

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), L Brown, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, V Manro, K Naik

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

AL 141 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors E Baker Lee (personal commitments), R Venkatesh and R Ross (work commitments).

AL 142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AL 143 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

AL 144 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AL 145 MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes **Seconded:** Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

AL 146 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes Recently out canvassing in the parish and confirmed that the area is looking very well maintained, no issues raised from residents.

Councillor K Naik Raised at a previous A&L meeting about planting flowers on verges and roundabouts. Preparing a report for Full Council for this to be included as a winter project and will suggest beginning the project in Abbey Meads. Will request in the proposal that his unclaimed Councillor allowance is vired into the horticultural budget. *The Clerk confirmed there are funds available in the existing horticultural budget for the project to commence this year.*

Councillor A John Resident passed on good feedback about the grass cutting in Oakhurst – well done to the team.

Councillor R Hailstone Received a letter from a resident at Frome Road, requesting that the trees that were recently removed are replanted. The trees are not large trees and as

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the Council have some horticultural budget available could they be replaced or if excess trees at Tadpole Lane, could a couple be relocated to this location. *The Clerk confirmed that as the tree survey will be taking place in the new year, actions arising should be dealt with prior to considering replacing trees.*

AL 147

CLERK'S REPORT

Furlong Close – Thank you letter from resident thanking for the recent leaf clearing work carried out and wishing the Councillors & Staff a Merry Christmas.

Mazurek Way Play Park – A metal shield was placed on the gate following on from a minor accident several years ago, the metal is causing the gate to become heavy and is therefore noisy in the wind. The metal shield is also kicked by teenagers that congregate there in the evenings causing further noise. Metal shields not on any other gates and no incidents reported since the incident, so Committee agreed to remove it.

King George V Playing Field – A report on 2nd December at 4.32pm received advising that a group of young girls had been locked in KGV. One of the Technical Assistants who lives nearby went to unlock the gates. The office has been trying to contact the security provider, with no success, to clarify the closing times and request signage with their emergency details on are displayed. If Councillors come in to contact with the security operatives, please can you request they call the office.

FOI Request – A resident has submitted a FOI request about Wildflower Creation areas at Hyssop Close, resident felt that we have proceeded without duly consulting residents. Clerk will be preparing and responding for clarity of the steps the Council has taken to inform the residents.

Tadpole Lane - Neighbouring parishes have been contacted with regards to sharing the proposed new allotment site at Tadpole Lane. Purton Parish Council will discuss at their meeting in January, no response from Blunsdon Parish Council and St Andrews Parish Council will put it on their agenda for discussion w/c 16th December 2019. Updates will follow.

Traffic Calming Thames Avenue – Response from SBC Traffic Officer to confirm there was no objections to changing the boundary signs. The Committee felt that the slow down signs may not be visible enough. Speed bump by school is ineffective. Disagreed with comments regarding 'old signs' as HWPC paid for signs and installation. The Committee felt they should've been consulted prior to designs; children's writing is too small and would prefer a corporate image on boundary. Consultation previously about 20mph limit – gateways picket fences up to the top to show residential area, were told not legal to install gateways where there is no change of speed limit. SBC considering hiring a Lollipop person and installing a proper crossing for Greenmeadow School. General feeling that alternative measures are put in place prior to spending money on the gateways. A speed table further down near Dart Avenue, can still speed up from the bottom of the hill.

AL 148

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING UPDATE

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The Committee noted the report and requested a site visit with the Grass Team to look at the leaf collection/ blowing machinery prior to the purchase of the Stihl vacuum attachments. The cost of £135.52 (4314/307). As the value is under £500.00 the Clerk can authorise the purchase of the vacuum attachments without bringing back to the Committee.

AL 149 PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson **Seconded:** Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. To order 47 tonnes of scalping's from Company A for resurfacing the car park at Rose Walk for £1010.50 (4310/305) plus the hire of the digger.
2. To purchase play park equipment for Capesthorpe, Voyager and Brookfield at a total of £3992.90 (4513/302).

AL 150 PARKS & OPEN SPACES TEAM (POST) STATISTICS

The Committee noted the Officers' verbal update. The amount of calls is reducing now approaching the winter months.

AL 151 LAUGHTON WAY – THAMES WATER CASE

Hedges removed when watermain burst, not HWPC land but SBC has given express permission to pursue. Thames Water believe the hedges would grow back. Since the complaint was logged Thames Water have been to tidy the area and soiled over. Some roots still there and some dug up. Other suggestions included keeping as a grass verge or planting bulbs. After discussion the meeting agreed to pursue Thames Water for costs to reinstate the hedges.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro **Seconded:** Councillor K Naik

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To pursue Thames Water to reinstate the hedges on Laughton Way, Abbey Meads on behalf of Swindon Borough Council.

AL 152 WARD COUNCILLOR ASSISTANCE – PARKING ISSUES

Recently received an email requesting a letter drop to residents with regards to residents parking on the green open space in Winterbourne Road. Also requested that bollards are installed to prevent this. After discussion the Committee felt that this would be an issue for SBC Highways as the Parish Council has no enforcement powers. Would need specific house numbers for a letter drop as cars could be parked from adjoining streets such as Casterbridge Road. The Committee felt bollards or shrubs planted in the area would still allow cars to park on the roadside.

AL 153 REMOVAL OF SMALL TREE IN GREENVALLEY AVENUE

A request was received from a local resident, to cut down a small tree in Greenvalley Avenue opposite her property. The Committee authorised the Grass Team to cut the tree down at ground level, to avoid causing any damages to the pavement.

AL 154 HAVISHAM DRIVE BENCHES

Complaints received with regards to antisocial behavior at Havisham Drive benches. CCTV may not pick up this issue as the benches are situated away

from the play park. Throughout the summer months the Council repeatedly cut hedges back, but the problem continued. After discussion, the Committee agreed to trial relocating the benches further down the footpath, where streetlights are, to deter the antisocial behavior away from residential properties. Police monitor the area regularly and there have been six reports of antisocial behavior within the last two weeks.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro **Seconded:** Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed with one (1) against.

RESOLVED: To trial relocating the benches further down the footpath by the streetlights to see if an improvement is made to the antisocial behavior reports.

AL 155 BUS HARD STANDINGS

Complaint received about bus hard standings and there not being a raised kerb. Committee felt it was an improvement on what was there before. Committee heard how there was no legislation about raised bus hard standings. In Queen Elizabeth Drive, the bus drops down to curb height and there have been no issues with pushchairs boarding. A bus hard standing costs approx. £3k to install and to lift would cost more. Request for a hard standing to be installed the other end of Queen Elizabeth Drive but the Committee need more specific information on the location as there is one outside Dydale Road and one near Tawny Owl.

AL 156 SMOKE-FREE PLAY PARKS

The Committee noted the report and after discussion agreed to the recommendations within the report.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown **Seconded:** Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with one (1) abstention.

RESOLVED: To purchase 38 smoke free signs for the play areas and begin a competition for the chosen design amongst the schools within the parish. £1257.42 to be coded to 4302/307 and 4308/307.

AL 157 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted Month 7 and 8's operational income and expenditure against budget report for the Parks & Open Spaces cost centre.

AL 158 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.

AL 159 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TENDER

The Committee heard from the tender scrutiny panel (Councillors R Hailstone, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, V Manro) and after discussion, resolved to approve the recommendations in the Clerk's report.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone **Seconded:** Councillor L Brown

VOTE: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council on the 17th December 2019 to award the Three Year 2020-2023 Grounds Maintenance Bushes/Shrubs/Hedges/Low-Level Tree Works to Countrywide Grounds

Maintenance Ltd. Total value for three years at a maximum of £109,418 excluding VAT. 2020/21 Year 1 will £35,400 excluding VAT with incremental rises in Years 2 & 3 to a maximum of 3% per year (or lower if prevailing published CPI inflation rate is lower than 3%). This selection is based on Countrywide Grounds Maintenance's thorough and well thought through tender response with competitive pricing structure.

AL 160 GRASS CUTTING RENEWAL

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

Proposed: Councillor V Manro **Seconded:** Councillor K Naik

VOTE: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To award Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd the Grass Cutting contract for the larger play areas in 2020/2021 for £11,587.00 per annum, this is an increase of 3% on last year's costs.

AL 161 HEDGE REDUCTION AREAS

To approve the quotation from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd to carry out a hedge reduction project, cutting hedges at selected junctions in the parish to 1.5ft to improve the visibility. As the hedges are being reduced rather than removed, there will be no correspondence sent to nearby residents, but various social media posts will be posted throughout the schedule.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes **Seconded:** Councillor A John

VOTE: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To award Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd the Hedge Reduction works to reduce the height of hedges at dangerous junctions to 1.5ft to improve the visibility. The maximum cost agreed £4,300.00 which includes a reduction of £400.00.

AL 162 VEHICLE REVIEW

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

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes **Seconded:** Councillor V Manro

VOTE: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. To part exchange the Renault Kangoo (MT11 CYV) for £1,800.00 and to purchase a second hand 2018 Ford Transit Custom for £14,995.00. £15,000 available in 605/4610.
2. To conduct a tender process in the new year to recruit a preferred mechanic from 2020 to work with the Parish Council and establish a trusted working relationship to carry out the MOTs, services, hydraulic tests, etc.
3. To further investigate costs for leasing options the POST vehicles to potentially go out to tender in 2020. This will include electric vehicle options.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman:

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