will be brought to a future Committee meeting.

AL 98 THAMESDOWN DRIVE MAINTENANCE

The Committee noted the report and after discussion suggested that this item is discussed collectively with all Swindon Parish Councils and the matter raised at the next Swindon Area Committee. Following this discussion, a meeting will be held with SBC.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman: _____