

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Informal Parks & Open Spaces Committee Discussion of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.30pm remotely via Teams.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

POS 001 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J Jackson (Council Commitments). There were apologies from Councillor E Baker Lee, whilst not a member of the Committee, she would have given an update in Agenda Item 12 – Seven Fields. There were no apologies received from Councillor K T Naik.

The Chairman, Councillor R Hailstone, advised the meeting that the name of the Committee has been changed from the Amenities & Leisure Committee to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee to better reflect the service to the community. He also welcomed a new Committee member, Councillor J Fuller.

POS 002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

POS 003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two Members of the Public present. One submitted questions in advance:

1. On what exact date was the new 3 metre fencing around the skate park installed?

The fencing installation began on 21st April 2021 and lasted 5 working days finishing on Tuesday 27th April.

2. Does the new 3 metre fence completely circumvent the Skate Park?

The fencing covers the three sides (as the MUGA fencing was done during the hand over a few years back) so the fencing that leads in to Haydonleigh School is not new replaced 3m fencing. There have not been any issues with trespassing into Haydonleigh School since the reopening of the skate park last September. The fencing to separate the MUGA belongs to the school.

3. On what dates were teenagers observed climbing over the fence into the MUGA?

The Council received an email from the caretaker of Haydonleigh School and received messages on Facebook on Wednesday 5th May. There is a slight gap underneath the original Haydonleigh fencing (which has not been replaced) and skateboards are going underneath, we have an arrangement for people to collect them on the Monday morning and are taking steps to secure the gap, however, people understandably want their property back sooner and jump the fence.

4. Will the proposed signage include a disclaimer clause?

At this stage, basic signage has been displayed but we are working with the security provider, local PCSOs and the school so will come up with something more permanent and have wording to reflect the seriousness of trespassing and risk of harm.

The other member of public wanted to bring to the Committee's attention the open space within a cul-de-sac on Thames Avenue, herself and neighbours would like to adopt the land to plant bulbs and divert cars parking on there. The Head of POST was given delegated authority at the last Committee meeting to approve such areas and report back to Committee retrospectively. The Head of POST agreed that the land could be managed well between the residents and overseen by the team to ensure the agreed maintenance is being adhered to. Options for barriers to protect the area are being investigated – such as wooden fencing. The Head of POST will liaise with the resident directly.

POS 004 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

POS 005 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 and recommended to approve when physical meetings recommence with an amendment to the wildflower location within Councillor Reports, from Hyssop Close to the brook near Torun Way off Queen Elizabeth Drive.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with three (3) abstentions.

RESOLVED: To recommend approving the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 when physical meetings recommence with an amendment to the wildflower location within Councillor Reports, from Hyssop Close to the brook near Torun Way off Queen Elizabeth Drive.

Resolved to bring Agenda Item 13 – Wilding Haydon Wick and Item 14 - Wildflower Watch forward.

POS 006 WILDING HAYDON WICK

The Committee noted a request for suggestions for trial 'grow wild' areas will be included in the upcoming Haydon Wick "Living" magazine. Suggestions received will be reviewed by the Head of POST and discussed at a future Committee meeting. A call out for residents to join the Wildflower Working Party will also feature within the magazine.

POS 007 WILDFLOWER WATCH

The Committee noted the report requesting that Councillors keep an eye of the four trial wildflower areas:

- Land adjacent to Catherine Wayte School
- Hyssop Close
- The brook between Henchard Crescent & Maybold Crescent
- Old Blunsdon Road

An easy guide of the names and pictures of species, to know what to look for, was included within the report. Any sightings of the wildflowers should be reported to Councillors S McDermott, R Hailstone, and the Head of POST, so that the trial can be monitored closely, and progress can be shared on social media.

19:51 Councillor S McDermott left the meeting.

POS 008

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes Noticed the blocked subway between Melstock Road and Callington Road but this features within Head of POST report later in the meeting so will be keen to hear the progress.

Councillor J Fuller The triangle of land between The Brow and Avonmead is overgrown with brambles and several dead trees. Could this be investigated and consider planting some saplings? *Head of POST will investigate and report back.*

Councillor R Hailstone Asked for an update regarding a meeting with the SBC Animal Wardens? *Deputy Clerk agreed to chase response.*

POS 009

CLERK'S REPORT

Seven Fields Park Run – Queried if Lydiard Park Run is postponed will Seven Fields Park Run follow suit, concerns about the numbers of attendees at Seven Fields attracting those who normally would attend Lydiard. Received formative response from those running Seven Fields Park Run and an update from Park Run HQ confirming the arrangements and an update that landowners have until 21st May 2021 to give permission; some are slower in responding than others.

Non-Member Working Parties – A request for residents to join in on the non-member working parties such as Play Area & Accessibility and Wildflowers will be promoted on social media.

Greenmeadow Noticeboard – New noticeboard is due to be delivered on Thursday 13th May 2021 and will be installed shortly.

Budget Monitoring – The Income & Expenditure for the new financial year was not available to circulate due to the Year End happening on Thursday 13th May 2021. The budget was shared on screen as a reminder of the Committee's projects for this year. Queries raised relating to the progress at Tadpole Field, the Clerk and Chairman reiterated that the Council is awaiting a response from Swindon Borough Council and gave a brief overview on findings to date. In the meantime, it was queried if the hedge line surrounding Tadpole Field could be reduced to improve upon visibility. Other queries included electric vehicles for the new depot.

POS 010

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

The Committee noted the Grass, Hedges and Winter Projects Report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. The Head of POST confirmed that the two grass cutting cycles have been completed within 15 working days. The summer shrub cut carried out by Countrywide began on Monday 10th May 2021, the team is currently cutting in Abbey Meads. The schedule is due to be completed by the end of July 2021 (subject to weather conditions). Regular progress meetings and monitoring have been implemented throughout the schedule.

POS 011

PARKS & PROJECTS

The Committee noted the report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. Haydonleigh Skate Park is being observed for social distancing at various times in the day, confirmation that at each visit all was above board and within the maximum capacity of 30 users. Reports of antisocial behavior and conflict between parents and young adults occupying the skate park, North Swindon Police has confirmed patrols for school kick out time and the Youth Worker will be present on weekend mornings to oversee nervous skaters, younger children and those that wish to interact with her. The Chair of the Play Area Working Party gave a brief update about the Council's plans to refurbish Luna Close Play Area with feedback from Benjamin's Smile Charity and Oakhurst Community Primary School. An equipment wish list will be sent into Officers to begin the tender process. It was agreed in terms of

access the Luna Close Play Area would be best to complete first, Gaynor Close Play Areas and resurfacing Voyager Drive Play Area can be carried out in late summer 2021.

POS 012 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. In line with the easing of the Covid-19 Restrictions the public waste bins are not as full and issues with fly tipping of household waste has reduced.

20:48 One member of public left the meeting.

POS 013 COVID-19 MEMORIAL

Head of POST gave a verbal report on the progress of the Covid-19 Memorial project. The trees have established well and raised beds will be installed shortly along with two benches as a trial to see how this works with the concrete base underneath. If the bench installations go as planned, then further benches and raised beds will be installed. Requests to plant flowering shrubs such as callicarpa to provide a good display of colour.

POS 014 SEVEN FIELDS

Request received from Barnardo's Swindon Trailblazer – Project Me, to create a trail for the public to access over the summer holidays, this trail will be easily accessible and fun for the whole family to enjoy and will focus on the five steps to wellbeing. The project organisers will come along to June's Committee discussion, to update the Committee on the plans and receive permission to proceed.

20:55 Second member of public left the meeting.

POS 016 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

POS 017 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 018 POST DEPOT FEASIBILITY

The Committee received a verbal update from the Depot Feasibility Working Party. The temporary depot building will be ordered shortly; this features a mess room, meeting room and toilets. The temporary depot will need to be in situ for 8 months. The Consultation letters for plot holders and nearby residents for the long term plans (prior to the pre-planning stages) will be sent after the Parks & Open Spaces team has been updated with the plans later this week.

A project timeline is in place and a draft version of the long term depot plan was shown on screen. It was acknowledged that key decisions have already been approved by Full Council and this Committee will receive regular updates on developments.

The meeting closed at 21.07

Chairman: