

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 6.00pm at the GLL Haydon Centre Studio Room, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes, P Park, E Baker-Walker, O Munagala, G Choudhury, J Jackson, J Fuller, R Hailstone, R Ross, B Patrick-Okoh, A John and A Roupelis

CHIEF OFFICER: Chief Officer/Clerk and RFO - Georgina Morgan-Denn

STAFF: Julie Coe, Liz Mathews, Sean Pocock, Dave Hunt, Andy Nickols and Jackie Fawcett

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were 48 members of the public in attendance.

APM 30 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Advised that the Parish Council is dedicated to listening to our residents and delivering on its strategy which is to engage with the youth, helping to reduce loneliness and isolation and focused on building on the future of the community.

APM 31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meeting held on 28th March 2023.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor J Fuller

Vote: Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 28th March 2023.

APM 32 ROUND UP OF THE COUNCIL YEAR AND QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

The Chairman of the Council informed the meeting how the Council is proud to be engaged with its community, understanding of their concerns, their needs and core values to make Haydon Wick a more desirable place to work and live.

Introduced the Council's five-year strategy - 'Community Led Action Plan' which holds the Council accountable to the residents for developing the community based upon their feedback during the consultation process undertaken two years ago. Highlights of the strategy were detailed namely:

- 2023 Award Winning Memory Café
- 2023 Award Winning Sensory Garden
- 2023 Award Winning Community Bus Service
- Haydon Wick Haven – community café
- Supporting and maintaining twenty-three Play Areas (23)
- Skate Park – the hub for youth engagement
- Tree planting and Litter picking initiatives

The Council works with partners to help deliver many of the services offered to the community. For example, 'BEST' Be a Better You deliver youth events, this can be in the form of football and confidence building sports like boxing. Many other activities to help combat reducing loneliness and isolation with events in the school holidays. The skate park is also very popular as well as being an excellent place for youths to go this is also encouraging health and fitness.

The Council is committed to help its most vulnerable residents with the introduction of the Haydon Wick Haven – Councillor led they are on hand to help our old community with help perhaps with a domestic bill which at home if living alone can be sometimes hard to understand or simply to provide company or entertainment with a game of cards or a quiz.

The Chairman explained the Parish Precept detailing where the money is spent by service division and progressive capital projects. There is the long-term investment commencing this year with the build of a new Grounds Maintenance Facility, this is to house Parks & Open Spaces team and safe storage of their equipment and machinery.

Residents then asked questions:

Q – *Why has the precept gone up so much? The percentage is very high?*

A – This is scrutinised during the budget process, council tax band d' for example means a resident would pay £128.89 per year to include services, such as central services, parks and open spaces, community development and capital projects.

Q – *Thank you, perhaps your services should be advertised to make residents aware of where the money is spent and demonstrating the services being provided?*

A – Noted, a campaign to explain the increase is coming soon but we welcome your feedback.

Q – *Myself and my husband had no idea about the Haven or the Memory Café no we do we really love it, but is it advertised in general?*

A – Haven and Memory Café are both advertised on the website and posters are distributed in the area.

APM 33

SWINDON & WILTSHIRE PREPARED – COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS

Representation from Swindon and Wiltshire prepared gave a thorough overview of their presentation detailing their community emergency plans. The purpose of this is to fill a gap between the respondents (police etc) and the communities. It would be desired to have identified areas all over the county to have 'hub's (a safe place to go) in case of a emergency. These emergencies could include, lengthened outage, flooding, snow, fire etc.

There are four (4) essential stages:

1. Solve the problem at home and check on neighbours.
2. Check the surrounding streets to check surrounding areas.
3. Go to hub and co-ordinate help.
4. Call the emergency services.

The chosen 'hub can be in any building at all as long as it has facilities such as toilets, water light and heating. Volunteers may be given roles such as a supervisor or a receptionist to organise the people in the hub, get help and call the relevant respondents. It's useful to have a good relationship with the local PCSO who can respond quickly and efficiently to an emergency. There is a pack available at every 'Hub' with stickers for the windows, lanyards, logbooks, posters and a map of the parish. This allows for the 'hub' to be promoted to ensure residents are aware of where to go should there be an emergency.

APM 34

HAYDON WICK HEROES

- **Paul Cook - Volunteer of the Year**

Paul was awarded this prize for his ongoing support and volunteer work at the Memory Café. He makes the attendees feel very special and they leave happy when they spend time with him, it was noted that Haydon Wick Parish Council are extremely lucky to have him as a volunteer and long may it continue.

- **Grace Ross - Young Achiever of the Year**

Grace is a wonderful volunteer who will help wherever and whenever she can, she's a wonderfully caring young lady and nothing is every too much trouble, many congratulations.

- **The Kelly Foundation - Community Group of the Year**

This wonderful foundation was awarded due to the amazing work they do with people who struggle with mental health and integrating in the community. John Stooke gave thanks for the award and shared his gratitude to the room to receive this. A presentation/video was played in the background and Emma Rees gave an excellent overview of what the foundation have achieved in such a small amount of time. This foundation supports the most vulnerable people who need quite urgent help with mental health issues. The help that is on offer can be anything from housing, food banks, help with getting into the workplace and sometimes just to have someone on hand to listen to the person in need. The Kelly Foundation told the room of there wonderful plans to expand further and are looking at introducing more help into support men's metal help. A hugely worthy winner of this award.

APM 35
APM 35.1

PROJECT UPDATES & COMMUNITY GRANT PARTICIPANTS
THE UNDERGROUND

Presentation received from 'The Underground' representative advised that this area/establishment was identified as an excellent location for a youth club due to there being three secondary schools within a twenty-minute walk so this will give a wide range of students access to the facility. The facility is based in Orbital Park next to the library, volunteers are currently redecorating ready for opening twice a week in April 2024 this will be monitored over time and increase should foot fall demand it. Thanks was given to Haydon Wick Parish Council for the grant which has helped to make this happen.

APM 35.2

THAMESDOWN HYDROTHERAPY

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for the grant received. The recipient advised that the centre has been going for 40 years, the pool helps with all sorts of therapies including, movements, speech, pain relief and mental health issues. Recently they have begun growing produce at their allotment to sell and raise funds but also to donate some produce to local charities. They continue to look at all ways to keep this service going and had recently been successful in obtaining a grant for a new roof to the value of £60,000.00.

APM 35.3

ART GROUP

Thanks to Haydon Wick Parish Council for their continued support which has continued for 20 years. They advised that the group meets every week at the Parish Meeting room on a Tuesday 10.00am – 12.00pm. This is very much enjoyed by the participants who come along and paint, meet up and chat.

APM 35.4

UPLANDS ENTERPRISE GROUP

Thanks to the Parish Council for the support given. It was explained that this group give support to 18+ years old who need help integrating into society. They offer a skill for life programme which includes doing arts and crats, sewing, candle making to name a few.

APM 35.5

SWINDON AND CRICKLADE RAILWAY

Acknowledgement to Haydon Wick Parish Council for their support. The representative advised of location of the railways and the events that are ran. There are four large events a year including the Christmas Santa Train amongst others. There are 700 members but only around 120 of these volunteer and help. Therefore if anyone is interested please go along and talk to a member to help out and this will be greatly appreciated. Talks have begun with Haydon Wick Parish Council reference the land adjacent to the Blunsdon Railway to explore change of use from a field to a car park.

APM 35.6 SEVEN FIELDS

Representative of Seven Fields thanked Haydon Wick Parish Council for the ongoing support. It was explained that Seven Fields is a beautiful area which offers wonderful walks, nature reserves and an opportunity to exercise. Volunteers are greatly received.

APM 35.7 RCGG CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR

The representative of the choir gave thanks to the community and Haydon Wick Parish Council for the continued support. A reading from the bible was read out, by a wonderful performance of the hymn 'Lord Bless You and Keep You'.

APM 36 MEETING CLOSING WITH REFRESHMENTS AND A COMMUNITY NETWORKING EVENT

Chairman thanked the team involved with organising the meeting – for making it such a polished and well organised event. He closed the meeting advising residents that the Council is committed to continuing to strive to grow services to make the Parish the best it can be.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman _____

Initials _____