

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th August 2021 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

OBSERVERS: Councillors E Baker Lee and B Patrick-Okoh

POS 066

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor K T Naik (work commitments) and Councillor S McDermott (personal commitments).

POS 067

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 068

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

POS 069

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

POS 070

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2021.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 13th July 2021.

POS 071

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members noted that Councillor S McDermott was added to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

POS 072

SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor E Baker Lee updated members on matters arising from Seven Fields. Advised that Swindon Borough Council (SBC) is responsible for cutting the meadows at Seven Fields, the cut is usually carried out at the end of August/September. SBC has updated the Parish Council that it is unable to locate a contractor due to high demands. SBC doesn't have the resources internally to carry out the cut this year and will be reviewing its options to see if another contractor can be located in time for this year's cut. The Deputy Clerk advised that this has been escalated to the Head of Operations at SBC and the SBC Ward Councillors. Members requested a formal letter is sent to SBC noting the Parish Council's concerns.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To issue a formal letter to the Head of Operations of Swindon Borough Council citing the Parish Council's concerns regarding the annual cut of Seven Fields.

POS 073

COMMUNITY GROUPS USING PARKS & OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE PARISH

Members discussed giving specific community groups use of the Parish's parks and open spaces.

POS 073A

Haydonleigh Skatepark / ATB shop - to use the skatepark for organised events – often in conjunction with the Haydon Wick Community Development to give attendees more understanding and training for safety and experience commencing on 13th August 2021. All due diligence including Insurances has been carried out and approved.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross

Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members approved ATB Skate Shop to use the skatepark for a government initiative (food and activity program) to give attendees training for safety during practicing their skills, promoting healthy eating, promoting physical activity and an opportunity to trial a new activity. The events will run every Friday during the summer holidays commencing from 13th August 2021.

POS 073B

King George V Field - to allow Morrisons to hold a Red Card for Racism promotional event with students from the parish for a photo opportunity and meeting point. All permissions from parents and schools have been obtained.

Proposer: Councillor V Manro

Seconder: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members approved the use of King George V Field to hold a promotional 'Red Card for Racism' event.

POS 073C

Park Yoga - Councillor E Baker Lee gave a verbal update on Park Yoga advising that the parish has missed the opportunity for this year as the events are held during the spring/summer but asked the committee to consider the event for 2022 and bring ideas of suitable locations to a future meeting.

19.46 Councillor E Baker Lee left the meeting.

POS 074

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor V Manro

Gave a verbal update on SBC and Wiltshire Wildlife Trusts' Mouldon Hill renovation project and would like members to submit ideas for the next Committee meeting of how the Parish Council can be involved and the level of participation.

POS 075

DEPUTY CLERK & SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

There were no items to report.

POS 076

TREE PLANTING AND CREATION OF WILDFLOWER AREAS

Members received recommendations from the working party regarding proposed locations and tree types to take part in the Great Western Community Forest project and the Queens Green Canopy 2022.

The Great Western Community Forest Project (GWCFP) is being funded by SBC, but the labour element is to be carried out by the Parish. It was discussed that this is very labour intensive and therefore could be costly. Consideration to be given on how to get support from the local community and volunteers such as community planting events. The outcome of last years bulb planting was disappointing. Members discussed possible locations for next season, also the extension of the wildflower project with possible involvement of local businesses and members were reminded that GWCFP need to have a final response by the beginning of September. Recommendations of locations for tree planting will be discussed at the upcoming Full Council meeting. If the recommendations are approved, then a separate discussion into the long-term consideration for labour and budgets is required.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council tree planting locations to be submitted to SBC for the Great Western Community Forest Project.

POS 077

SBC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGEPOINT STRATEGY CONSUTATION

Members agreed to postpone the review of the ChargePoint Strategy to the September meeting, comments will then be sent to the Planning & Highways Committee for review and to submit the response. A consultation working party is being created for members that would be interested in joining.

POS 078

SWINDON LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN-PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members agreed to postpone the review of the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to the September meeting, comments will then be sent to the Planning & Highways Committee for review and to submit the response. A consultation working party is being created for members that would be interested in joining.

POS 079

PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report. There were no recommendations for the Committee to consider. Topics include the pending renovations of the Luna Close and Gaynor Close Play Areas, items the team is working towards and an update on the Office Move project. Requests for a timeline against the items the team is working towards to be implemented from the next report.

20.00 Councillor B Patrick-Okoh left the meeting

POS 080

GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

Members noted the Grass & Hedge Cutting Report. There were no recommendations to consider. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces gave a verbal update on the grass/hedge cutting schedule. The Contractors have now finished the spring/summer cut and will return in late October for the autumn cut. Areas cut first on the hedge cutting schedule in Abbey Meads are being cut by the internal team, due to sporadic weather conditions causing growth. It was confirmed that the grass cutting is on target for a three-week turnaround.

POS 081

HEAD OF POST REPORT

Members noted the Head of POST report. Items on the daily work sheets are being completed within good time. The appointment of the Deputy Parks &

Initials _____

Open Spaces Manager is proving to be successful; the Deputy is carrying out site visits and inspections, reporting back to the Head of POST the findings and actions for the team. The temporary welfare facility has been delivered. The Tidy Up Team is assisting with some strimming and mowing backup for the Grass Team. The Compact Sweeper is being delivered in October and is expected to make a considerable difference to the tidiness of the Parish.

POS 082

LEISURE GARDEN TERMS & CONDITIONS

Members reviewed and accepted the amendments to the Leisure Garden Terms & Conditions (T&C's). Changes to the document is within the Committee's Terms of Reference so there is no requirement for this to be presented to Finance & Policy. The new T&C's will be circulated with the annual rent letters. Rents will be determined by the August RPI figure, which will be reported to the next Committee meeting.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To accept the amendments to the Leisure Garden Terms and Conditions.

POS 083

CLIFFORDS MEADOW

Members received an update on the future maintenance of Cliffords Meadow. A site visit was carried out by Chairman, Head of Open Spaces & the Deputy Clerk, who confirmed that some of the boundary fencing is in poor condition and there are gaps leading to the housing locations where access can be gained. Councillor V Manro thanked Councillor R Ross for their efforts in dealing with the public enquiries relating to Cliffords Meadow. The land agent has been contacted and has proven to be unhelpful and unwilling to assist. An email to Natural England has been sent to receive further assistance and advice. Concerns that if the meadow is not looked after and managed correctly, then it could lose its SSSI status. There have been no updates as to when it is expected to be cut. All parties concerned are being contacted again and a report will be scheduled for the next meeting.

POS 084

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received a verbal update Councillor S Heyes, advising that all is proceeding as scheduled and a project plan is in the draft stages. The Architect has now planned for the 5-meter extension of the building in order that the building will be futureproofed as much as possible. The Parish has received permission from Tree Officers at SBC to remove one willow tree and pollard two willow trees at the site, this information will be shared within the planning application, that is due to be submitted imminently.

POS 085

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the Parks & Open Spaces income and expenditure budget Month 4.

POS 086

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting on 14th September 2021.

The meeting closed at 20.53

Chairman:

Initials _____