

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm remotely via Teams.

ATTENDENCE

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

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

ATTENDANCE IN THE OFFICE: Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Head of POST and Councillor R Hailstone (Chairman)

AL 052

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A John and K T Naik (Work Commitments) and V Manro (Council Commitments).

AL 053

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AL 054

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present, who queried why the hedge in Orchid Close had been cut by us as it is not within our parish boundary. *Officers confirmed area was included within grounds maintenance maps but is on the edge of the boundary, Head of POST will investigate further.*
Also mentioned BT connection works for Fiberoptic Broadband is taking place across Swindon which is causing some mess such as grit in gutters which could present issues with flooding; BT has confirmed they will return to do a final clean up once the works have been completed. *It was suggested as Councillor V Manro has contacts with BT and could liaise with them in his SBC Ward Councillor capacity.*

AL 055

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

AL 056

MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson Seconded: Councillor L Brown

Vote: Agreed with one (1) abstention.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record when physical meetings resume.

AL 057

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor L Brown

Advised that she was currently staying with a relative so contactable via telephone and email but not available for site visits or meetings in-person.

Councillor S Heyes

Virgin media donated 160 Rice Puddings to this year's Christmas Parcel Scheme.

19:40 Councillor E Baker Lee joined the meeting.

19:41 Councillor V Manro joined the meeting.

Councillor R Hailstone Advised that he pre-recorded an interview with Swindon 105.5 for the 'Haydon Wick on the Air' show and this will be aired next Monday.

Councillor E Baker Lee Requested a notification prior to works, such as bench installations, being done at Seven Fields; so that she can update members of the Seven Fields Conservation Group to share on their social media.

AL 058

CLERK'S REPORT

NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

Haydon Wick Parish Council was mentioned in NALC CEO's weekly news bulletin for introducing green measures. It mentioned our bulb planting scheme which will help increase the habitats of animals within the parish whilst creating some colour by planting 5,500 bulbs that will flower in spring. It was acknowledged that green spaces can act as a haven and have a positive effect on mental health, especially during COVID-19.

Rats at The Brow/James Wilks

Councillor D Renard has investigated the recent report of rats in The Brow/James Wilks House area of Haydon Wick. Some remedial works can be done immediately such as removal of ivy. Councillor D Renard has asked that reports of this nature are more specific so that the cause for concern can be investigated more easily.

2021/2022 Tax Base

Notification received from Swindon Borough Council that the tax base for Haydon Wick is due to change marginally -0.01% which will have minimal impact on the precept calculation – this is an item that will be discussed in more depth at Full Council next week.

KGV Trust – Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the KGV Trust is due to be held prior to Full Council next Tuesday at 7pm. The invitation and the Terms of Reference will be circulated with the Full Council agenda pack. Members are not summoned, but there is a quorum of six in the Committee for the meeting to proceed. It is a requirement of the AGAR that this meeting goes ahead.

AL 059

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES INTRODUCTION

The newly appointed Head of Parks & Open Spaces (POST), David Hunt, introduced himself formally to the Committee and gave a brief description of his previous long term employment with Swindon Borough Council. David has a lot of experience across grounds maintenance, play areas, leisure gardens and street cleaning. He is very grateful for the opportunity and has enjoyed learning and working the team during his first few weeks whilst he settles in.

AL 060

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

The Committee noted the Officer's report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. The Committee noted a report directly from the Contractor on the recent delays, however, good progress is now being made and a new piece of equipment has been purchased which will minimize the mechanical work required and provide a backup piece of

machinery for any future unforeseen circumstances. The Head of POST is due to meet with the Contractor next week to carry out some site visits.

AL 061

PARKS & PROJECTS

The Committee noted the Officers' report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider.

AL 062

TIDY UP

A verbal update was given from the Head of POST to advise the Committee of the works completed during 5th November – 5th December. Many items need to be investigated further to establish responsibility between the Parish and SBC. Head of POST has now received training on both bin rounds and will look at ways to make improvements to the service in the new year. A reminder to Councillors that the winter projects lists can be added to by emailing items for attention to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

AL 063

CCTV CAMERA

The Committee noted the Clerk's report regarding the current CCTV set up and future locations to be considered. After discussion, the Committee agreed to the recommendations within the report and will recommend to Full Council that this aspiration is included within budget setting for 2021/2022.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor J Jackson
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council a budget aspiration of £10,000 be added to next year's budget to purchase additional CCTV cameras to protect the Council's assets.

AL 064

WILDFLOWER SITES CREATION AND BULB PLANTING UPDATE

Councillor R Hailstone updated the Committee that the wildflower areas had now been scarified and the bulb planting has been carried out for autumn/winter 2020. There were no further updates or recommendations for the Committee to consider.

AL 065

SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor E Baker Lee advised there are no issues arising at the Seven Fields at present but repeated her request for advance notification of any planned works so that she can update the Seven Fields Conservation Group and put a notification on the Seven Fields Facebook page.

AL 066

BUDGET ASPIRATIONS

Councillor S Heyes gave a verbal report on the recent Play Area Working Party meeting and presented aspirations arising from the meeting:

- Continue to earmark £50k to progress Tadpole access
- Allocate £40k for Luna play park refurbishment
- Allocate £40k for Gaynor play park refurbishment
- Allocate £45k for Voyager safety resurfacing
- Allocate an additional budget for the new POST Manager to identify where an investment is needed.
- £1k for Dog Agility Park, subject to usual public consultation and planning permissions

The Head of POST updated the meeting on costs for leasing a street sweeper for seasonal hire. Costs in the region of £5,220.00 for a period of 12 weeks (£435.00 per week). Hire includes staff training but considerations of staff costs to operate the machine will have to be reviewed further. The

Head of POST advised that the street sweeper would be used for some of the smaller side roads and footpaths that SBC are unable to get to with the large HGV sweeper and advised that a parish of our size could be done on a 3 weekly program throughout the winter with one full time operative. The Committee agreed that this may be a good investment and will certainly improve the leaf clearing and street cleaning service that the Council currently provides. A suggestion was made to compost the waste, but the Head of POST advised that many items are collected such as road grit, crisp packets, cigarette ends and coke cans so therefore this would not be a clean compost heap.

**Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council the following budget aspirations for 2021/2022:

- **£50k to progress Tadpole access**
- **£40k for Luna play park refurbishment**
- **£40k for Gaynor play park refurbishment**
- **£45k for Voyager safety resurfacing**
- **Additional budget will be allocated for new POST Manager to identify where an investment is needed.**
- **£1k for Dog Agility Park, subject to usual public consultation and planning permissions**
- **£5,220 for seasonal hire of street sweeper.**

AL 067

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted Month 8 income and expenditure report for Parks & Open Spaces cost centres.

AL 068

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting.

AL 069

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 070

SKATE PARK AND YOUTH WORKER RECRUITMENT

The Deputy Clerk informed that a Youth Worker has now been appointed and will be overseeing skate park sessions in groups of 6 as per the most recent Government and Skateboard England advice during COVID-19. The sessions start on Saturday 12th December and are free of charge, bookable via Eventbrite. Each session will last 50 minutes. For the time being the sessions will be during the weekends only, but there is additional provision during the Christmas half term. A meeting will be held with the Youth Worker on Monday to discuss what went well and what needs to be reviewed. The new Youth Worker will be relatable to the skate park users and has worked with other parish councils to deliver youth projects. Councillors were encouraged to drop by the skatepark during her first weekend to welcome her to the Council.

AL 071

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

The Committee received an update on the current vehicle situation. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that during winter projects another transit tipper is required, in place of the boxed vehicle that was hired in the spring/summer months. A caged tipper will make it easier for the teams to carry the chipper

and tools to site, but also tip the debris more easily. There is an additional cost for the transit tipper as these vehicles carry waste and are specific to Councils only. Extensive research has been carried out and cost comparisons sought. Our current supplier has purchased a caged transit tipper van for the Council to hire to us for a cost of £40.29 per day. This is less than the larger boxed vehicle but more expensive than the original smaller transit.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the hire costs of £40.29 per day for the caged transit tipper in place of the boxed vehicle.

The Chairman ended the meeting by wishing the Committee a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 20.39

Chairman: