

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Informal Parks & Open Spaces Committee Discussion of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 7.30pm remotely via Teams.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors J Jackson, A John, R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes, V Manro and R Ross.

ALSO IN Councillors S McDermott, B Patrick-Okoh

ATTENDANCE:

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

POS 019

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J Fuller (Personal Commitments). There were no apologies received from Councillor K T Naik.

POS 020

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

POS 021

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public had given the Clerk notification that there were troubleshooting issues accessing the meeting via the agenda link, the Committee therefore resolved to delay the public session until further into the meeting to allow the member of public to join.

POS 022

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

POS 023

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 and recommended approval when physical meetings recommence.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: To recommend approving the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 when physical meetings recommence.

POS 024

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor V Manro Overnight road closures on 21st June 2021 for roadworks on Thamesdown Drive, there should be minimal traffic delays. Other matters include grass cutting enquiries which will be covered in Agenda Item 8.

Councillor J Jackson Echoed concerns about grass cutting in Abbey Meads and Haydon Wick which will be covered in Agenda Item 8.

Councillor R Hailstone City Fiber works have been completed on Thames Avenue; the traffic lights have now been removed. Spotted poppies, clover, vetch, and an unknown white flower species at the trial wildflower site outside Catherine Wayte School.

Councillor S McDermott Queried whether the trial wildflower site at Old Blunsdon Road was planted with wildflower seeds following the scarifying last autumn as there is minimal display and the plants look like what was there previously, will discuss with

Head of Parks & Open Spaces to see if the team need to replant later in the season.

POS 025

CLERK'S REPORT

Mazurek Way Play Area – was vandalised last week, damage to the net bridge and the flooring. The flooring has been repaired by our Parks & Projects Team; a graphic of a dolphin has been added to add some play value. The cost of the net bridge is £2,148.00 which exceeds the vandalism budget. Officers will review the full extent and assess whether to file an insurance claim.

King George V Play Area – The Council's security provider has confirmed that teenagers are closing the gate at King George V Play Area behind them around 7pm so it appears that the play area has been locked before the contractors arrive at 9pm. The security provider has discussed this with the teenagers asking them to refrain from doing so, since the discussion, we have not received any reports of the play area being closed early.

Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean – The Council will be running two volunteer litter picks on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 6.30pm (meet at Stour Walk car park) and Sunday 13th June 2021 at 9am (meet at Mouldon Hill car park)

Apple Tree Allotment, Ventnor Close – The Parks & Open Spaces Team have tidied the area, built three raised beds, and installed two rustic benches. The Council will encourage community groups and schools to take an active part in maintaining the beds and enjoying the surroundings. The team will plant one bed with summer bedding and one with vegetables and the other can be planted with strawberries by school pupils. Two schools so far have registered an interest.

SLCC Inclusive Play Training – The Head of POST, Deputy Clerk and Parks & Projects Team will be attending an SLCC training event remotely on Wednesday 16th June 2021, the training covers additional information that would be valuable to know when looking in to making the play areas accessible. A report will be provided at a future Play Area Working Party to share any new information received.

Play Area Tenders – Luna Close and Gaynor Close Invitation to Tenders (ITT) are now on the Council's website and public contracts finder website. Already received some interest and site visits due to take place imminently, the Play Area WP will be reviewing the submitted tenders and bringing a proposal to the Committee for recommendation to Full Council in July.

19:42 Member of Public joined the meeting.

POS 026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of public joined the meeting and made the following observations:

- Reported that the Teams link for this evening did not work and requested this is tested ahead of future meetings to avoid members of the public having to join the meeting late.
- Whitworth Road and Claremont Court have been cut ahead of the grass cutting schedule, this may have been cut by the neighbouring parish in error. The grass in Haydon View is very overgrown.
- Queried if the Parish Council has a schedule of weed spraying from Swindon Borough Council yet as usually takes place in early June and late October. *Councillor V Manro advised that this may be*

delayed due to the heavy rain fall we experienced at the end of last month, will investigate and provide a response shortly.

- Queried if the Parish Council has received a schedule for Swindon Borough Council for street cleaning. Haydon View has received a street sweeping service already this year and Thames Water has visited to carrying out checks of the storm water drains to avoid future occurrences of flooding.
- Advised that there are two scheduled meetings for this evening on the Council's website.

POS 027

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

The Committee noted the Grass & Hedges Report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. The Head of POST advised that the schedule is delayed, due to the heavy rainfall experienced at the end of last month and the more recent warm/wet weather conditions causing the grass to grow rapidly. Back up mowing and strimming is being done by other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team to boost the grass team enabling it to catch up quickly. The grounds maintenance contractors will also be deploying a team (one mower and one strimmer) to assist with the grass cutting in Oakhurst and Abbey Meads this week. The funds for the additional resource will be met from the contingency within the ground's maintenance contract budget. The internal team will be beginning the fourth cut of the season tomorrow.

POS 028

PARKS & PROJECTS

The Committee noted the report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. Positive comments are being received about the repainting of some equipment and how this has improved the appearance of the play areas. There were no high risk actions arising from the annual play area inspection conducted by an external contractor, the medium and low risks are being prioritised and the team will provide an update at a future Play Area Working Party meeting.

POS 029

HEAD OF POST REPORT

The Committee noted the report detailing recent works completed, team objectives and any upcoming projects. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider and most items to report this month were covered within other reports.

POS 030

GREAT WESTERN COMMUNITY FOREST – TREES FOR CLIMATE

The Head of POST gave a verbal update on a recent site visit carried out with Project Officers from Swindon Borough Council working on the Great Western Community Forest. The site visit took place at Tadpole Lane and if agreed, trees can be planted as early as the end of August. Some trees can be planted at the bottom left of the field to thicken up the trees already planted a couple of years ago and some along the fence line in the middle of the field. The Council could consider whether to create a woodland memorial. The project includes the cost of the trees, a five year maintenance agreement and the installation of pathways. The Committee agreed to the benefits of planting at Tadpole Field but suggested that a Tadpole Field Working Party meeting was called to discuss this proposal in more depth so that the trees planted would not obstruct plans for the long term plans at Tadpole Lane and result in some of the trees being subsequently removed. A meeting will be called within the next couple of weeks with a view to confirming the plan with SBC so that the trees can be ordered, and the project details finalised.

POS 032

DOG FOULING

Councillor R Hailstone gave a verbal update on a recent meeting with the Animal Wardens and Licensing Department at Swindon Borough Council. Confirmation that a new Animal Warden is now in post reviewing previous cases and implementing new ideas to mitigate against dog fouling. National increase in offences due to pet ownership rising and professional dog walkers unable to conduct business throughout the pandemic. Problems within the parish seem to have reduced significantly since the lockdown has eased and signage has been displayed. SBC Officers happy to provide materials such as stickers, signs and assist with the Public Open Spaces Protection Order to protect King George V Play Area from dog fouling issues as it is a secure play area. The document outlining the Public Open Spaces Protection Order will shortly receive a review and SBC Officers would encourage parish and town councils to feed into the document.

POS 033

SEVEN FIELDS

Marilyn's Map – Now completed and installed on four of the noticeboards across Seven Fields. Colouring competition is in progress for the winner to receive a family picnic hamper (donated by Morrisons) to enjoy at Seven Fields.

Memorial Bench – Paid for by resident, will be delivered at the end of June and installed by the Parks & Open Spaces Team. An invoice will be sent separately to the resident for storage, installation, and a five year maintenance agreement.

Kings Bridge – Request received from a resident to fix Kings Bridge. Discussions with the Seven Fields Conservation Group confirm that there is planned refurbishment works for the bridge but in the meantime the chicken wire can be replaced.

Summer Trail – Request from Barnardo's to host a summer trail around Seven Fields for participants to follow the trail and promote exercise. Barnardo's is asking for permission from both parish council's (Haydon Wick and Central Swindon North) as well as the Borough Council. There would be no cost implication to the Council and resources will all be printed from Barnardo's. The Council could assist in promoting the event.

Park Run – Has been postponed until the end of June. Further updates will be available in the coming weeks, it is important for all Park Runs to start at the same time to avoid critical mass at one event. Junior Park Run is set to restart at Lydiard as planned.

POS 034

CREATION OF WILDFLOWERS

The Committee discussed the successful trial areas, positive comments are being received via residents impressed with the biodiversity. There may be other ways to create successful wildflower creation sites such as 'no mow may'. A wildflower working party meeting will be arranged to discuss the success, lessons learnt and research new suitable locations.

POS 035

DEPOT FEASIBILITY

Since Swindon Borough Council devolved further services to the Parish Council in 2017, the size of the in-house Parks & Open Spaces Team has increased and subsequently, has influenced the size of the depot required to house the team and its equipment adequately. For numerous years, the Parish Council has had a temporary arrangement at Goodearl site,

however, the Parks & Open Spaces service is a half a million pound investment and needs to be enhanced to continue to provide a high level service to its residents. The Parish Council has undertaken a thorough feasibility over the last 18 months to find a suitable location to build the depot. The public works loan annual repayments are similar to the market for hiring a commercial depot and therefore the Council would like to investigate options further. Due to Goodearl site being the centre of the parish the Council would like to remain there. The suggested location has been agreed for numerous practical reasons, but mainly so the depot will be contained neatly along the fence line and increase the provision of parking both for the Council's fleet of vehicles and plot holders attending to their plots. The plans for the depot building are that it will be in keeping with the natural surroundings, sourced from environmentally friendly materials, and be aesthetically pleasing. During the planning and build stages, a temporary depot facility will be hired for a duration of 9 – 12 months.

POS 036

LEGAL MATTERS

Following discussions with the Legal Team at SBC it was suggested that all the Council's land enquiries could be investigated in a bundle to save time. The Deputy Clerk advised that there were many items to consider and suggested that a small focus group is created to discuss the report in full and provide an update to a future Committee meeting. Councillors R Hailstone, A John, and R Ross agreed to investigate these matters with the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

POS 037

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee noted Month 2's Income & Expenditure report for the Parks & Open Spaces cost centres.

POS 038

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

20:59 Member of Public left the meeting.

POS 039

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.

POS 040

POST DEPOT FEASIBILITY

During budget setting for 2021/2022 the Council agreed to the hire of a temporary welfare facility until the final plans arising from the Depot Feasibility became established. The temporary welfare unit will ensure that the Parks & Open Spaces Team have pleasant toilets and running water to improve their working conditions in the short term until the long term plans come into completion. The team can also remain on Goodearl site whilst the build of a long term depot is in construction with minimal disruption. The Committee received four quotations and after discussion, agreed to the Officers recommendation to proceed with the hire of a temporary depot from Pickerings Hire Ltd with a caveat to be flexible to receive the larger 24ft container should the 16ft container be in short supply.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the hire of a temporary welfare facility with Pickerings Hire Ltd at a cost of £7,648.80 for a 16ft container, for

a period of 9 months hire, with an additional £2436.00 contingency fund for a 24ft container should the 16ft container be in short supply and subject to a 12 week extension totaling £10,084.80 for 12 months hire (4626/605).

POS 041

COMPACT SWEEPER

The Head of Parks & Open Spaces has tried to obtain costs from several suppliers, the majority of which were only able to quote for a machine and operator, which exceeded the budgetary amount. The Officers wish to utilise and upskill the existing internal team. The Committee reviewed four quotations and after discussion agreed to the recommendations within the report. The Committee agreed to allocate all remaining funds to offset the costs of replacement brushes, but the fuel will come out of the general Parks & Open Spaces budget.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To proceed with hiring a compact sweeper without driver from Hako City Master Ltd at a cost of £5,220.00 for a 12 week hire (October – January) and for remaining funds of £350.00 to be allocated to the purchase of replacement brushes and repairs (4615/307).

The meeting closed at 21.07

Chairman: