

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Councillors R Ross (Chairman) B Patrick-Okoh (Vice Chair), E Baker Lee, R Hailstone, S McDermott, J Jackson, K Naik and V Manro.

OFFICERS: Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Community Development Officer, Caroline Hunt
Youth & Community Co Ordinator, Kate New
Senior Administrator, Jill Sharp

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Pullen, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

CD 044

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor R Venkatesh, (work commitments).

CD 045

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

CD 046

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nine (9) members of the public were present: Three made representation under Agenda Item 8 – Happy to Chat Benches.

1. As a resident, who lives close to the proposed locations, and with the support of neighbours, strongly objects to either site suggested due to the anti-social behaviour being experienced, mainly during evening and night hours but also during the day. There has been a criminal element gathering, drug dealing, intimidation, used condoms thrown over fences where there are young children and always foul language, in our opinion, they seem to be a magnet for anti-social behaviour. It is a walk through and not a play or open space area. Have been advised that following some research, the streetlight would only show shadows with the light span area. Also, with regards to the Police, bearing in mind the other demands on them within the Swindon area do not consider this to be viable. Thanked Councillors D Renard and J Jackson for their support and attendance at site visits.
2. Another member of the public also mentioned that her daughter during daytime hours was walking with her dogs and felt very intimidated by a bunch of young people on bikes and worried for her personal safety.
3. Has emailed strong objections to the Chief Officer (CO) with objections.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and expressing their objections and that the Committee will discuss it under the agenda item.

CD 047

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 and the Chair of the Committee signed the minutes.

Proposed: Councillor S McDermott

Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

CD 048

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

CD 049

MOULDON HILL

Members received a presentation from Neil Pullen representing Wiltshire Wildlife Trust details who since July 2020 have been working on behalf of the Rotary Club, Woodland project and the Network Rail Greater West Programme. A gang of volunteers have improved the site, widening rides, scalloping edges to paths, scrub cleared, thinned trees, cut and raked meadows, diversified structure of scrub grasslands matrix, erected bird and bat boxes, planting wildflowers, surveyed and monitoring wildlife and hosted many walks and talks and this even considering COVID 19, Volunteers have been amazing working in excess of 995 hours. Wild Landscape teams were contracted to undertake major works of tree felling and clearance works. There have been many dramatic increases, to mention but a few:

- Species such a pyramidal orchids and wildflowers cover areas that had once been dense scrub.
- Visitors are able to walk along widened rides and do not have to contend with narrow muddy slopes or thorns.
- Species such as harvest mouse, slow worm, small eggar moth and the Brown hairstreak butterfly have benefitted Individual volunteers have gain new skills and confidence.
- Two university students have benefited from long term placements.
- The health and well-being of participants has dramatically improved.

Having talked to volunteers and many others with a purpose of continuing the improvement of the site, the proposal is to develop a wider volunteer group and to include partners and to establish a 'Friends of Mouldon Hill Group'. Councillor Hailstone advised the approximately 20 years ago a fund was set aside by SBC to improve and upgrade the facilities and wonder if that fund was still available. Councillor Manro advised that it was still ring fenced and he is and will continue to monitor. The Committee agreed to offer support and Councillor Manro will report back at a future meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation and would be in touch at a later date.

19.54 Neil Pullen left the meeting.

CD 050

MEMORY CAFÉ

Members received the report and noted the many events which have proved successful plus the new proposed events which are to be hosted and include information for domestic services and legal advice. It was again emphasised that further help to improve inclusion and reduce possible isolation is at the forefront of the project.

CD 051

HAPPY TO CHAT BENCHES

Members received a report which summarised the background of the Happy to Chat benches project and results of a recent consultation. The benches were installed as a trial on the Hamble Road/ Thames Avenue footpath in November 2021. Their aim was to help break down the barriers of social isolation and to get people talking. The benefits of these benches have been demonstrated by other similar initiatives across the country, and studies have found that providing benches allows people to spend longer outside, which is beneficial for mental health and helps to connect people within communities. In June 2022 the benches had to be removed due to numerous reports of anti-social behaviour during the evening hours. The decision to remove the benches was not an easy one and priority was given to those residents directly affected by the behaviour. A consultation opened in July asking residents for their feedback on two new locations. This included posters in the vicinity of the locations, letters hand delivered to residents in houses in Hamble Road, Frome Road and Avonmead and an online survey. The two locations were chosen because they were near streetlights, near the footpath, and less visible from neighbouring properties. The consultation was open for two weeks and received 38 responses. The result of the consultation showed that most respondents were against the proposed two new locations. Whilst there was general support for the project and its aim there was considerable concern about where the benches should go – many stating that it was imperative Council found the right location to try and mitigate any further anti-social behaviour. After a through discussion, and noting the public concerns made earlier in the meeting, Committee resolved not to relocate the benches to either of the proposed locations, further agreeing to investigate alternative locations that would be in larger open spaces, with a different configuration of one or two benches and to be near roads or well-lit streetlights. These locations would be investigated and brought to a future meeting.

Proposed: Councillor S McDermott

Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Not to relocate the benches to either of the proposed locations. To investigate alternative locations that were in larger open spaces, with a different configuration of one or two benches and to be near roads or well-lit streetlights. The alternative locations would be investigated and brought to a future meeting.

20.08 Six (6) members of the public left the meeting.

20.08 Councillor J Jackson left and at 20.09 returned.

CD 052

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE: 2ND JUNE 22

Members received the report and noted how successful the event was noting the lessons learnt for future events.

CD 053

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING: 15TH JULY 22

Members received and noted the report. Due to COVID 19 contracted by two of the Amateur Dramatic Society it had to be cancelled. The event had to be rearranged as a Quiz Night as the food had already been ordered and paid for. Most ticketholders still attended and the evening was successful. Additionally raising £150 for the Unicef Children of Ukraine in the raffle where local businesses had kindly donated prizes over £700. Another date has been booked for October 7th but regrettably the Drama Society are fully booked. Members discussed cancelling the date but agreed to retain it and organise a different type of event. The Youth & Community Co Ordinator will report back at the next meeting. It was acknowledged that it was the quick thinking of the coordinator which ensured the event went ahead and Members expressed their gratitude.

CD 054

NORTH SWINDON ORBITAL SUMMER ACTIVITES FAIR: 16TH JULY 22

Members received a verbal update from the Officer and Councillors in attendance at the above event. It was well attended by members of the public and the weather was hot and sunny. Good engagement taking away some comments about overgrown vegetation and broken streetlights. It was suggested that this could be a regular outreach activity for the Council to do.
Action: Officer to contact British Land Agent.

CD 055

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Members received and noted the report - Allstarz Football had received fantastic feedback, the ongoing BEST programme and the Environmental project of the Bug Hotel which will also be an integral part of the Memory Café clients.

20.30 Councillor V Manro left the meeting and returned 20.32.

CD 056

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Ross: Nothing to report.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh: Nothing to report.

Councillor V Manro: Received an email from a resident regarding a Facebook post following the staff meeting commenting that it does not look very good that food was supplied.

Councillor E Baker Lee: Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone: Expressed his delight at the official opening day of the Gaynor Play Park event, it was a fun day with very good attendance. Thanked the Youth and Community Co Ordinator for her efforts.

Councillor S McDermott: Nothing to report.

Councillor R Venkatesh: Nothing to report.

Councillor J Jackson: Nothing to report

Councillor K Naik: Nothing to report.

CD 057

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received a verbal report:

1. The Community Allotment plot at Ventnor Close requires some Maintenance. It is now very overgrown and is beyond hand-digging. Have contacted plant hire company to see if they support us with the hire of a large rotavator for a morning. Suggested the work could be

done as a team building event and plant some simple crops such as potatoes and carrots.

2. Met with members of the SBC Childcare and Health Team and discussed how they could support the parish in our efforts to contact children and parents qualifying for Holidays Activities and Food (HAF) funding. HAF activities only take place in the school holidays, so we will arrange an initial soft play visit as planned in September, and another in October half term at a soft play centre in Swindon. The Swindon soft play centres offer free meals for children eligible for the programme.
3. Have written to McDonalds, Starbucks and Costa in the Orbital to ask for sponsorship for livery for the new Electric Vehicles which are due to arrive later this week. So far only McDonalds have replied, saying that the franchise at the Orbital is in the process of being sold. Will get in touch with British Land over the next few months to get contact details for the new owners.

CD 058

UKRAINE CAFÉ

Members received a verbal update from Councillor E Baker Lee who confirmed that registered refugees in the Swindon catchment is now up to 36 although the number is probably higher as some may have not registered. Discussions need to be arranged to agree how best assist them and work with other supporters and charities. Will report back at a later meeting.

20.27 Two members of the public left the meeting.

CD 059

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received, discussed and noted the Income and Expenditure for Month 3 (July 2022).

CD 060

GRANT FUNDING

Members received and noted the report which detailed three external grants applications. The meeting heard how the UK Shared Prosperity Project grant was very oversubscribed but should have results by end of this week. Councillor Hailstone asked if there were any other funding streams available, CDO advised that this is being investigated at present and will report back when anything is known.

CD 061

CONNIE THE COVID-19 SNAKE

Members received the report and approved the recommendations.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. **To recommend to Full Council to approve the location of Haydonleigh Skate Park as the home for the Connie the Covid Snake.**
2. **To note this will be a Youth Engagement event.**
3. **The cost of installation £470.00 to be met from Youth Engagement EMR (339).**

20.47 Councillor E Baker Lee left the meeting and returned at 20.49.

- CD 062 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) CLIMATE ACTION BEST PRACTICE PUBLICATION**
Members received and noted the draft project entry for submission which details The Great Western Woodland Project and Council's contribution to climate change awareness.
- CD 063 UPDATE ON SUMMER 2022 EDITION OF 'LIVING MAGAZINE'**
Members received a verbal update from Councillor S McDermott who advised that the new delivery company had not delivered to some households. This will be investigated further and reported at a future meeting.
- CD 064 CHRISTMAS PARCELS AND CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**
Members received information and a verbal update from Councillor S McDermott who proposed Council ran the parcel again this year and liaise further with the committee regarding the actual food items. The final decision on the parcel on the criteria for parcel recipients will come to the next meeting. It was suggested that with rising food costs any overspend on the budget could be met from the Community Choices – Isolation and Loneliness project. The advert and application form will feature in the Autumn magazine – copy deadline end of September.
Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor K Naik
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED: Members approved the continuation of delivery of cards and Christmas parcels scheme for 2022.
- CD 065 DRAYCOTT SPORTS**
Members agreed to the proposal presented.
Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED:
 - 1. To agree to spend a total of £1,500.00 split 50:50 between Youth EMR (339) and Community Choices - Isolation & Loneliness (402/4629) to fund children from the parish who are already registered to attend the Draycott Sports Camp on the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF). This funding enables those children to stay until the end of the day in line with children who are funded privately.**
 - 2. To consider adding this as a budget aspiration for future ongoing youth engagement £1,500.**
- CD 066 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**
To be given to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting on the 6th September 2022.

The meeting closed at 21.26

Chairman: _____

