

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.30pm held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors L Brown (Chairman), E Baker Lee, S Callen, J Fuller, S Fateru, R Hailstone, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, S McDermott, V Manro, K T Naik, D Rodgers, R Ross, L Rhys-Jones, A Roupelis and R Venkatesh.

OFFICERS: Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy RFO/ Policy & Finance Officer, Sandra Kelly
Deputy Clerk/Amenities & Leisure Officer, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces (POST), David Hunt

MEETING ROOM PRESENCE: Chief Officer/Clerk and Deputy RFO/Policy & Finance Officer

FC 193 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

FC 194 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

FC 195 SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor D Renard (Haydon Wick): Planning issue at The Brow property. Planning Officer spoken to residents and carried out regular inspections. Work is carried out as planned so there are no justified objections. Officers are keeping a close eye on it. Councillor Renard considers the Planning Officer has followed the correct procedures. Councillor Fuller responded the building is not occupied and still having utilities fitted so supports fact that it is unoccupied and would not fall within those permitted development rights guidelines. The Parish Council's concerns have been sent to the Borough Council.

Thames Avenue Speed humps causing problems during the snowy conditions. Councillor Renard requested any comments be sent and he will follow up with Highways Officer. Councillor Hailstone pointed out the importance of local knowledge to understand the impact the scheme would have.

Councillor S Heyes (St Andrews): Confirmed City Fiber working through Haydon Wick this February and will see pavements being dug up.

FC 196 WILTSHIRE & SWINDON POLICE CRIME AND COMMISSIONER'S (PCC) PRECEPT CONSULTATION & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council noted the PCC's Precept public consultation dates 5th January – 2nd February 2021. There was one member of public present who made no representation to the Council.

FC 197 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following joint statement from the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council was read out to the meeting.

Initials _____

“This Parish Council does not use our Vexatious and Habitual Complainant policy lightly or without reasonable cause or provocation. We will respond in a robust manner to anyone who continues to ignore the requirements of the policy.

We enact this policy when one person’s claims and/or allegations are taking up too much time and resource to resolve. Allegations which are wasteful in terms of the Parish Clerk, Officers, Councillors’ time and displace scarce human resources that could otherwise be spent on Council priorities, especially during this difficult time due to the covid virus.

Whilst our staff will endeavour to respond with patience and be sympathetic to the needs of all complainants and contacts, there are times when there is nothing further which can reasonably be done to assist or to rectify a real or perceived problem of a single person. We have a whole parish to run for the benefit of all parishioners.

As employers, Councillors have a duty of care to ensure and enforce the most robust protection we can offer to our staff, and to extend that care to fellow Parish Councillors, if need be. Our policy ensures that this Parish Council will not allow for continuous, persistent and repetitive contact with a single employee, as this could be classed as harassing and victimising of that employee and has the potential to cause mental anguish.

Simply put, this is bullying. We will not tolerate it”.

FC 198 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members received and approved the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2020, subject to amending page 74 regarding planning.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed with four (4) abstentions.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2020 be agreed, subject to amending page 74, and signed as a correct record in office following the meeting.

FC 199 COUNCIL’S BUDGET, RESERVES & PRECEPT 2021/22

The meeting received a recommendation from Policy & Finance Committee to approve a budget £851,158.71 which equates to a 3.5% increase in the precept compared to last year. This represents a precept of £94.51 per annum for a Band D household which is an increase of £3.28 per annum compared to last year. The Reserves were also presented, and it was noted the Footpath Project at £3,000 had been reinstated. It was confirmed there were Earmarked Reserves to the value of £66,750.00 and General Reserves to the value of £437,871.00. The Clerk also confirmed that in view of the ongoing pandemic and lockdown conditions it was necessary to change the governance arrangements when submitting the precept demand to Swindon Borough Council to allow for electronic signatures instead of wet signatures.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the 2021/22 budget and reserves as presented and set a precept of £851,158.71. This represent £94.51 per annum for a Band D household which is an increase of £3.28 per annum compared to last year or 3.5%. To note the changes to the governance arrangements when submitting the precept demand to Swindon Borough Council.

FC 200 RESERVES POLICY

Members noted the Financial Reserves Policy 2021 as presented.

FC 201 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor E Baker Lee Attended a virtual VAS-Live Voluntary Sector Leaders meet the local MPs session where it was acknowledged the important work of the Voluntary Sector during the pandemic. Notes of the session will be circulated to the Community Development working party.

Councillor R Hailstone Suggested the missing grit bin near the Morrison's subway is reported to SBC to reinstate.

FC 202 CLERK'S REPORT

Last stage of the winter flail works schedule is being finished now. Couple of areas left which involve the tractor and some areas need to be cut with hand tools due to the ground conditions being too wet following heavy rain fall. These areas should be completed within the next few days – these include Catmint and Pond Street. Trent Road was topped and straightened yesterday by hand.

FC 203 NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

To be passed to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting on 23rd February 2021. Two items were suggested for a future meeting: a periodic review of motions/projects and their status and ideas to memorialise the efforts of the pandemic.

FC 204 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 will be instructed to withdraw'. Reason: Commercial & Confidential Matters.

Councillor Renard, the resident and the Head of POST left the meeting.

FC 205 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT – LARGE AREAS

The meeting received a report to recommend suspending Financial Regulations 11.1A, 11.1E and Standing Orders 18A to enable the Council to continue with the existing Grounds Maintenance Contractor (Countrywide) for the grass cutting of the 10 sites (large open spaces) in 2021, for one year, at a cost of £10,243.35 + VAT. The reason for the suspension is to maintain the current suppliers during the pandemic.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor S Callen

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To suspend Financial Regulations 11.1A, 11.1E and Standing Orders 18A to enable the Council to continue with the existing Grounds Maintenance Contractor (Countrywide) for the grass cutting of the 10 sites (large open spaces) in 2021, for one year, at a cost of £10,243.35 + VAT. The reason for the suspension is to maintain the current suppliers during the pandemic.

FC 206 KING GEORGE V (KGV) PLAY PARK INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PLAY EQUIPMENT

The meeting received a report to recommend the installation of accessible play equipment at King George V play area during the resurfacing project currently taking this month. At Amenities & Leisure Committee on 12th January, Councillors approved the Officers' proposal of adding two mulch rubber footpaths from each gate into the play areas, to enable KGV Play Area to be wheelchair and pushchair friendly. Further to this proposal, it was suggested whilst the play area is under construction and disabled access will feature in the design, the Council should consider installing some disabled friendly equipment to add some additional play value. The Officers have spoken to Benjamin's Smile Charity and given their feedback on the choice of equipment. After discussion and further endorsement from the Play Area Working Party, the meeting agreed to purchase disabled friendly/ accessible play equipment up to the value of £4,272.02 using existing budgets as detailed:

- a) GB Sport & Leisure £1,472.02 for sensory boards and totem poles.
- b) All Inclusive £2,795.00 for a basket swing.
- c) And the purchase of materials to create two goal posts at a cost of £1,000.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously

RESOLVED: To purchase disabled friendly/ accessible play equipment up to the value of £4,272.02 from [4513/302] for GB Sport & Leisure £1,472.02: sensory boards and totem poles and All Inclusive £2,795.00: a basket swing. A further £1,000 was allocated from [4518/302] for the materials to create two goal posts.

FC 207 VEXATIOUS RESIDENT

The Chairman and Vice Chairman provided further background to the statement received earlier in the meeting concerning the Council's decision to enforce the Habitual Complainant & Vexatious Policy on a member of the public. The Vice Chairman added that all Councillors are unified in this decision and how the staff have managed this issue very well under difficult circumstances. A letter from the Council will be sent to the resident.

The meeting closed at 20.25

Chairman _____

Initials _____