

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone, S Heyes, A John, V Manro, S McDermott, E Baker Lee and R Ross

OFFICERS: Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt

POS 188 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Jackson (Borough Council Commitments) and K T Naik (Work Commitments).

POS 189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

POS 190 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two (2) members of public attended the meeting. One attended regarding Agenda Item 7 – Clifford Meadow SSSI and the response received from Natural England. The member of public read clause 9 – Protecting Our Natural Environment from the Government's Ten Point Plan for Green Industrial Revolution document. The clause references the importance in the upkeep of all hedges using local Co2 initiatives, to rebuild security and supportive endorsements which should be alluded to in the response to Natural England. The other member of public submitted questions in advance:

1. Why do we have differential totals on salaries under item 4000? *The salaries will fluctuate from month to month based on variances such as sickness, overtime and seasonal employees. The larger difference in month 7 is due to the 2022/23 cost of living pay increase being backdated to month 1. The subsequent rise in month 8 is the new pay rates following the agreed cost of living pay award increment mentioned.*

2a. With relation to Agenda 7 – Cliffords Meadow SSSI, what is the current tenure period for the tenant? *This is unknown at present, but we believe the tenancy is under five years, the Council will raise the question with the tenant farmer.*

2b. As an observation, the response from Natural England in the section C of the Maintenance Paragraph "this case would not currently fall into this category" seems to be an excuse, the enforcement only shows 2013-2018, so wonder what the enforcement is like from 2018 to date.

3a. What was the final financial cost total regarding the withdrawal of Teigntrees from their contract with the parish? *£5,400 total.*

3b. Where on the budget report is this indicated? *It's within 4522/307 Grounds Maintenance Contract.*

3c. The take up of extra staff and vehicle to cover this withdrawal again where is this indicated on the budget report? What are the projected cost totals including salaries with NI, training, clothing, overtime? Insurance, tooling etc? *As per Minute Ref. POS 166 the Parks & Open Spaces Committee RESOLVED: 1. To note the operational and budgetary contents within the report. 2. To employ two temporary seasonal staff (5th December 2022 – 31st March 2023) to assist with the hedge cutting schedule, the cost of this is*

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£16,381.00 inclusive of on costs. 3. To hire a temporary vehicle for the two seasonal staff at a cost of £5,000.00 for the duration. 4. To instruct Countrywide to carry out at £650.00 per day, for a 10 day work schedule with the large tractor and flail at the end of January, at a cost of £6,500.00 + VAT (£650.00 per day). 5. To purchase additional tools up to the value of £2,000.00.

POS 191

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wished members of the committee a Happy New Year.

POS 192

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2022.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor S McDermott

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 and signed by the Chairman.

POS 193

SEVEN FIELDS

Members received a request from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to conduct a Harvest Mouse Survey at Seven Fields on Thursday 26th January 2023. The request was circulated to SBC Ward Councillors, Seven Fields Conservation Group and both Haydon Wick Parish Council and Central Swindon North Parish Council out of courtesy. Members confirmed they would be interested in the findings and Councillor E Baker Lee confirmed that the Seven Fields Conservation Group has also asked and as the Parish/Seven Fields Councillor Liaison she would report back to the Committee.

POS 194

CLIFFORD MEADOW SSSI

Members noted the Tier 2 Complaint Response from Natural England. Members agreed to contact the Land Agents and Tenant Farmer to advise of the funding they may be eligible for and to try to arrange a meeting to discuss future maintenance of the field. Members agreed that whilst the Parish Council is happy to liaise and work with the relevant parties, a lot of engagement opportunities are dismissed by the Land Agent advising that this is private land. Questions captured from residents and within the Public Participation session will be sent to Natural England.

POS 195

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes: Nothing to report.

Councillor A John: Reported that the Thames Water tankers are back on Thamesdown Drive as a precautionary measure due to the heavy rainfall. The response received from Thames Water will be raised at next week's Planning & Highways Committee.

Councillor S McDermott: Nothing to report.

Councillors E Baker Lee: Nothing to report.

Councillors V Manro: Reminder that the tankers down Thamesdown Drive, whilst a nuisance to Priory Vale residents, are there to protect and prevent flooding of residential houses, especially in Southwold Close. Thames Water has committed to upgrades and ongoing developments on the water pipes and the provisional completion date is November 2023. Question and Answer sessions are due to take place at the Tawny Owl soon.

Also updated on contact with the family of the victim of the incident at Mazurek Way, they are looking at permanent memorials perhaps in Seven Fields which

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is closer to where the victim lived. The clean up operation at Mazurek Way Play Area (removing flowers, tributes etc.) has been done by our Parks & Open Spaces Team in conjunction with the parents. Further discussions will respectively take place following the victim's funeral.

Councillor R Hailstone: Asked the Head of Parks & Open Spaces if there is a solution to clearance of leaves and debris on narrow footpaths that the compact mini sweeper cannot go down? *The Head of POST confirmed that the sweeper can fit down most narrow spaces, if it doesn't there are operatives that can leaf blow or sweep by hand in to a pile and remove.* Councillor R Hailstone will pass the locations across to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

POS 196

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Green Play Area Resurfacing ITT – Three documents have been received, but it is not yet clear if this is three individual tenders or whether one is a paper copy and electronic copy as they have to be opened by the Chief Officer in the presence of a Councillor (as per Financial Regs 11.f) Asked for a Councillor pop in tomorrow to assist. A Play Area Working Party meeting will be called to review and scrutinise the documents ahead of taking to Full Council at the end of January 2023.

Ray Close – A resident has advised that the brook at Ray Close has a high water level due to the recent heavy rainfall and there are large overgrown trees that have fallen into the brook. This has been reported to Swindon Borough Council and SBC Ward Councillors will liaise with the resident.

POS 197

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES' REPORT

Members noted the items included within the report such as any outstanding items on the daily work sheets and the scheduling of winter projects.

POS 198

AUTUMN/WINTER SHRUB AND HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Members noted the report regarding the current hedge cutting schedule and progress to date. The team has recently finished Abbey Meads and is working towards Haydon Wick, Greenmeadow and Moredon. The quality of the shrub maintenance has received excellent feedback. Two members of the Parks & Open Spaces Team attended Tractor & Side Arm Cutting training and two members are due to attend Chainsaw Cutting training, this will develop the skillset of the team and enhance the service being provided.

POS 199

PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report and the work schedule of the Parks & Projects Team. The RoSPA Annual Inspection findings will be due in February 2023 and shared with the Play Area Working Party. There were no recommendations to consider.

POS 200

LEISURE GARDENS UPDATE

Members received a verbal update on the status of the Leisure Gardens and there being just one vacant plot across all three sites, with 29 people on the Rose Walk, Goodearl & Ventnor Close waiting list and 30 people on the Tadpole waiting list. The first season inspection is due to take place in April. Communications to plot holders were sent on 4th January 2023, confirming the actions tabled previously from the Annual Plot Holders meeting held in October 2022, amended terms & conditions and an update regarding future maintenance of the sites and the proposed Grounds Maintenance Facility at Goodearl. 41 out of 150 plot holders received letters as there are no email addresses on file for them, despite several requests for electronic communications to take preference.

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POS 201**PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

Members received a verbal update from the Grounds Maintenance Facility Working Party. The tender documents are due to be received by four interested parties by Friday 27th January 2023. There has not been any clarification questions or enquiries from any of the interested parties. The planning application for temporary relocation to Ventnor Close was delayed due to awaiting the topographical survey information and is due to be submitted by Friday 12th January 2023. In the meantime, Officers visited a space at SBC's Waterside Depot that is available immediately for temporary relocation of the Parks & Open Spaces Team. The thought is to still progress with enhancements to the site at Ventnor Close (bottom vehicle gate, improved car parking and placement of a shipping container) but for operational reasons, such as collecting fuel, tipping, and washing down vehicles. Costs and potential terms of contract are still being negotiated with SBC and the Working Party is looking to present proposals to Full Council at the end of January 2023.

POS 202**OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING**

Members received and noted the Income & Expenditure for Month 8 (December 2022). Members confirmed the budget monitoring covering note provided by the Finance Officer is very useful and avoids duplicate questions.

POS 203**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 21st February 2023.

The meeting closed at 20.30

Chairman_____

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