

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2020 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, A John, V Manro and R Ross
OFFICERS: Clerk, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk, Laura Cutter
OBSERVING: Councillor S McDermott

AL 181

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors K Naik (Personal Commitments) and A John (Work Commitments).

No apologies were received from Councillor R Venkatesh.

AL 182

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AL 183

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

AL 184

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

AL 185

MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Resolved to bring Agenda Item 12 forward.

AL 186

CREATION OF WILDFLOWERS AND BULB PLANTING

Councillor S McDermott gave a verbal update on a recent meeting held with The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to discuss the Creation of Wildflowers areas within Swindon. Particularly interested in their plans for Mouldon Hill as site is in our parish. WWT updated on "Project B-Line", which will ensure green pathways for the flow of pollinators throughout the country, which could be investigated further. Has concerns the recent bulb planting areas were not been identified formally and the Council should adopt a definitive list of what should be planted and when. It would be useful for the Council to liaise with SBC further to determine what their plans are in specified areas. Fears of overplanting in Abbey Meads and Haydon Wick, other areas such as Moredon, Oakhurst and Haydon End to be included. Meeting heard Councillors S McDermott

Initials_____

and R Hailstone are the lead councillors for planting and suggested a Planting Working Party is created, to include the Grass Team, to come up with a strategy. Members that wish to join the party should contact the Clerk outside of the meeting.

19.42 Councillor S McDermott left the meeting.

AL 187

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes Working with Councillor Renard and Justin Tomlinson (MP) about ongoing issues with vehicles driving over the footbridge from Penhill into Abbey Meads. Requests to SBC to put in some bollards to prevent this, have now been escalated to prevent any accidents. Police have acknowledged the issue and are supporting the requests for action to be taken. Will update at a future meeting.

Councillor E Baker Lee Recent reports of someone being mugged in the underpass near Morrisons, please be vigilant when in the area. Asked if there are any updates on the large flooded area on Old Blunsdon Road/Paddock Close. *The Deputy Clerk advised that this issue has been reported to the Highways Inspector (SBC) who advised that he has scheduled in a visit with the Drainage Team this week, to come up with a plan and an update will be available at a future meeting.*

Councillor L Brown Noticed some small trees, large branches and debris that came down following the recent Storm Ciara, which were dealt promptly by the Grass Team.

Councillor J Jackson Planted some daffodil bulbs over the weekend with the 7th Swindon (Abbey Meads) Scouts, Cubs & Beavers at Heaton Close play area. Nationwide team at Little Copse planting snowdrops and bluebells. A total of 750 daffodil bulbs were planted by a small group of volunteers in Westfield Way, Shepperton Way and Elstree Way roundabout junctions. Reported a large amount of fly tipping on Westfield Way. *The Deputy Clerk confirmed that this is too large for our teams to remove and SBC will be notified.*

Councillor V Manro Visited hedge reduction areas recently cut by Countrywide. Confirmed works have been carried out well, it will be easier to maintain within the schedules and improve visibility at road junctions. Some brambles also removed whilst Countrywide were in the area. Whilst in the area noticed some litter, so litter picked Shepperton Way with Councillor J Jackson.

AL 188

CLERK'S REPORT

Rose Walk – The fence with the notice board on by the outbuilding shed had come down in Storm Ciara, the Technical Assistants have 'made safe' and have marked as a priority to repair by the end of the week.

Initials_____

The car park renovations have now been done, plot holders have commented on how neat the work is and there is now more space for parking.

31a Rose Walk, requested a shed – happy with 3x3 base but said the height is slightly higher as cannot find a suitable small one – it is a corner plot and will not overshadow other plots, the height is 6'3 as the roof slopes. *Committee agreed this could go ahead.*

Storm Ciara Trees Down – Small trees and large overhanging branches have been removed promptly by the Grass Team; any large trees should be reported directly to SBC.

Street Smart – At a recent Clerks Forum, SBC Call Centre Manager, advised that street cleaning issues can be reported by parish councils on behalf of residents, by calling 01793 445501 to the housing repairs team. This solution was much quicker for parish councils to connect and will be easier than creating a member's hotline for parish councils. Further training will be done with the call centre staff about services parish councils offer and what remains with SBC.

Street Cleaning – During winter projects, streets are sometimes swept, leaf blown and/or tidied with a large dustpan and brush. There are some areas that SBC are unable to clear with the road sweeper as it is too large for some small windy roads. *To be discussed at next meeting and clarify Transfer of Services obligations.*

Signage at Moredon Park – Councillor Renard has contacted us to see if we know anything about the 'no ball games' signage at Moredon Park. It was suggested that as the area was only taken over in 2017 that the signage was placed there beforehand and does not belong to HWPC. *To be removed following meeting.*

Exam Success – Mark Weaving, POST Technical Assistant has passed his IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) course, which will assist him in his role of overseeing building maintenance and safety.

Insurance - An accident at Purton Road was reported to the office. Area in question was investigated by internal and external teams (confidential correspondence on file) and insurance company has been notified. No evidence of untidy areas following hedge cuts.

AL 189

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING UPDATE

The Committee noted the Officers' report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider.

Councillor L Brown left the meeting at 20.15 and returned at 20.17

AL 190

PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE

The Committee noted the Officers' report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. Councillor S Heyes gave a verbal update on items discussed at the recent play area working party:

- Skate Park Shelter - Councillor E Baker Lee to contact the skate park users to discuss requirements further

Initials_____

- Investigations ongoing for the potential for a graffiti wall at the Skate Park, with assistance from an urban artist - ideally voluntary run
- Following Officer attendance at RoSPA conference learned about 'Risky Play' – how sometimes the benefits outweigh the risks and some play parks have been made 'too safe' by British Standards
- Recent report of damage to Village Green play park, issue was fixed by Technical Assistants within two hours of being reported
- Annual RoSPA inspection in March and findings will be discussed at a future meeting.

AL 191

HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK

The Clerk gave a verbal update concerning Haydonleigh Skate Park. The exact build date cannot be confirmed until the access for delivery has been granted by SBC. SBC were not happy with suggestions of delivery put forward by contractors. No response at the time of the meeting. Councillor V Manro discussed the issue with SBC Highway Officers who suggested that temporary dropped kerb and crossing need to be put in place rather than ramps as suggested by contractor. Councillor V Manro requested further information from SBC as to where dropped kerbs for temporary construction have been requested elsewhere– will update at a future meeting. This addition to the works could increase the overall project cost. An article to update residents on the Skate Park will feature in the spring edition of Haydon Wick "Living" magazine.

The Committee received a draft proposal from the Parks & Projects Team about the relocation of the existing skate park equipment. Due to concerns of the quality of the equipment when dismantled, the current regulations and the ground surfaces for the proposed new location; it is suggested that the Council consider recycling the equipment and creating a dog agility park. Meeting had queries about the location and signage requirements, but overall the Committee were supportive of the idea and agreed for Officers to continue their investigations and bring to Full Council for further discussion.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed with one (1) against.

RESOLVED: For Officers to continue their investigation and bring a proposal for Full Council to consider.

AL 192

TIDY UP TEAM

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on work completed by the Tidy Up Team and the statistics of cases received and closed in January. Street cleaning pushcart is going out regularly. The Clerk advised that one member of the team is off with ill-health, but for the Committee to note there is a potential impact on the team being one staff member down.

Councillor E Baker Lee left the meeting at 20.43 and returned at 20.46

AL 193

CLIFFORD MEADOW/ HAYDON MEADOW

The Committee received an update from the Clerk and Councillor V Manro on Clifford Meadow. The land is managed by the land agent and the Council has tried and failed to receive an update concerning the unkempt

nature of the site. It was agreed that any future enquiries from concerned residents will be forwarded directly to the land agent.

Committee has strong concerns that the lack of maintenance in last two years will affect the rare orchids and SSSI status. Concerned it will be sold to housing developers. The Council to continue to voice their concerns with WWT, Natural England and SBC Planning.

Councillor J Jackson left the meeting at 20.46 and returned at 20.48

AL 194

TREE PLANTING

Received an offer from local company to fund tree planting within the parish to offset their carbon footprint. The Committee discussed potential locations and types of trees that could be planted, for example edible fruits, hedges and autumn colour. It was suggested that small trees that have come down in the recent bad weather could be replanted? Other ideas included planting trees in areas that are not suitable for recreation, such as steep slopes, etc. to improve the environment or to add some character to an area such as Clary Road field? Additionally, Woodlands Trust (WT) is giving out free packs designed for residential areas, with a mix of 3 native species (crab apple, rowan and hazel trees). Information about WT trees will be passed to local company to identify what type of trees they are purchasing for Council to draw up a list of suitable locations.

AL 195

VOLUNTEER WEEK

The Committee noted that the National Annual Volunteer Week commences on the 1st June 2020 and considered some projects that could be done within the parish. Any areas to be passed to the Clerk. The scheme has been shared on the Council's social media pages to generate some interest.

AL 196

SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor E Baker Lee gave a verbal update on matters arising at Seven Fields. King Bridge (in the middle of the field) is in a bad state. SBC has the funds but no resources. Repaired, stream is causing issues to the banks. Dogs going in streams. Work needs to be done to the banks. Level of engineering required. Councillor Jackson to do a site visit and report back.

AL 197

BUS SHELTER – TWEED CLOSE

The Committee received a verbal update from the Clerk concerning the ongoing consideration of a bus shelter at Tweed Close. The meeting was updated once again, that due to the location a shelter would need to be installed with a front and a top, so that pedestrians could still use the footpath. Statistics of how many people use the Dart Avenue bus stop should be established as visually the stop outside the Council Offices and the stop outside Greenmeadow Stores are the most used. Costs to install anti-vandal bus shelters throughout the parish will be sought. Further information on the Tweed Close request and costs for new shelters will be brought back to Committee at a future date.

AL 198

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 199

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

- Friendship benches

AL 200

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 201

CLERK'S REPORT

Members received a confidential update concerning the Council's current security provider. A further update to be reported at Full Council on 25th February 2020.

The meeting closed at 21.13

Chairman: