

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.30pm at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors L Rhys-Jones (Chairman), S Heyes, R Venkatesh, R Hailstone, S Fateru, S Callen, V Manro, A Roupelis, B Patrick-Okoh and J Fuller

OFFICER: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO

FP 101 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor S Fateru (work commitments).

FP 102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

FP 103 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One (1) member of the public was present who made representation concerning various agenda item:

8b – queried why the bank account balance is so large and why don't we move it? Response was until we know what we are going to do with the GMF we cannot make any long-term investment decisions should we need to access the fund.

8e EMRs as a general observation - why isn't that shown in the I&E reports? Response was system generated report cannot show them in the same reports, but we bring to meeting quarterly to track the expenditure and during budget setting they will be reported in full. Also, to be advised that there are BT Field Sales representatives cold calling in the area.

FP 104 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

FP 105 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Finance & Policy Meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2022 were a true record.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 16th August 2022 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

FP 106 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes:

Nothing to report

Councillor R Venkatesh:

Nothing to report.

Councillor L Rhys-Jones:

Nothing to report.

Councillor J Fuller:

Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone:

Nothing to report.

Initials: _____

Councillor V Manro:

Attended HW over 60s – good Q&A session with about 40 residents. Provided a good opportunity to talk about what the parish council is doing particularly our Reducing Loneliness and Isolation Programme. Asked us to bring our magazine and posters to future sessions to help advertise news and events. Keen for more councillors to go along to their group.

Councillor S Callen:

Nothing to report

Councillor A Roupelis:

Nothing to report

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh:

Nothing to report

FP 107 CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Reminded Councillors of the Connie the Covid Snake & Graffiti event taking place this coming Saturday at the Skate Park (midday – 2pm).

FP 108 FINANCIAL REPORTS

FP 108A Members considered and noted the Income & Expenditure Reports for Month 6 – September 2022.

FP 108B Members considered and noted the Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliations for Month 6 – September 2022.

FP 108C Members discussed and approved September/October 2022 expenditure under purchase daybook references 2431-2492 and cashbook reference 278. The total of payments for approval is £115,278.36

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis Seconded: Councillor S Callen
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members discussed and approved August/September 2022 expenditure under purchase daybook references 2431-2492 and cashbook reference 278. The total of payments for approval is £115,278.36.

FP 109 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

Members noted the completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31st March 2022.

FP 110 SALE OF RIALTAS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP HANDOVER

Members noted the correspondence from Council's financial management software provider, Rialtas Business Solution regarding the leadership handover to N Harris Computer Corporation.

FP 111 BUDGET SETTING UPDATE

Members received an update from the Chairman following a recent working party meeting. Members were encouraged to view the budget and identify cost savings and new budget aspirations for the next three years. It was acknowledged that there is a need to be realistic about what the Council can achieve to the end of this remaining budget year and in future years. It was acknowledged that it will be a difficult budget to balance to maintain the level of services the council offers with the rising cost of living. All members will have a role in planning for the budget and providing business cases.

FP 112 PUBLIC OPEN SPACES LEASES AND DEED OF COVENANTS – LEGAL ADVICE

Members agreed to form a working party to review the legal information received. Councillors R Hailstone, V Manro and L Rhys-Jones will meet with the Chief Officer and summarise the information for the November meeting. It was commented that Swindon Borough Council is one of the few local authorities not to transfer the freehold of play parks to parishes.

FP 113 LEISURE GARDEN UPDATE

Members noted the leisure garden report and after discussion agreed to the Officers Recommendations.

Proposed: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1.) To approve the amendment of the Ventnor Close Leisure Garden Rents, as presented.**
- 2.) To approve the prepayment of the allotment rents from April 2023 to September 2023.**
- 3.) To earmark any surplus income over expenditure for use on Leisure Gardens.**

FP 114 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY WORKING PARTY

Members noted the report and the next steps of the working party to bring a draft revised document to the next Finance & Policy meeting on 15th November 2022.

FP 115 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Members noted the Christmas Opening Hours for the Office and the Parks & Open Spaces Team.

FP 116 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be passed to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting due to be held on the 15th November 2022: Interim Report from Internal Auditor, Budget Setting, and Leases.

The Meeting closed at 21.00

Chairman Signed:

Initials: _____