

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm remotely via Teams.

ATTENDENCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), E Baker Lee, L Brown, S Heyes, J Jackson, A John, V Manro, R Ross and R Venkatesh

OFFICERS: Clerk, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, David Hunt

ATTENDANCE IN THE OFFICE: None.

AL 072

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor K T Naik (Work Commitments).

AL 073

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor V Manro declared an interest in Item 14 – Mouldon Hill Country Park, Forest Meadows Project as he has been involved in discussions as the SBC Ward Councillor for Priory Vale.

AL 074

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

AL 075

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

AL 076

MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2020.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record when physical meetings resume.

AL 077

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor V Manro

Reported the 'COVID-19 memorial' initiative he has seen recently in the press. The memorials are cherry blossom trees planted in a circle, in memory of residents that have died from the virus. Councillors to report back with any suitable locations ready for a discussion in February.

Councillor S Heyes

Received notification from City Fiber that new installations of fiberoptic broadband will be carried out in the Haydon Wick area from the end of January until March. May receive some reports of untidiness whilst installations take place.

Councillor R Hailstone

Reported that SBC has now completed the tree works on the Oak Tree adjacent to a property on

Thames Avenue. Overall a good job has been done keeping the appearance and shape but reducing significantly.

AL 078

CLERK'S REPORT

National Lockdown #3

The allotment sites and parks remain open during the national lockdown. MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas) should be closed but due to the low level fences it is impossible for us to close off. Hopefully, usage is in household bubbles only, have not received any complaints or observations of overcrowding. Will continue to monitor.

Haydonleigh Skatepark

Skate park is currently closed due to the national lockdown, further details about this in Parks & Projects report. Lighting has been de-energised at a cost of £79.00 + VAT, Councillor V Manro is looking into the option of solar lighting which we may be able to consider further in the spring. Also the planning application for the fencing is going through the planning process – the application features on the Planning & Highways agenda for next week. Planning Officer came back with further enquiries regarding the drawings submitted. *Councillor Brown confirmed that she can assist and will discuss this with the Deputy Clerk outside of the meeting.*

Plastic Free Swindon

The Deputy Clerk and the Community Development Officer will be attending a meeting next week with Plastic Free Swindon to discuss the next steps and identify ways in which the Council could promote the campaign within the Community. If Councillors would be interested in attending let the Officers know and the details for the meeting can be shared.

Dog Fouling

Several areas of dog mess reported on social media. An enforcement log has been kept but no issues reported of late – seems that the issue is on the rise again. New signage to be printed and displayed, this deterred some waste from Rose Walk. Unfortunately, the trial wildflower area on Old Blunsdon Road is full of dogs' mess.

AL 079

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

The Committee noted the Officer's report. Hot topics include the Trees 4 Climate programme – SBC will be planting 350 hectares of forest areas over the next 3 years and the Queen's Green Canopy – trees planted to mark the Queen's 70th Jubilee in 2022; this will be launched from May 2021. Update on recent site visit to Thames Avenue/Broadway, matter to be escalated to SBC Planning Enforcement.

AL 080

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING AND WINTER PROJECTS

The Committee noted the Officers' Grass & Hedge Cutting report and received a verbal update from the Head of POST on the winter projects and work scheduling for January – March 2021. The Committee reviewed the update from the hedge cutting Contractors and were advised of several areas of hedge / low level tree work undertaken by the Grass Team. Due to the pandemic, the Committee were asked to consider waiving financial regulations and standing orders to continue with our existing large area grass cutting contractors to avoid a change in the service during a national emergency. This will be an item for discussion at January's Full Council.

AL 081

PARKS & PROJECTS

The Committee noted the Officers' report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. An update was given about the closure of the Skate Park and the Committee heard how the Youth Worker has been tasked with progressing other areas of youth engagement whilst the Skate Park is closed. Projects for them include creating competitions to run throughout lockdown, designing the youth engagement part of the website, sharing ideas for future workshops and Easter activities.

AL 082

TIDY UP

A verbal update was given from the Head of POST to advise the Committee of the works completed from the 5th December to date. A reminder to Councillors that the winter projects lists can be added to by emailing items for attention to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

AL 083

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

The Committee reviewed the new tools and equipment wish list submitted by the Head of Parks & Open Spaces. Some items to the value of £500.00 has been agreed between the Clerk & the Head of POST using existing budget. After receiving quotations, the Officers' recommended purchasing a trial set of battery powered tools, with a spare set of batteries from Lister Wilder. It was confirmed that is sufficient space at the current depot to charge the items.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson Seconded: Councillor L Brown

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To purchase a kit of Husqvarna battery powered tools from Lister Wilder with spare batteries at a total cost of £2,210.00 excluding VAT [307/4616 – funds available £4,135].

AL 084

APPROVED TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (S/TPO/20/0996)

The Committee noted that a Tree Preservation Order has been approved for replacement tree in Guernsey Lane.

AL 085

MOULDON HILL COUNTRY PARK – FOREST MEADOWS PROJECT

The Head of POST gave a verbal update on a recent site visit to Mouldon Hill with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Works are due to begin at Mouldon Hill Country Park thanks to funding from Network Rail. This is a part of the Swindon Forest Meadow project, a partnership between Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust running over three years. In this case The Greater Western Programme will fund work to improve the habitats on the tree mound within Mouldon Hill Country Park, planted in 1990. Some of the planned work includes:

- Management of scrub areas
- Thinning of ash plantations
- Creation of glades
- Placement of bird, and bat boxes
- Planting of woodland wildflower

Volunteering events have been delayed and rethought, due to the recent government restrictions. New events have been arranged for:

- 18th – 21st January
- 25th – 28th January
- 8th – 11th February
- 22nd – 24th February

The dates will be promoted on the Council's social media pages.

AL 086

SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor E Baker Lee advised of queries about the bogginess of the footpaths joining the fields. The Council will use wood chippings for this area and plan some maintenance in for the footpaths, so they are kept a bit tidier. Newly created Liaison Group is set to have its first meeting shortly – this comprises of four members currently and should establish a stronger connection between the Parish Council and the Seven Fields Conservation Group.

AL 087

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted Month 9 income and expenditure report for Parks & Open Spaces cost centres.

AL 088

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting. Tree Planting was requested.

AL 089

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.

AL 090

POST DEPOT FEASIBILITY

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chair of the POST Depot Feasibility Working Party on site visits that took place recently. Further options are still being investigated and there are currently no recommendations.

AL 091

VEHICLES

The Committee received an update on the current vehicle situation. It was confirmed there is no sense in mending the DFSK Loadhopper and it will be advertised for sale for spare parts on the Council's Facebook site. In relation to the stolen vehicle, a settlement figure is still in negotiation with the insurance providers, an estimated value has been received and it is hoped to offset some of these costs into the hire of a new vehicle for a 16 week period. In line with Covid19 risk assessment smaller partnership bubbles are needed and an additional vehicle requested for the Head of POST and the Hybrid Operative. The Officers recommended a 16 week hire vehicle which was agreed.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the cost of a hire vehicle for a 16 week period at the cost of £3,328.00 [4610/605]

AL 092

KING GEORGE V PLAY AREA – SAFETY SURFACING

The Committee noted the report and the additional costs associated with the resurfacing. The Committee considered the proposal to install a mulch footpath at the same time as the construction in February making access to KGV play area easier for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Any surplus expenditure in the existing budget can be used to offset against additional equipment such as goal posts and other items to increase the play value.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor A John
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve Vitaplay's cost of an additional £12,656.92 exc VAT for the resurfacing of the small toddler play area and the mulch footpath between both play areas.**
- 2. To improve accessibility to the parks for Vitaplay to install mulch footpaths between the main gate to the large play area and the small play area to the side gate by the Scout Hut at a cost of £11,784.00 exc VAT (includes 15% reduction).**
- 3. For any remaining funds to be spent on goal posts and other equipment for additional play value.**

AL 093

TREE QUOTATIONS

The Deputy Clerk presented a report evidencing the regular chasing of tree work quotations over the last six months. As the remediation works should be completed within 12 months of date the were identified under the tree survey and birds nesting season is imminent, it was agreed to review the two quotations received. After discussion, the Committee agreed to the Officers' recommendations within the report.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor L Brown

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve and accept a quotation from Company B for £1,900.00 + VAT for the next scope of tree works as identified by the Tree Survey 2020.

The meeting closed at 21.02

Chairman: