

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), S Heyes, V Manro, A Jimmy, A John, R Ross and R Worman

OFFICERS: Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt
Meetings Administrator, Julie Coe

POS 070 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor E Baker-Walker, J Ali, P Park and O Munagala (Personal Commitments).

POS 071 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 072 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two (2) members of the public present. One who attended to communicate resident views under Agenda Item 11 - Tiny Forest Consultation Outcome and the other attended to express the need to protect the open spaces which are excellent providers for maintaining good mental health.

POS 073 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman read an email from a Councillor of Andover Town Council, who expressed how impressed he was with Haydon Wick Parish Council and the services that it offers to the residents.
2. A thank you card was received from the outgoing Community Development Officer for the gifts and cards received upon her leaving her post.

POS 074 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Parks and Opens Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th August 2023 and the Chair of the Committee signed the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy

Vote: Agreed with two (2) Abstentions.

RESOLVED: To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 8th August 2023 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

POS 075 SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor R Hailstone confirmed that Seven Fields has received its annual hay cut and that the area was looking tidy.

POS 076 HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

Members noted the report and gave suggestions for more community involvement for the two designated community plots at Ventnor Close Allotments, Moredon. Previously, children from local schools had been invited to attend site and plant the areas, however, last year only Greenmeadow School participated in this activity. Therefore, all schools in

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the area would be approached again to gain support and interest in the project.

POS 077 DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Circus - A request from a travelling Circus has been received. Consideration needs to be given to residents regarding any parking or noise issues. The suggested area was the space alongside Orbital Centre, which is owned by Swindon Borough Council, but maintained by the Parish Council. This piece of land has previously been used for small funfairs. British Land should also be contacted to request use of the car park.

POS 078 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor V Manro: Would like to give thanks to all the staff and Councillors who attended the Haven on 11th September 2023, it was very well attended with the Mayor of Swindon also in attendance. If any other Councillors could spare any time to come along to this, it would be very much appreciated.

Councillor R Ross: Gave many thanks to the team who organised and attended the Over 60's Cream Tea held on Saturday 9th September. It was a sellout event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Councillor R Worman: Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone: Attended a tree count at Tadpole Field alongside Councillors Ross, Park, and Head of Parks & Open Spaces. Approximately fifty percent (50%) had survived, and a plan would be put in place to replace the trees that perished.

Councillor S Heyes: Nothing to report.

Councillor A Jimmy: Nothing to report.

Councillor J John: Nothing to report.

POS 079 MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES & COMMUNICATIONS

Members noted a report received from the Head of Parks & Open Spaces. The schedule for the last four weeks remains behind due to staff holidays and sickness. The tractor and side arm flail arrived on the 12th September and the team are getting used to the machinery in large open spaces. The team will then follow a schedule of priority locations. The schedule that is available to all residents should reflect any delays and changes of dates for cuts and maintenance to be always updated.

POS 080 TINY FOREST CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Agenda Item 11 – Tiny Forest Consultation Outcome was brought forward. Members suspended Standing Orders to allow the Member of the Public to speak.

The Member of the Public wished to comment on the Tiny Forest Project for himself and other residents of Voyager Drive. An email was shared amongst the Committee which had several points of concern including, loss of a very popular amenity area, ongoing maintenance, and the outlook of resident's homes. It was discussed and confirmed that this project is solely designed to work with the community. It was confirmed that the large area on the consultation letter was marked in error, but the two smaller areas were being suggested for the Tiny Forest. The resident confirmed they had no issue with the smaller areas. The next steps will be consulting with the Tiny Forest Surveyor to do a site visit and assess what is suitable for planting. Upon receipt of Tiny Forests' initial report the Council confirmed the residents will

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be invited to work with them on the project, this could include volunteer planting days or similar.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To continue investigation work with Tiny Forests at Voyager Drive (two small areas on the map) and Grace Walk and to invite residents to assist in the progression of this community project.

Members of the Public both left at 8.10pm

POS 081 MAZUREK WAY PLAY AREA HEDGE REPLANTING

Members reviewed the shrub bed that was removed earlier this year as part of a police investigation. At the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting in February, Members agreed to leave the shrub bed in the hope it would regenerate through Spring and Summer. Some parts of the shrub beds have been regenerated, but there are still a lot of overgrown weeds so the Parks & Open Spaces Team will be attending the area soon. Since a claim from Wiltshire Police's insurance will still be valid, it was agreed to approach them with the intention to fund the removal and replanting of 50% of the shrubs and hedges around the perimeter of the play. Costs need to be provided to the Deputy Clerk & Services Manager to progress.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To obtain costs and provide Wiltshire Police to claim on its insurance.

POS 082 PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report and the actions that the team is working towards. A Play Area Working Party needs to be scheduled to discuss the current maintenance of the play areas and any budget aspirations for 2024/2025.

POS 083 PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

There were no updates available for the meeting as there is a meeting with Affleck on Thursday 14th September 2023 which will be reported during the update to the Full Council.

POS 084 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the operational income and expenditure.

POS 085 BUDGET ASPIRATIONS

1. Permissible path at Tadpole Lane to give a safe walkway to pedestrians to and from the station – on going.
2. Skate Park/Underpass Street Art - contact 'Paint Fest' to look at costs for paint art in under passes.

POS 086 TREES, BULBS AND WILDFLOWER WORKING PARTY

A Working Party meeting was held on 12th September 2023. Suggestions for the wildflower areas included Doyle Close, Cloverlands, the area between Manor Farm and Morrisons and the corner of Westfield Way. Suggestions for any other areas welcome, with costings coming to a future Parks & Open Spaces meeting.

POS 087 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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To be passed to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 10th October 2023.

POS 088 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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: Sensitive and Contractual.

POS 089 RESIDENT ISSUES

A request has been made from a resident of Chatsworth Road for financial help towards of replacement fence panels in their rear garden. The resident states that the current fence panels are damaged due to the Council's shrub bed being located too close to the fence, restricting maintenance of the fence. The resident stated Council had in 2017 provided a payment of £150.00 for fence replacements. In 2023, the resident was claiming for £500.00 for several panels and posts to be replaced. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not reimburse the resident financially, but it would remove the hedge in its entirety to allow them to access and maintain their boundary fence. It was acknowledged that the cost to remove the hedge would exceed the cost of replacing the fence panels and provide a permanent solution to an ongoing issue.

Meetings Administrator left at 9.34pm.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor R Worman

Vote: Agreed with no Abstentions.

RESOLVED: To remove the shrub bed entirely and not reimburse the residents for replacement panels as the cost of removing the shrub bed will outweigh the cost of removing the shrub beds and provide a permanent solution to an ongoing issue.

POS 090 PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

There were no updates.

Meeting Closed at: 9:20 Signed by Chairman _____