

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th March 2023.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

POS 223 APOLOGIES

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

POS 224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

POS 225 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was two (2) members of public present who raised the following items:

1. What type of Public Works Loan is the Parish Council applying for as there are three different types of loans? *The question will be passed to the Deputy RFO for clarification, and she will respond outside of the meeting.*

2. Is there a Plan B for if the funds aren't granted? *Agreement in principle has been received and the Council is following the correct process with the current Grounds Maintenance Facility consultation, which is due to end by Friday 17th March 2023. Options and risks have been researched thoroughly throughout the course of the project so there are other options available for the GMF Working Party to consider and feedback to Full Council if necessary.*

3. What is the current budget projection of £12,500.00 for which is assigned to the Grounds Maintenance Facility? *This was to cover any expenditure within this financial year as it was hoped that the Council would be further along in the project but due to external factors this hasn't been possible. The money will be carried forward into the next financial year and remains unspent.*

4. Does the Public Works Loan take into consideration how the Contractor would like to receive payment i.e. in stages? *Payment terms are within the pending contract, but it is understood that the Contractor would be paid in stages. The Public Works Loan can be drawn down in stages but the maximum amount to be borrowed will be the £760,000.00 that the Council is applying for.*

The other member of the public attended to ask if the Council would consider rolling the grass on the pitch at Trent Road Playing Field as there are many holes and ruts in the ground making it unsafe for running and playing football. It was acknowledged that AFC Haydon Vale currently use the site and are responsible for the well-marked pitches and the grass cutting, except for the Council's grass cutting schedule fortnightly throughout May to October. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces will investigate this and discuss with AFC Haydon Vale and present back at a future Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting. It was acknowledged that the football pitches at Seven Fields are flattened by using heavy chains to get rid of bumps.

POS 226 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

POS 227 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 and they were signed by the Chairman.

POS 228 SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor E Baker Lee updated on several matters arising from Seven Fields.

- Cycle path near Kennet Avenue – there has been some tarmac repairs which have left the surface uneven and in some areas unsafe. *Head of Parks & Open Spaces will investigate and report to Swindon Borough Council.*
- Upcoming Annual Parish Meeting – Seven Fields Conservation Group will be attending and would like some assistance to set up.
- Park Run is using the footpaths instead of fields due to bad weather but has been continuing to fill in the holes for when the fields can be used again.
- Small holes appearing in the fields, some from animals but some from metal detectorists. Could the metal detectorists be asked to fill in the holes after they have dug up any items? *Head of Parks & Open Spaces will investigate and report to Swindon Borough Council.*
- Sunningdale Road – household wastewater is polluting the brook; this will be reported to Thames Water and the Environment Agency.
- Posts – some posts have appeared at Kings Bridge and the Playing Fields but Seven Fields Conservation Group is unsure where they have come from.
- Annual Hay Cut – Expected at the end of July to the middle of August. *Councillor V Manro confirmed the same arrangement as last year; a mixture of internal SBC staff and contractors, will follow this up with the SBC Team.*

POS 229 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes: Nothing to report.

Councillor V Manro: Nothing to report.

Councillor A John: Tankers were back at Thamesdown Drive. Nuisance that this has happened again. Thames Water has acted promptly, and remedial work is due to commence in a couple of weeks' time.

Councillor R Ross: None.

Councillor S McDermott: Emailed a few items to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

Councillors E Baker Lee: None.

Councillor R Hailstone: Emailed a few items to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk and mentioned that near the pumping station on Pond Street, some tree works have been done but the debris has been left on the open space. Please could the team collect the debris and see if this has damaged the planting area of the snowdrops.

POS 230

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Yoga in the Park** - The local yoga teacher that delivers the indoors yoga has confirmed she is able to assist with the outside yoga. More details will follow at Community Development Committee on 4th April.
- **Village Green Play Area** – Now complete and press release has been circulated.
- **Bowls Green Play Area** – The bow tops from the fencing are being removed and the Parks & Projects Team is actively monitoring and smoothing the sharp edges. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces will work with the team to come up with a suitable solution for repair. The bow tops are there to prevent people climbing over the fence.
- **Luna Close Play Area** – Benjamin's Smile Charity has been asked to do a case study for the Accessibility Guide for Sport England and would like to promote the work done at Luna Close Play Area.
- **Works on trees within the TPO 35 – 2010** – To note that Swindon Borough Council has granted works to trees within the TPO 35 – 2010 at Silbury Mews, Moredon.
- **Meetings schedule** – A reminder that due to the Annual Parish Meeting & Community Networking Event taking place on Tuesday 28th March 2023, the Full Council meeting will be on Tuesday 21st March 2023. The meeting will include Finance & Policy matters. Also on that evening will be the KGV Trust Meeting and the Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

POS 231

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES' REPORT

Members received an update from the Head of Parks & Open Spaces about the current work schedules for the team. It was noted that there has been an upsurge in graffiti in the last four weeks. Members acknowledged the number of graffiti tags on the underpasses and suggested a local graffiti artist being commissioned to paint some artwork there. The graffiti wall within Haydonleigh Skate Park seems to be respected and is working well.

An item for consideration was the old skate park equipment which was retained for the use of project ideas which never came into fruition. The equipment is now taking up space and deteriorating further, so it would be useful to dispose of this ahead of the new Grounds Maintenance Facility being built. Members agreed to dispose of the skate park equipment.

Proposer: Councillor S McDermott Second: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To dispose of the previous skate park equipment.

POS 232

AUTUMN/WINTER SHRUB AND HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Members noted the report regarding the current hedge cutting schedule and progress to date. The team is still completing requests from members of the public and the scope of work required now should ease maintenance for future years. Good feedback has been received from the public. The team will continue to reduce shrub beds and maintain hedgerows (where possible outside of birds nesting) throughout the spring/summer months. It is likely that the tractor and side arm work will be less in autumn this year and will be done in-house by the Parks & Open Spaces Team. The grass cutting schedule has commenced in Abbey Meads and the average cycle is approx. 3 weeks (dependent on weather conditions).

POS 233

PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report from the Parks & Projects Team. The Basil Close fencing project should be completed by the end of March 2023, but there are issues sourcing the gate which may have to be done later. The Annual External Play Area Inspection has now been completed and there are a small number of medium risks, the rest are low/very low. Members congratulated the Parks & Projects Team on the good results across the 23 play areas and skate park.

POS 234

BULBS, WILDFLOWERS, REWILDING AND TREE PLANTING

Members noted the report giving aspiration from the Working Party to start to reforest trees now so that they become established replacements for large trees that may need to be removed in the next 15 – 20 years. Members also noted that a small area on the High Street which is too small for regular maintenance would benefit from experimental ground cover planting, such as purple creeping thyme, which is a good pollinator.

The Working Party would also like to receive suggestions of ideal locations for rewilding, creating wildflower areas and planting spring bulbs in the autumn. Ideas submitted will be reviewed in line with the current scope of maintenance. The Working Party will investigate options with the Head of Parks & Open Spaces and report the recommendations to a future meeting.

Members agreed that planting activities should be widely promoted this year with some sessions aimed at the youth. The promotion of this can be discussed at the Community Development Committee.

POS 235

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members noted the report detailing the status of the project. Officers are still awaiting information from Swindon Borough Council with regards to the temporary move to Waterside and potentially sharing the space with another parish council. The contract for the building phase has been ordered by Affleck and once received will be passed on to the Council's solicitors.

POS 236

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted the Income & Expenditure for Month 11 (February 2023). Queries surrounding the Electric Vehicle costs vs the price of fuel. *The Deputy Clerk explained that the electric vehicle charging points have a separate smart meter and this information is being recorded and analysed.*

POS 237

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 11th April 2023 being mindful of the Easter Bank Holidays.

POS 238

TREE MAINTENANCE

Members noted the tree maintenance works that have been passed to Swindon Borough Council for actioning.

20:51 The members of public left the meeting.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: To resolve 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: Contractual.

Initials _____

POS 239

CCTV UPDATE

Members received a report from the Deputy Clerk advising of the technical issues with the current CCTV set up and the option of entering a two-year contract of deployable CCTV cameras that come with support packages. The proposed CCTV cameras are wired into surrounding lampposts and traffic light columns so would not require solar battery charging. The Chief Officer, Deputy Clerk and Councillor V Manro have renewed their SIA CCTV Licences and will continue to monitor the camera footage.

The locations presented in the report were Haydonleigh Skate Park, King George V Play Area and one that could be moved around the play areas not currently under surveillance every six months, beginning at Mazurek Way Play Area. It was noted that there is not a power supply near King George V Play Area so a site visit would need to be conducted and options explored.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To enter a contract with WCCTC for three deployable cameras at a cost of £7,000.00 to be funded from the CCTV EMR 340 £5,000.00 and £2,000.00 from the Play Area EMR 325.**
- 2. To agree the locations should be Haydonleigh Skate Park, King George V Play Area (subject to site visit findings) and a deployable camera to be moved every six months.**
- 3. The current CCTV system will remain in place for continued surveillance of other play areas.**

The meeting closed at 21.05

Chairman_____

Initials _____