

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Haydon Wick.

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), L Brown, S Heyes, A John, V Manro, K Naik, R Ross and R Venkatesh

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

AL 163 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors E Baker Lee (Personal Commitments) and J Jackson (Personal Commitments).

AL 164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AL 165 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two (2) members of the public present. A resident of Hyssop Close/ Tawny Owl expressed concerns about the proposed wildflower meadows. Disappointed that residents of Hyssop Close received the letter on the same day as the Committee meeting, felt residents should have been informed prior to today as more may have wished to attend. This first came to light for the resident by loud voices behind hedges in front of her property discussing what the proposed plans were. The Committee noted her concerns and reassured her that a small area will be trialed, there will still be wide margins around the area that will be cut. The Council will revert back to mowing the areas if the wildflower meadows are not flourishing.

AL 166 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AL 167 MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro **Seconded:** Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed with (1) abstention.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

AL 168 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Venkatesh Resident complaint from Cagney Drive about hedges encroaching on the path and covering street signs. The Clerk reminded that any issues can be reported to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk to be resolved sooner.

Councillor R Hailstone Increase in break-ins in the area recently, many houses within half a mile of the Council Offices. Known of two reports within the last 6 weeks.

Initials_____

Councillor V Manro confirmed that he had met with police today, they confirmed that there is an increase in break-ins within Abbey Meads, Taw Hill and Oakhurst. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a Police Officer visited Office on 2nd January 2020 and informed of recent break-ins, a social media post was uploaded and reached 3000 people. Suggested a report and a notice to be vigilant could feature in next HW Living Magazine.

AL 169

CLERK'S REPORT

Laughton Way – Thames Water have accepted liability for the recent damages/removal to hedge on Laughton Way when carrying out repairs, they are raising a purchase order and will come back by the 20th January with a date for proposed works.

Request for Tree Planting – Request received from a resident to plant a tree on the open space between Seaton Close and Deben Close, as per previous requests, awaiting the outcome of the Tree Survey prior to making decisions and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Creation of Wildflower Implementation – To confirm the lead of this project. The Clerk is in the process of setting up an appointment with SBC to discuss their Wildflower project (the £85k Swindon-wide one) and would like the leader to be involved in discussions. Sarah McDermott has offered her time to attend. Anyone else interested?

AL 170

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING UPDATE

The Committee noted the Officers' report.

AL 171

PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone **Seconded:** Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. To proceed with Company B for the repair to the wet pour surface at Bowls Green at a cost of £5,255.00, as the most reasonable quality for the price quoted. Code to 4518/302.

AL 172

PARKS & OPEN SPACES TEAM (POST) STATISTICS

The Committee noted the Officers' verbal update. The amount of calls is reducing now approaching the winter months and is allowing time for leaf clearance, litter picking and general maintenance of street furniture and bins.

AL 173

BIN REMOVAL PROJECT

The Committee noted the Officers' report and after discussion, resolved to make small amendments to the recommendations within the report.

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

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. To move the existing litter bin on HL1 (Haydon End Lane) closer to the footpath so that it is visible Orchid Vale School.
2. To remove the dome top litter bin at Wicks Close/ High Street as there are two within 50 yards.

AL 174 BULB PLANTING

Councillor K Naik gave a verbal update on the arrangements for the Bulb Planting Project that will take place on the 22nd January 2020. A team of volunteers, staff and Councillors will plant daffodils on the roundabout junctions in Abbey Meads:

- Baxter Close/Timandra Close/Gaynor Close
- Honeylight View
- Dinmore Road/Kelly Gardens

Councillor R Hailstone also suggested planting snowdrops and bluebells in Little Copse as the area is a shaded woodland area it would be ideal for planting.

AL 175 WILDFLOWER CREATION

The Deputy Clerk confirmed the project leaders for the Wildflower Creations are Councillor S McDermott and Councillor R Hailstone.

Letters have gone out today to those who live within close proximity to the trial areas.

A suggestion received from the Grass Team to also plant primroses, lavender and dwarf heathers on steep banks and underpasses, which are often difficult to trim, to improve the appearance. After discussion, the Committee advised that lavender and heathers would not be practical for these locations but agreed to proceed with planting primroses.

AL 176 LAND AT TADPOLE LANE

The Clerk advised that a meeting has been arranged with the Civil Engineer at SDS Consultants to discuss the access gate and next steps for Tadpole Lane on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 3.30pm. Suggested that Councillors should come along to the meeting to offer some advice. An update will be brought to a future meeting.

AL 177 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted Month 8 and 9's operational income and expenditure against budget report for the Parks & Open Spaces cost centre.

AL 178 BUS SHELTER – TWEED CLOSE

The Committee heard the response from SBC's Highways Inspector with regards to the installation of the bus shelter at Tweed Close. *"The area is tarmacked already at the proposed location in Tweed Close so it would be ok from a hard standing point of view but the bus shelter you are proposing to move from Westfield Way is larger than the standard size bus shelter, so it would mean that on a 2m footpath there would then only be 1.3m to get double buggies/ wide wheelchairs through. The minimum is 1m but would not be recommended that close to the road.*

If purchased/used a smaller bus shelter - like the mesh one on Westfield Way, the above issue would be resolved.”

The verge on either side of the bus shelter has flooded recently so further research and analysis required.

AL 179 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 180 PLAY AREA SECURITY CONTRACT

Following concerns raised recently about the lack of communications with the existing play area security company, the Committee heard of a recent press release regarding the contractor operating without a Security Industry Authority (SIA) license.

The Committee discussed various options included offering the position to an operative in-house but concerns around the enforcement training and separating duties from personal lives would need to be explored. An SIA approved member of staff would be preferable.

With the renovations at Haydonleigh Skate Park, the opening hours may be reviewed, and the Committee suggested trialing operating without a security company between March – October to allow the youths to congregate in a safe environment, enhanced with lighting and CCTV. Artificial planning permissions of switching lights off at 9.00pm may be condition of lease so Officers will explore further. The floodlights at Haydonleigh Skate Park lack maintenance and at present there are no costings available for consideration.

May be more difficult to trial opening between March – October at King George 5th Field as there have been several reports of antisocial behavior by residents in the adjoining properties as the area is not well-lit and secluded.

Officers will continue to investigate and will provide an update to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.55pm

Chairman:

Initials_____