

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Haydon Wick.

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors L Brown (Chairman), E Baker Lee, S Callen, S Fateru, R Hailstone, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, I Liddon, S McDermott, V Manro, L Rhys-Jones, D Rodgers and R Venkatesh

OFFICERS: Clerk, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Finance Officer, Sandra Kelly

The meeting commenced at 19:37

FC 171

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J Fuller (personal commitments); Councillor K Naik (work commitments) and Councillor R Ross (personal commitments).

FC 172

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC 173

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public enquired about the Council's policy on needle disposal. Clerk confirmed there is a process which the Tidy up Supervisor oversees and works alongside Swindon Borough Council's environmental health. The resident also queried how the figures contained in the recent Police Crime and Commissioner report are affected by natural wastage. Councillor Manro is expecting a response to this and will update the resident once received.

FC 174

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminded members that their phones should be set to silent. A short presentation was held to congratulate the Clerk on passing the Community Governance Level 6 Foundation Degree with a Distinction.

FC 175

MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 with an amendment to November's minutes adding Councillor D Rodgers who was in attendance.

Proposed: Councillor S Callen Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

19:40 Councillor A Roupelis joined the meeting

FC 176

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor I Liddon Attended Police advisory group. New Inspector. Some good discussions took place. Local

Initials _____

Swindon Guide group volunteered to plant bulbs on top of bus shelters or any other projects they can help with.

Councillor S Fateru Stealing taking place around Swindon - in particular, occurrences of catalytic converters.

Councillor A John Caroline Roberts, the previous Assistant Clerk, sends her regards to everyone.

Councillor D Rodgers More thefts and car break-ins taking place on the outskirts of the Parish.

19:45 Councillor S Heyes joined the meeting

Councillor J Jackson Heaton Close continue to have vandalism issues.

Councillor V Manro Reminded members to submit their comments to latest stage of Local Plan Review. Mouldon Hill – plan in motion following grant funding to create some ponds for great crested newts, to develop the area and wildlife. Will be kept in a non-public part of the park. Will take this to Amenities & Leisure to discuss further. Starting in March, all lampposts will be replaced with LED bulbs and concrete posts will be replaced or covered to make more secure. Councillor R Hailstone reported Wicks Close needs attending to.

FC 177

SWINDON WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor David Renard: Lampposts - recently replaced one in Holliday Close which was a safety hazard. He will follow up on Councillor R Hailstone's report. Traffic speed from Whitworth Road into Thames Avenue- draft proposals to mitigate speed will be going in so feedback any comments to Councillor Renard. Clerk to send the Council's previously submitted responses to Councillor Renard.

Councillor Steve Heyes: Echoes report from Councillor S Fateru with regards to issues with cars being stolen. Campaigning for rights of greyhounds to be looked after with new stadium being developed with the aim to have it properly inspected.

FC 178

CLERK'S REPORT

There was no report from the Clerk.

FC 179

WILTSHIRE & SWINDON PCC PRECEPT CONSULTATION

Consultation went out before the group knew what the central funding will be and funding granted was slightly higher than anticipated. For an average Band D Household there will be a £10 increase. There are 49 new officers in the system but they are not out in the field yet as they are completing their training. 20/21 – 41 more new officers. It will take a number of years to train them. Recruiting more PSOs and admin staff. Councillor A John asked if it is a good idea that all police officers should have degree?

Initials _____

FC 180

BUDGET 2020/21

The meeting heard how tonight's budget and the priority of various capital projects had been discussed in previous working party meetings and committee meetings since October last year. The proposed budget includes various capital project aspirations for the coming financial year. Councillor S McDermott queried if the slight reduction in the tax base for 2020/21 impacts on the precept calculations - Clerk confirmed the reduction was is too insignificant to make a difference.

The budget and precept were then discussed and agreed together.

Chair of Policy & Finance, Councillor S Callen, presented the three budget and precept models which had been considered by the Policy & Finance Committee (P&F). The model being recommended by P&F included a depot feasibility study for the Parks & Open Spaces Team (POST), a Community Engagement Officer and would use some of the Council's General Reserves to off-set the cost of the precept to the residents. The proposed model would require a budget of £822,375.57 and represent a 9% increase in the precept compared to last year, at £91.23 per year for the average Band D household.

Councillor L Rhys-Jones presented an amendment with Councillor L Brown seconding, to include two additional staff roles for the Parks & Open Spaces Team once the outcome of the depot feasibility had been completed, with any remaining budget to assist with funding these additional salaries.

Proposed: Councillor L Rhys-Jones Seconded: Councillor L Brown
Vote: All voted against.
RESOLVED: Vote not carried.

The meeting acknowledged that once the feasibility was complete its findings and any recommendations would need to be discussed further at Full Council.

The original proposal was discussed again and the budget confirmed for 2020/21 would be £822,375.57.

Proposed: Councillor S Callen Seconded: Councillor I Liddon
Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.
RESOLVED: To accept the recommendation from Policy & Finance Committee to set the budget for 2020/21 at £822,375.57.

FC 181

PRECEPT 2020/21

The agreed budget of £822,375.57 represents a 9% increase in the precept compared to last year, at £91.23 per year for the average Band D household.

Proposed: Councillor S Callen Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis
Vote: Agreed with one (1) abstention.

RESOLVED: To set the precept at £91.23 per year for the average Band D household.

The Chair reminded members they should have a unified response when commenting on the Council's precept.

FC 182

PRECEPT PRESS RELEASE

Councillor V Manro provided a draft press release for members to discuss prior to it going out for public information. Some amendments were discussed and accepted.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To accept the draft press release with amendments discussed and agreed.

FC 183

RESERVES POLICY

Members received and agreed the amended policy to include the updated Earmarked Reserves for 2020/21.

Proposed: Councillor S Callen Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To adopt the amended Reserves Policy for 2020/21.

FC 184

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION – PASSPORT SERVICES EVENT

Councillor R Venkatesh explained to Council he will be using his Councillor position and title at this event. The Indian High Commission have agreed to send representatives to Swindon to assist with the Indian community getting their passports. The event takes place on 2nd February 2020 and publicity for the event had already gone out. The meeting discussed the councillor's position and usage of his title and their concerns that this was a Swindon-wide event and not related to the Parish Council. It was acknowledged the Commission would inherently recognise and use a councillor's title. After further discussion, the meeting acknowledged the Clerk and Councillor S McDermott could discuss this matter further with Councillor R Venkatesh and explain title uses in more detail, bringing any anomalies to a future meeting.

FC 185

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To provide to the Clerk at least a week before the meeting.

FC 186

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: Commercially Sensitive.

20.45 Councillor D Rodgers left the meeting.

FC 187

INSURANCE RENEWAL

The meeting heard the Council's general insurance policy was due for renewal. Last year's premium was £4,216.68. The Council's existing insurance brokers have provided three quotations:

Company A £3,106.85

Company B £4,216.68

Company C £5,169.14

Another provider has been contacted who the Council recently used for the vehicle insurance:

Company D £3,175.50.

It was acknowledged these prices will be increased by approximately £200 to include additional cover needed for the value of the Council's playparks. It was agreed to give the delegated authority to the Clerk to negotiate a three-year policy with an annual premium up to £3,375.

**Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone
VOTE: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: To give delegated authority to the Clerk to negotiate a three-year policy with an annual premium up to £3,375.

The meeting closed at 20.50

Chairman: