

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors S Heyes (Chair), A John, J Jackson, K Naik, V Manro, R Ross, S McDermott and L Brown

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt
Senior Administrator – Jill Sharp

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Caroline Hunt, GWCF Projects Officer, Swindon Borough Council

POS 001

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors, R Hailstone, E Baker Lee and D Rodgers (Personal Commitments).

19.34 Councillor K Naik joined the meeting

POS 002

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None given.

POS 003

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one (1) member of the public present who commented on Agenda Item 11 – Grass Cutting. Was disappointed again this year with the issues arising which is delaying the grass cutting schedule and wonder what will be done to avoid this in future. Head of POST responded that the workforce had been bolstered but the machinery has been a real issue this year and the topic would be discussed in more depth in the later agenda item. Also if the Parish Council could contact Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to organise cleaning and debris removal from Whitworth Road Cemetery as it may be upsetting to the bereaved.

That the minisweeper only travels to the grass cutting area's and is really required on the road/pavements. Head of POST advised that this will be resolved as the follow up team with blowers will be assisting the grass cutting team when 2 round of cutting is completed as there will be extra capacity. However, the sweeper will not be used on a main road, bus route or busier B roads for safety concerns.

POS 004

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

POS 005

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 subject to an amendment to item POS 207.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross

Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed (2) two abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 subject to an amendment to item POS 207 which was completed and minutes signed.

POS 006

GREAT WESTERN COMMUNITY FOREST PROJECT (GWCF)

Members received a presentation from Caroline Hunt, Projects Officer with GWCF within the Planning Team at Swindon Borough Council on an overview of Great Western Trees for Climate (GWCF) project.

- Trees For Climate is a new 5-year programme, but expected to be ongoing beyond 2026
- Funded by DEFRA as part of the Nature for Climate Programme - £650m announcement by Chancellor in 2020
- Priority to plant trees to lock up carbon
- Improve biodiversity by creating mixed habitats
- Provide public amenity & engagement opportunities
- Natural flood alleviation
- One of 12 active Community Forests in England Established in the early 1990s, long term programme working to Government approved Forest Plan (ours runs until 2027)
- Primary objective to increase woodland cover to 30% but many other social, environmental and economic objectives
- GWCF set up in context of Swindon's rapid growth. Other Forests (Mersey, Manchester) more about post-industrial & economic regeneration
- GWCF covers 168 square miles, the whole of Swindon, into Oxfordshire & Wiltshire, Ridgeway to Thames. Projects such as trees in Havelock Square, and wider countryside, e.g. Nightingale Woods, Stratton Woods, Purton Woods, Mouldon Hill.

Tadpole Field Woodland Creation:

- Created 0.53 nett of mixed broadleaf woodland
- Engaged with 53 volunteers over 8 sessions (in 4 days)
- 11 Councillors over 8 sessions (This does not include the mayor on 27th March pm)
- 12 Haydon Wick Staff over 8 sessions 1.5 per session.

Next steps

- Tadpole Field - to assess the area in June/July for failures, beat up in winter to replace failures and damaged tree protection
- TFC will support maintenance for community woodland creation up to year 15
- Planting at Mouldon Hill planned, working with WWT and SBC Ecologist.
- Hoping for large scale projects at Stanton Park, Highworth Golf Course, Mouldon Hill
- Suggestions for future sites in Haydon Wick welcomed.

The Committee asked questions and thanked the Officer for their comprehensive presentation who stayed for the duration of the meeting.

POS 007

SEVEN FIELDS

Members received discussed and noted the email from Swindon Conservation/Wiltshire Wildlife Trust requesting permission to conduct a winter program hedgerow survey on 8th October 2022 between 10.00-13.00.

Proposed: Councillor A John **Seconded: Councillor J Jackson**

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: For Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to conduct a hedgerow survey on 8th October 2022.

POS 008

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor V Manro Has received an invitation from Haydonleigh School for their Queens Jubilee event on 27th May starting at 12 noon. To remind Councillors of the Swindon Borough Solar Together Scheme - that the more residents who register the better deals are available. Asked Officers to register interest for the new Grounds Maintenance Facility depending on cut off dates.

Councillor A John Nothing to report.

Councillor S McDermott Commented how successful and wonderful the bulbs have been on many of the roadsides and roundabouts.

Councillor L Brown Mentioned that the area by the chat benches might be a suitable for some trees to be planted.

Councillor R Ross Nothing to report.

Councillor S Heyes Nothing to report.

Councillor K Naik Nothing to report.

POS 009

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Welcomed Caroline Hunt who will be joining the staff of HWPC in June.

POS 010

PARKS & PROJECTS

Members discussed and noted the contents of the report. Mentioned that the addition of the Fire Engine at Brookfield Park may assist in stopping some of the vandalism presently being experienced at this site. It is thought that tired and aging equipment just entices such behaviour. Councillor Jackson suggested that possible CCTV could be installed also as a deterrent. *Action: To bring a list of damage at this site to justify the installation of CCTV.*

POS 011

HEDGE AND GRASS CUTTING SPECIFICATION DRAFT (2022-2023)

Councillors voiced their appreciation to the Officers for their work on the Hedge/Shrub Cutting and Grass Cutting specification documents. It was acknowledged that the Head of POST has to verify the works being conducted to ensure the quality and completion times.

20.17 Councillors K Naik and J Jackson left the meeting.

20.19 Councillor J Jackson returned.

20.22 Councillor K Naik returned.

POS 012

HEAD OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES REPORT

Members received the Officer's report and agreed to the recommendations contained.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson **Seconded: Councillor A John**

Initials _____

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members approved the following:

- 1. Agreed the cost to install external charging points at the main parish council office for the new electric vehicles at a cost of £543.60 to be met from 4610/307.**
- 2. Agreed to remove 45m of secondary 1.8m close board fencing at Catmint Close, following extensive consultation with residents. Approximately three hours labour time.**
- 3. Agreed the install a new litter bin at the main gate and car parking area of Oakhurst Primary School. There is a bin in stock. *Action: advise the school prior to installation and to comment the student who proposed this.***
- 4. Agreed to install 5.5m fencing previously at the skatepark along the boundary fence at King George V. This will be cost neutral except for approximately two hours labour time.**

POS 013

PURCHASE OF A NOTICEBOARD

Members agreed to the purchase of a noticeboard for Haydon View.

Proposer: Councillor L Brown Seconder: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously

RESOLVED: Approved to proceed with ordering a noticeboard for Haydon View at a cost of £480 + VAT [4308/307].

POS 014

PROPOSED TREE LOCATION AT SEATON CLOSE

Members agreed to the Officer's Recommendations. It was suggested that due to the tree not being self-fertilising they should be planted in pairs:

Proposer: Councillor L Brown Seconder: Councillor S McDermott

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1. Proceed with planting two (2) fruit trees on the open space at Thames Avenue (cul-de-sac) opposite Penn Close.**
- 2. Proceed with planting three (3) semi mature fruit trees Pond Street/Upton Close open space.**
- 3. Not to proceed with request to replace tree in Seaton Close**

20.48 Member of public left the meeting.

POS 015

ENCLOSED GREEN SPACES FOR DOGS

Members agreed for the Head of Parks & Open Spaces to investigate the possible locations for an enclosed space for dogs. *Action: Head of POS to report back with an aspiration for 2023-2024 financial year.*

20.51 Councillor K Naik left the meeting and returned at 20.53.

POS 016

COMMUNITY BULB PLANTING

Members noted the verbal report from Councillor S McDermott on the Community bulb planting initiative for October 2022. A poster to be entered into the July edition of the 'Living' Magazine requesting volunteers to register their interest and for a form to be devised stating where they intend to plant the bulbs. Acknowledged that Council needs to be vigilant on areas. The poster should also be advertised on social media. *Action: to discuss at a later meeting the varieties of bulbs to be planted this season. Chief Officer to work with Councillor S McDermott on the communication material.*

21.02 Councillor V Manro left the meeting and returned at 21.04.

POS 017

HAYDON MEADOW SSSI

Members received a verbal update from Councillor R Ross who advised that nothing else had been officially heard from the land agent or executors. However, several complaints from residents advising that the public were still entering the area with children and dogs. Part of the fencing has again been vandalised. The Council will write (again) to the land agents advising them that if nothing is done there is a possibility the site may lose its SSSI status. To raise awareness with residents an article and Facebook post will be written. *Action: Councillor Ross to submit the articles.*

POS 018

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 14th June 2022.

POS 019

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.

POS 020

ARTICLES FOR HAYDON WICK "LIVING" MAGAZINE

Members received a verbal update and reminder of the final date for the inclusion in the summer edition of Haydon Wick "Living" Magazine. Copy deadline end of May 2022. Members were assigned responsibility for various articles.

Resolved to suspend Standing Orders 4X to enable the meeting to be extended for a further 30 minutes.

POS 021

PERMISSION TO USE TRENT ROAD FIELD

Members received a request from a local football club to use Trent Road Field. Members agreed to permit the use of the field subject to strict conditions.

**Proposer: Councillor L Brown Seconder: Councillor S McDermott
Vote: agreed Unanimously.**

RESOLVED: Approved a request from AFC Haydonvale (Haydon Wick & Priory Vale) to use Trent Road Field for youth football training and organised youth football matches. Fixtures would start in September 2022. This is a 12-month agreement with charges to be finalised and a financial bond to be set. The club will not have the field for the sole use.

POS 022

GRASS CUTTING 2022

Members discussed the status of the grass cutting season. Concerns were raised about the reliability of the machines, which are now in their fourth year of a five-year lease, and not coping with the intensity of cutting required. New machines are needed urgently but it was reported that lead time on new machines is at least 6 months. Members agreed that future leases should be shorter and possibly stagger replacements to avoid all machinery coming to their end of life at the same time. It was suggested that one of the old mowers is kept as back up in the future. Unfortunately, there are no ride on mowers available to rent temporarily. It was also noted that new electric mowers are

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not a viable alternative because they are not yet road worthy for public roads so any new mower will have to be diesel. A full report with costings for consideration to come to Full Council in the 24th May. In the meantime, the grass team and other team members are working very hard to catch up where the machines have delayed progress with the grass cutting this season. *Action: Replacement mowers to be discussed at Full Council on 24th May 2022.*

POS 023

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Councillor S Heyes gave a verbal update advising that three quotes have now been received from the turnkey contractors however they vary considerably in cost and the next step is to try to negotiate and achieve some reductions. Final quotations are expected the week commencing 16th May 2022 with a view to bringing them to Full Council on the 24th. The planning application deadline is 15th May and this may need to be extended again whilst we wait for the second drainage report. Additionally, the Council has received objections to the proposed development which require an official response sent this week. *Action: Councillor V Manro to finalise the responses with Chief Officer in the morning.*

The meeting closed at 21.59

Chairman: