

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes, R Hailstone, J Jackson, S McDermott, E Baker Lee, J Fuller, B Patrick-Okoh, S Fateru, A John, L Rhys-Jones, L Brown, R Ross and A Roupelis.

DEPUTY CLERK Laura Cutter

STAFF Jill Sharp, Dave Hunt, Johanna Edwards, Joanne Newman, Kate New and Darry New

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE There were six (6) members of the public in attendance.

APM 8 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors, D Rodgers, S Callen, (Personal Commitments) and Councillor, K T Naik and R Venkatesh. (Work Commitments). Also from Swindon Borough Councillor D Renard.

APM 9 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor V Manro greeted the assembly as per his report, particularly with regards to the current situation in Ukraine and how the Parish Council can support the humanitarian aid. Other topics also included the budget and precept plans over the next three years. Also the future strategy for the next 5 years. Councillor V Manro thanked all the Councillors, Staff and particularly the Volunteers who continue to help drive us in the future for our residents.

APM 10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meeting held on 19th March 2019. No meetings were held since due to COVID 19.

**Proposed: Councillor S McDermott Seconded: Councillor L Rhys-Jones
Vote: Agreed with four (4) abstentions**

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

APM 11 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES

Parks and Open Spaces – Councillor R Hailstone

Presented the report which included and highlighted the refurbishment of the skate park which has been an enormous success. The introduction of the mini road sweeper and the positive comments from residents received since its introduction. Advised of the refurbishment of Luna Close and Gaynor Close Play areas. Also the commitment of the Parish Council of the decarbonisation programme having made provision in the budget to trial two electric vehicles which will replace the existing diesel tipper trucks. Councillor R Hailstone mentioned the Parks & Open Spaces Committee is pressing ahead with the provision of a Ground Maintenance Facility which is currently with the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) planning office. Most recently have completed the Spring bulb planting and the planting of 1,070 trees at Tadpole field which will form part of the Great Western Community Forest and Queen's Green Canopy project.

Councillor R Hailstone also thanked all involved in these projects, in particular, the Councillors, Staff and volunteers, without whom some projects would not have been possible.

Community Development – Councillor E Baker Lee

Presented the report which listed the responsibilities of the Committee as it is a new Committee that was set up in 2021. Although it has been a challenging year with the pandemic but there has still been a great deal has been achieved by the team. Highlighted was a grant of £12,000.00 to provide a service chosen by residents. This was the BEST (Be A Better You) which held several sessions of boxing, mixed martial arts, and other activities for the youth of the parish. Also a very new venture the “Memory Café” which has now become an integral part of the calendar offering joyful experiences for the clients and their carers. Christmas Parcels – supported over 150 residents over the age of 75, to provide some of the essential food for the festive season. Alongside all of these is the activities for young people including crafts, competitions during school holidays, making greetings cards for the various occasions e.g. Easter, Mothering Sunday and the introduction with the help of a professional artist a graffiti art workshop. Sincere thanks were given to all the Councillors, Staff and particularly the Volunteers without whom the Parish would not have been able to offer many of the projects and services.

Policy and Finance – Councillor L Rhys-Jones

Presented the report in which it was noted that due to the COVID pandemic, revenues were reduced. However, changes to the office space, there is now an additional meeting room for up to ten (10) people that will shortly be ready to hire out. As ever, the Committee continue to look for ways to ensure that parish residents get value for money and flexibility by reviewing investments and reserves. During the budget and precept process for the next three years, been incredibly careful to balance the financial uncertainty that many residents face. As a Council we are proud to have managed to expand our service provision with more community development, enhanced our open spaces and play park maintenance and managed to keep the precept increase to a minimum of £4.37 per year for a band D household. Our hope is that during 2022-2023 it will prove less eventful on the worldwide stage and we are able to successfully delivery our planned projects and continue to provide a quality service to the whole community.

Planning and Highways – Councillor S McDermott

Presented the report advising that a large part of the work during the COVID restrictions has been planning application to enhance homes. These include a range of subjects, Local Transport, Cycling & Walking plans. The Local Plan is a document produced by Swindon Borough Council. The Local Plan 2026 is the main planning policy document, it sets out how much housing, employment, and retail development the Borough Council needs to provide by 2026 and where these sites should be located. The Local Plan also describes the infrastructure needed to enable this development to take place. Our response to the Local Plan was to highlight the need to protect the green space to the Northeast of Moulden Hill, which forms part of the area known locally as Pry Farm. The Parish Council requested that the area that extends North from Mouldon Hill to the Swindon & Cricklade Station at Blunsdon, bounded to the East by Oakhurst and the East by the Wiltshire & Swindon border, should be designated as Landscape & Green Infrastructure Strategic Green Corridor.

APM 12 COMMUNITY CHOICES AND STRATEGY UPDATE

Councillor V Manro showed a short roundup video of some of the events and achievements over the past 12 months.

Explained the Your Community Matters questionnaire feedback is that it has been well received and the report will be forthcoming. This in turn will assist in creating a five (5) year strategy now being put in place as well as the budget factoring in the rising costs.

APM 13 REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

- **Twigs Community and The Olive Tree** – The grant given has this year been used as per the application of art materials for therapy/confidence builder/increase of garden awareness. There are eight (8) sessions arranged for the year. The paper materials have made the most difference to our participants.
- **Search & Rescue** – Have booked a member of the rescue team on to the specialist Water Search Course. Water rescue is very specialist rescue as it is dangerous for both victim and rescuer. This means there will be two members who will make such a difference and will save lives Thanked the Councillors, Staff and the residents of Haydon Wick.
- **BEST – Be a better You** – Thanked the Council for inviting them to the meeting. Following the success of last years events and this years funding, it has allowed us to increase the number of young people to enjoy the physical events and therefore extended the activities to include such things as football.

APM 14 HAYDON WICH HERO PRESENTATIONS

The Deputy Clerk and Youth Worker presented the awards to the following:

- Phillip Eagle – Volunteer of the Year
- Phillip Jefferies – Fabulous Fundraiser of the Year
- Ade Cartman – Young Achiever of the Year

APM 15 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no questions but one member of the public did say that they thought the Youth programme during an exceedingly difficult year for them had been incredible and extremely valuable in particular the one's suffering anxiety and the like and thanked all involved.

APM 16 CLOSE OF MEETING AND DRINKS RECEPTION

The Chairman asked if there were any questions – there were none. Therefore the Chairman thanked everyone for coming, invited everyone to partake in the light refreshments set out and closed this year's meeting.

The meeting closed at **20.20**

Chairman _____

Initials _____