

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council, held on Tuesday 9th August 2022 at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors: R Hailstone (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice Chair), J Jackson, V Manro, E Baker-Lee, R Ross, S McDermott, K Naik, A John and L Brown

OFFICERS: Chief Officer & RFO, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt
Senior Administrator, Jill Sharp

POS 072 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and noted from Councillors D Rodgers (Personal Commitments).

POS 073 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor S Heyes has an interest in Agenda Item 26 as he is a Parish Councillor for St Andrews Parish Council. Councillor V Manro had an interest as an SBC Panel Member with regards to Agenda Item 16.

POS 074 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Two (2) members of the public were present, one made representation under Agenda Item 9 – Head of Parks & Open Spaces Report – Electric vehicles. Would like clarification of any costs – Head of POST advised that the lease costs are considerably lower than the present vehicles and will monitor the electric costs which is also anticipated to be considerably lower. Advised that the height of the canopy in New Road/Whitworth Road is blocking vision and therefore consider it dangerous. Head of POST will investigate and resolve. The other was at Claremont Court and was advised that this was the responsibility of Swindon North but would also investigate.

POS 075 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

POS 076 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed with (1) One abstentions.
RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 and signed by the Chairman.

POS 077 SEVEN FIELDS
Members received and noted that because of the warm weather, the grass was very dry and perhaps a fire break could be implemented with the consent of the conservation group and Head of POST will report back as soon as possible as to its possibility.
The recommendation within the report to purchase and install an accessible kissing gate at the cost of £720.00 + VAT was not accepted as there were concerns over this being within Swindon Borough Council's remit.

Councillor L Brown raised concerns of the location being just a track, therefore in the winter months, a very muddy track which will not be possible to maintain, be replaced with that the kissing gate is not erected.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with one (1) against.

RESOLVED: To reject the proposal to purchase and install a kissing gate as this is the remit of SBC and not the Parish Council's.

19.41 Councillor K Naik left the meeting and returned at 19.42

POS 078

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor V Manro:

Updated on the works by City Fiber, there appears to be much improvement to the tidiness as the SBC Highways Officer is now quality checking 100% of work.

Councillor S McDermott:

Nothing to report.

Councillor L Brown:

Nothing to report.

Councillor R Ross:

Cliffords Meadow – there are concerns over when the hay cut/ cattle grazing will take place. Residents have had contact from Natural England and have confirmed they are liaising with the Land Agents. Natural England has asked if the Parish Council would be interested in taking on ownership of Cliffords Meadow if the opportunity arose – this would be a future agenda item to discuss.

Councillor S Heyes:

Wanted to advise that the Bus Service 16 is being reviewed, but Swindon Borough Council (SBC) is negotiating to amend the times to 90 minutes between 06.00 to 18.00 – this is an item for next week's Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

Councillor R Hailstone:

Now the wildflower areas are dying down, they should be cut and raked to reduce the possibility of becoming a fire hazard. Head of POST will investigate and organise where possible. Neil Pullen from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has advised that has organised two dates for walks at Mouldon Hill to encourage a 'Friends of Mouldon Hill' group. Also requested that one of the SBC Ward Councillors present could champion at SBC to discover any issues with the S106 funds for this area. Councillor V Manro will report back.

Councillor E Baker Lee:

Nothing to report.

Councillor A John:

Nothing to report.

Councillor K Naik:

Nothing to report.

Councillor J Jackson:

Nothing to report.

POS 079

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

National Allotment Society – has emailed members to advise that plot holders should be mindful of water consumption and smoking on leisure garden/allotment plots. The Council's Administration Assistant has displayed notices on the gates to this affect and will be extended to the wildflower areas and large open spaces.

Initials _____

POS 080 HEAD OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES' REPORT

Members noted the contents of the report and requested more detail in the daily work sheets and works carried over for future reports to better understand the statistics. Key points included an update on the grass and hedge cutting schedules and delivery of the electric vehicles and the vehicle livery installation dates.

POS 081 WILDFLOWERS, BULBS AND TREES

The Committee noted the report from Councillor S McDermott noting the current plans for planting and concerns for resourcing on other areas of planting that could be delayed until next year. The Committee discussed the types of flowers and the need for these to be suitable for the grass cutting schedule and not making it too difficult to strim around.

After discussion the Committee agreed to go with Option 2 and Option 3 of the recommendations within the report.

**POS 081A Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: To choose Option 2 for the Wildflower mixes which will include White & Purple Snakes Head Fritillaria, Poppies, Creeping Red Seeds and traditional meadow wildflowers.

**POS 081B Proposed: Councillor L Brown Seconded: Councillor J Jackson
Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: To choose Option 3 for the Bulb mixes which will include Bluebells, Daffodils, Snowdrops, Crocus, Tete-a-Tete and Snakes Head Fritillaria.

POS 082 USING FLOWERS TO REDUCE SPEEDING

Councillor L Brown shared an article regarding the benefits of highway verge planting to slow traffic in some areas and how this could work in line with the aims of the Wildflower, Bulbs and Tree planting projects.

POS 083 LEISURE GARDEN COMPETITION 2022 WINNERS

Members received and noted the report and the winners and confirmed agreement for the Plot Holders Annual Meeting for Monday 10th October 2022.

POS 084 WASTE LEFT ON LEISURE GARDEN SITES

Members discussed a potential bond for new plot holders to mitigate any waste left on plots after termination. This is an initiative conducted by other parish councils; however, it is not necessary in Haydon Wick as the left over waste (such as sheds and timber) are either passed to the next plot holder or there is an agreement for the Parks & Open Spaces Team to remove this in line with the daily trips to Waterside Depot.

POS 085 BEEKEEPING AT LEISURE GARDEN SITES

Members received and discussed the interim report of research carried out about the implications and benefits of beekeeping on allotment sites.

Members heard how advice has been sought from the National Allotment Association, the British Bee Keeping Association and other local councils.

The Deputy Clerk has requested a representative comes to present the item at a future meeting.. Members thanked Officers for the research to date and

agreed to postpone a decision until the Council is approached by a third party or university again.

Temporary suspension of standing orders was agreed to allow the member of public to join the discussion, who advised that at their allotment site a member is currently supporting beehives on site may be a person to contact. Deputy Clerk advised that they had already been contacted and had been a great assistance.

20.50 Member of the public left the meeting.

POS 086

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (GMF)

Members received a verbal update and noted the continuing work towards the commencement of the GMF and that the pre application is due to be received by Friday 12th August 22. An update will be given at the next meeting. Members discussed the recent Solar Together Application and agreed that this should be postponed to 2023 as the GMF would not be completed in time for inspection.

Proposed: Councillor L Brown

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that this should be postponed to 2023 as the GMF would not be completed in time for inspection.

POS 087

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) WIDE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION CONSULTATION

Members received the report and noted the deadline of Monday 15th August 2022. The Committee felt there was not much time to provide a comprehensive response and would require more notice in future, however, would like it noted that the Committee is in favour of the Public Open Spaces Protection Orders and would like them to continue. *Action: Deputy Clerk to respond to the consultation with the above comments.*

POS 088

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the Income and Expenditure for Month 3 (July 22). Query regarding the Trees for Climate funds and cost codes. *Action: Deputy Clerk to discuss with the Finance Officer.*

POS 089

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 13th September 2022.

21.02 Member of the public left the meeting.

POS 090

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & 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.

21.04 Chief Officer joined the meeting.

POS 091

HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK & KING GEORGE V PLAY AREA SECURITY

The security provider advised that they will be unavailable for 14 days in September and wanted to arrange cover or ask the Council if it wished to manage this internally for the 14 days. The Committee agreed that cover should be provided by the security provider.

Members were also informed that the fencing at a property on the High Steet was down, and youths are again entering the premises. Head of POST advised that the Council does not have any available heras fencing to secure the gap and therefore the responsibility of the freeholder/builder. It was noted te planning application for this property has been granted so works should start imminently.

POS 092

HEDGE, TREE & SHRUB BED MAINTENANCE TENDER

Members received a verbal update who advised that three bids had been received and will be discussed with the working party on Thursday 11th August 22.

21.10 Councillor E Baker Lee left the meeting and returned at 21.11.

POS 093

GRASS CUTTING MACHINERY

Members received an update who advised that following agreement at Full Council, the machines have been ordered and will update on an estimated time of delivery will follow as soon as it is received.

POS 094

TREE MAINTENANCE

Members received a report of ongoing tree maintenance enquiries from residents with the responsibility falling between Haydon Wick Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council. The meeting heard that a resident has donated several young Oak Trees to place on the large open space near Capesthorpe road, drive, way? and Osterley road driveway?. It was advised that they will require a lot of watering during the initial 18 – 24 months and current resources are available for this level of work. The resident was asked if they would consider watering for this period until the trees are established. The Committee agreed that the Oak Trees could be accepted on the proviso that the resident could assist with the watering.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross Seconded: Councillor J Jackson
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To accept the donation of two Oak Trees subject to the resident confirming they will water the trees regularly for a minimum of 18-24 months.

POS 095

TRENT ROAD PLAYING FIELD

Members were advised that a resident local to the field had sent in concerns about Trent Road being listed as a playing field rather than an open space. As well as raising historic concerns of anti-social behaviour at the field during football matches, which have impacted on nearby residents. It was reported that there will be a meeting with the resident tomorrow to discuss their concerns..

POS 096

SBC/HWPC PARKS & OPEN SPACES (POS) NO AGREEMENT - FRANCOMES PLAY AREA COMPLAINT

The Committee noted a complaint from a resident regarding Francomes Play Area and the response from the Legal Team at SBC. Up until now the Parish Council has inspected this in line with other play areas and has been carrying out basic health & safety maintenance. The Play Area Working Party visited

Initials _____

Francomes prior to the meeting and agreed it was in a state of disrepair. The play area is currently not owned by Haydon Wick Parish Council or Swindon Borough Council and the Parish Council would not be looking to take this play area on without significant transitional funding (within the remit of £100,000.00) to bring the play area up to a good standard of other play areas in the parish or it should be Swindon Borough Council's responsibility to close it or do the maintenance themselves.

The Working Party also visited Doyle Close Play Area, which is the under the same ownership predicament as Francomes. It was commented that the Council could be willing to takeover the ownership of Doyle Close with a small amount of funding to attend to issue with the wet pour and repair to the seesaw. *Actions: Costs for bringing both Play Areas up to good standard to be provided to the Chief Officer and inform SBC Legal Team the costs for potentially taking on the play area. To remove the HWPC branded sign from Francomes.*

Members agreed to suspend Stand Orders 3e and extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

21.32 Councillor S Heyes left the meeting.

POS 097

TADPOLE FIELD

The Committee received an update from the Chief Officer and Councillor V Manro regarding the potential to rent some land to St Andrews Parish Council's. Members agreed to the draft terms and conditions, with the exception of Item 3 Rent, as this needed further investigation to establish the valuation of the land from an independent surveyor before agreeing a final figure.

**Proposed: Councillor J Jackson Seconded: Councillor A John
Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: Agreed to the draft terms and conditions, with the exception of Item 3 Rent, as this needed further investigation to establish the valuation of the land from an independent surveyor before agreeing a final figure.

The meeting closed at 21.50

Chairman _____

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