

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm remotely via Teams.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

AL 116 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J Jackson (personal commitments).

AL 117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AL 118 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present who raised queries regarding the mower maintenance costs following the annual winter service as identified in the report to accompany Agenda Item 7 – Grass/Hedges & Winter Projects. Requested future reports give further detail to the parts required and why they cost more than general parts. A financial enquiry about the maintenance expenditure was also raised, which will be investigated outside of the meeting and a response will be given shortly. Interested in listening to Agenda Item 15 – Dog Waste Enforcement.

AL 119 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

AL 120 MINUTES

Members received and approved the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2021 with amendments to the location for the trial area of street art from Westfield Way underpass to Mouldon Hill underpass.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2021 be agreed with amendments to the location for the trial area of street art from Westfield Way underpass to Mouldon Hill underpass and signed as a correct record when physical meetings resume.

AL 121 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor E Baker Lee Reported concerns on the Haydon Wick Community Facebook pages that the crocuses outside Greenmeadow Stores had been mown down. *Clerk advised that the mowers are not out currently, and a site visit was conducted by the Head of POST earlier that day, it is thought the crocuses have not been cut but may have been disturbed during maintenance work from contractors working nearby.*

Aware of a complaint with siting of goal posts at King George V Play Area, although has also received thanks from four residents for installing them.

Councillor S Heyes

Complaints received with regards to City Fiber and SSE works taking place around the parish. Works are extensive and repairing footpaths is done by a follow up team a few days later, the process can be slow. Will continue to monitor.

Councillor R Hailstone

Has some items to raise with regards to Seven Fields but will add to Councillor Baker Lee's report later in the meeting.

AL 122

CLERK'S REPORT

City Fiber & SSE Works - Resident querying the works being done at Holmleigh by City Fiber and SSE. Clerk raised queries with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillors Heyes, Manro and Renard. Received a very informative response back from Councillor Renard from Officers at SBC, which is lengthy so can be shared with members outside of the meeting, the upshot is that City Fiber was the first contractor on site carrying out the planned fiber works, but then some urgent gas works had to be done as a priority and that meant two contractors working in very close proximity. Reassurance that regular inspections (3 times a week) are carried out by the Street Works Team to make sure all is above board.

Thyme Close Play Area - Called out for volunteer artists to help us with the repainting of Thyme Close Play Area, as there are several wooden figures that have faded. A local painting and decorating company have volunteered to send some of their staff between 24th-26th March to work on this project and give something back to the community.

Covid-19 Memorial @ Orchid Vale, Torun Way - Permitted development received from SBC to continue with the plans for the Covid-19 Memorial at Orchid Vale. A courtesy letter will be sent to the care home informing them of the Council's plans, it is felt that the care home can benefit from the open space greatly.

Hysopp Close Consultation - Is now live and some responses have already been received. This will be discussed in further detail at April's Committee meeting.

Depot Feasibility Working Party - Councillor S McDermott has stepped down from the Depot Feasibility Working Party. If any Councillors are interested in joining this working party, please discuss with Georgina outside of the meeting.

Swindon Town Deal Investment – SBC confirmed on the 3rd March they had been successful in their Town Deal application and offered funding of £19.5m from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is great news for Swindon as this will fund the vast majority of the projects in the Town Investment. Thanks were given to Councillor R Ross who helped assess the projects and contributed to the Town Investment Plan. These projects will make a real difference to the town centre and help it thrive in the future.

AL 123

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING AND WINTER PROJECTS

The Committee noted the Grass & Hedge Cutting report and received a verbal update regarding the winter projects and work scheduling for March & April 2021.

AL 124

PARKS & PROJECTS

The Committee noted the report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. An update was given on the reopening of KGV Play Area on 19th March 2021. The Committee noted a request from a resident to relocate the newly installed goal posts at KGV, it was agreed that the location of the goal posts was suitable for many reasons. The Council will write to all adjacent properties and confirm that the goal posts will remain in their current position but will be monitored closely and reconsidered if deemed necessary. A mound of earth has remained in KGV to add additional play value to the natural surrounds as agreed during the tender process. An update was also given on the safe reopening of the Skate Park which could take place in April subject to the most recent guidance from the Government and Skateboard England.

AL 125

FOOTPATH PROJECT

The Committee noted the report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. The project will be progressed in the background and further updates will come to Committee when necessary.

AL 126

HEAD OF POST REPORT

The Committee noted the report detailing recent works completed and any upcoming projects. A reminder to Councillors that the winter projects lists can be added to by emailing items for attention to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

AL 127

STREET ART ON SUBWAY REQUEST

The Head of POST gave further information about the trial area for street art in the parish. The underpass underneath Thamesdown Drive heading towards Mouldon Hill is wider, less maintenance will be required and it's in a remote location to prevent further graffiti on nearby street furniture. Due to this being the first request and it being a trial area, it was agreed for Full Council to review and approve the proposal ahead of requesting permission from SBC. The Clerk has suggested future street art requests could be included the Amenities & Leisure Committee's Terms of Reference, which is currently under review.

AL 128

SBC/ PARISH COUNCIL WASTE AUDIT

The Committee noted the Waste Audit being conducted at Waterside Recycling Centre. Currently parish councils do not pay to use the facility as this is included within the transfer of services agreements. Councillor Manro advised the audit is taking place following the rise of household waste being tipped during lockdown. The Head of POST confirmed it is very rare for household waste to be in the public litter bins; if this happens the team look for evidence and pass this across to Waste Enforcement at SBC. Councillors raised concerns that fly tipping is a service we provide on behalf of SBC as per the transfer of services agreement, so it would not be fair to be penalized for tipping additional waste.

AL 129 PARK RUN – SEVEN FIELDS

Information received from Park Run confirming its plans to start again on 5th June 2021. The Clerk & Officers have been invited to attend to support the event. Councillors also welcome to attend. Councillors L Brown, R Ross and S McDermott volunteer for Park Run so will be there in both capacities.

AL 130 SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor Baker Lee gave an update on issues arising from Seven Fields. Key points included:

- Receiving thanks from the Chairman of the Seven Fields Conservation Group for including their article in the HW “Living” magazine, assisting with the removal of abandoned vehicles and the funding for the Seven Fields Map.
- Recent reports of attempted dog napping at Seven Fields – to date no dogs have been stolen, but dog owners should be extra vigilant. The local PCSO’s have been contacted and asked if they can help to raise awareness of this via their social media updates and patrols.
- A section of hedges has been removed from an adjacent property exposing the back gate as an entry point in to Seven Fields, this needs to be investigated and monitored as to not set a precedent.
- Guided walk to take place on 24th June, please let Councillor Baker Lee know if you wish to attend.

Councillor Hailstone added that the mesh wire on Kings Bridge has come up and needs repairing, previously the Parish Council has assisted but the SBC does have funds to refurbish the bridge when resources allow. Also noticed ruts left on the ground following the incidents with the abandoned vehicles which needs to be reinstated prior to grass cutting. *Councillor Baker Lee confirmed that she would pass this on to the Conservation Group to liaise with SBC directly.*

AL 131 DOG WASTE ENFORCEMENT

The Committee noted that further exploratory conversations will take place with Enforcement Officers at SBC and will receive updates from other parish councils at the upcoming Swindon Area Committee meeting to share advice. The Clerk confirmed that she would also raise this at the upcoming Borough & Parish meeting to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

AL 132 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted the Month 10 Income & Expenditure report for Parks & Open Spaces cost centres.

AL 133 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

20:28 The member of public left the meeting.

AL 134 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: Confidential

AL 135

POST DEPOT FEASIBILITY

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chairman of the POST Depot Feasibility Working Party and the Head of POST. Discussions have been held with a member of SBC's legal team and steps were outlined before the Parish Council can proceed with a pre-planning application. A site visit will take place with Haydon Wick Ward Councillor David Renard to share the Council's draft plans. Councillor L Brown confirmed that she would like to fill the vacancy on the Working Party.

AL 136

HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK FENCING

The Committee noted the report of the increased costs of steel and how the previously agreed supplier was now unable to fulfill a price match promise price of £8,400 [Oct 20 - AL027] -now charging £11,828.01. As there has been a 12-week delay since the quotation was received due to waiting for the grant in planning permission to increase the fence from 2m to 3m, the £8,400 was no longer being offered. Committee was disappointed the price has been withdrawn and it was accepted that they should protect the skate park urgently due to regular break ins. The original proposal to proceed with the additional cost at £10,765.00 was withdrawn after an amendment was suggested to re-open the quotation process for agreement at Full Council on the 23rd March 2021. The Committee requested that the contract must include penalties if there was a delay to an agreed installation date.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor L Brown

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To defer the item for consideration at Full Council on 23rd March 2021 and re open the quotation process to include penalties if there is a delay to an agreed installation date.

The meeting closed at 20:57.

Chairman: