

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes (Vice Chair), J Ali, E Baker-Walker, J Jackson, A John, V Manro, O Munagala, R Ross, L Stevenson

OFFICERS: Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager
Andy Nickols, Deputy Parks & Open Spaces Manager
Jackie Fawcett, Office Administrator

POS 001 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received from Councillor O Munagala.

Cllr J Ali joined the meeting at 7.32pm

POS 002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two (2) members of the public present. One wished to observe the meeting, particularly regarding updates on the Grounds Maintenance Facility.

The other was a resident of Meadowsweet Close and explained that utility installation works have been happening since January and have left the area in a poor state. The resident has been in contact with the Contractors, Electricity Board and SBC Ward Councillor, J Jackson to ask the Highways Inspectors to conduct site visits. There were also concerns about the coping stones along the flood alleviation wall in Charlock Path being knocked by diggers during installation works and fears that they could become loose and fall into the brook. The stream is already full of builders' rubble. There is also an overgrown private hedge in Windflower Road which the Council was asked to investigate and contact the residents, typically cut every 18 months but is currently blocking the public footpath and an area in Meadowsweet Close that the Council should be maintaining – the Deputy POS Manager was aware of the area and will investigate this as a priority and asked future enquiries are sent to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk

An email was also received from a Member of Public who contacted Councillor Stanka Adamcova (SBC Ward Councillor, Haydon Wick) regarding the grass cutting mess in Stour Walk, the Deputy POS Manager explained that this was taken between the grass being cut by the ride on mowers and the visit from the Follow Up Team, when a site visit was conducted all was well.

POS 004 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introduced the Deputy Parks & Open Spaces Manager and the Administration Officer to the meeting.

POS 005 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Parks and Opens Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2024 as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes held on Tuesday 14th March 2024 and they were signed by the Chairman.

POS 006

SEVEN FIELDS

- Councillor Leanne Stevenson has been accepted into the Conservation Group to liaise with Seven Fields with Councillor E Baker Walker, the first meeting on 29th May and both will report back accordingly.
- Kings Bridge needs repair; SBC stated no funding, but historic emails showing funding on the original email string state that the resourcing could be an issue. This is not a priority as it is not deemed to be dangerous. The Parish Council and the Conservation Group will continue to liaise with SBC and Councillor S Adamcova (SBC Ward Councillor, Haydon Wick). The Parks & Open Spaces Team could help with some of the resourcing but do not the expertise for structural engineering of the bridge.
- Orchid Close entrance to Seven Fields is currently closed, but there has been no notification from SBC to the Parish Council or the Conservation Group. Nothing on the planning portal, so Officers were asked to investigate why SBC has closed the footpath.
- Sunningdale Road damage to metal posts, wooden post pushed out of the ground.
- Reports of antisocial behaviour at Seven Fields from motorcyclists and electric scooters – there have been several near misses with pedestrians. The Conservation Group would like to request the Parish Council reviews putting CCTV cameras down Pond Street.

POS 007

HEAD OF PARKS & OPENS SPACES REPORT

Members noted the report, particularly the Daily Work Sheets statistics and the hedge cutting schedule. Planters have been removed from the boundary signs to be replanted for the Summer.

POS 008

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

- Plans are underway for the Summer Event 'Re-Discovering' Your Community, which is due to be held on Saturday 17th August 2024 at Haydonleigh Primary School Grounds. The Marketing & Events Co Ordinator has today sent out instructions for adding save the dates to email signatures and invites to various Event Working Parties will follow throughout May with a view to updating Community Development Committee in June 2024.

POS 009

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr S Heyes: Reported graffiti at Haydonleigh Skate Park on the areas originally painted as a mural during the refurbishment, it is difficult for the Parks & Open Spaces Team to repaint over this without losing the original design and tags are beginning to form. The legal graffiti wall has been well respected, and it would be helpful to investigate costs for a new design and regularly repainting the Skate Park. *The Deputy Clerk & Services Manager advised that options and costings would be sought and brought back as an agenda item for discussion at a future meeting.*

Cllr J Jackson: Agreed that users of the Skate Park are concerned with the number of graffiti that the Parish Council may close the facility and the majority are trying to keep the area tidy to practice their hobbies.

Cllr A John: Nothing to report.

Cllr L Stevenson: Nothing to report.

Cllr E Baker-Walker: Asked if there were any updates on the boarded windows on properties at Haydon Court? *Cllr V Manro confirmed he is in regular contact with Sanctuary Housing who are working with residents to resolve the problem.*

Cllr R Ross: Reminded Councillors about the Parish Walk/Run taking place on Sunday 19th May 2024. Please contact to confirm attendance as a participant or a volunteer so that final plans can be drawn up. Donations can be received via the Just Giving Page.

Cllr J Ali: Nothing to report.

Cllr V Manro: Recently conducted a litter pick with the Oakhurst Cubs around Voyager & Luna Play Areas. The Oakhurst Cubs have painted some pebbles saying messages to keep the area tidy and would like residents to find these and re-hide them. The Parish Council will share the new story tomorrow on social media platforms.

Cllr R Worman: Haydon View Road Estate has been weed sprayed; this was approximately 60-70% efficient on the first attempt. Unsure who carried out this duty and if service to other areas will follow.

Cllr R Hailstone: Noticed some large areas near the brooks by the Manor Farm and Bluebell Copse which still have heavy leaf fall in gutters from the autumn months which need a visit from the mini compact sweeper.

POS 010 PARKS & OPEN SPACES MAINTENANCES SCHEDULES

Members noted the report and received updates on the grass cutting schedule which is currently on track with the Follow Up Team (which consists of blowing, strimming and sweeping) is approximately one day behind. Areas are being marked for 'No Mow May' and the Deputy Parks & Open Spaces Manager will get a list of areas for public interest – this will be developed for future years with signage explaining the initiative. Some areas could be reviewed for scattering wildflower areas like the trial locations on Old Blunsdon Road, Catherine Wayte School, HP1 Footpath and Hyssop Open Space.

The tractor and side arm are back on hire and the schedules will be conducted accordingly, due to the progress made last season there hasn't been as much regrowth so the areas should be more manageable, this will allow some capacity for the Parks & Open Spaces Team to assist on other areas during the peak season if necessary. Presently, the two newly trained operatives are working off road on areas to further practice their skills ahead of starting the fixed schedule.

POS 011 LEISURE GARDENS

Members received an update from the Office Administrator regarding the Leisure Gardens. Key items included the Annual Leisure Garden Competition, the Annual Plot Holders Meeting, upcoming Leisure Garden Rents, and an aspiration to create a newsletter with items of interest to bring the Leisure Garden Sites together, suggestions were that this could be called 'Haydon Wick in Bloom'. Councillors L Stevenson and R Hailstone offered to be on the judging panel for the Annual Leisure Garden Competition.

POS 012 PARKS & PROJECTS TEAM UPDATE

Members noted the report, that the Team is investigating a paperless reporting system and would like to hire a pedestrian sweeper on a trial basis at the end of May for cleaning the wet pour safety surfaces, this will then be reviewed at budget setting for aspirations in future years.

Members received a further recommendation to fix the play unit at White Eagle Play Area, manufacture quotes came in at £8,800.00 but the cost efficient and innovative Parks & Projects Team has been able to cost the repairs in-house at £1,000.00.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson Seconded: Councillor L Stevenson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To hire a pedestrian sweeper for cleaning the play area wet pour surfaces at a cost of £174.00 + VAT per week on a trial basis towards the end of May.**
- 2. To proceed with the repairs to White Eagle Play Area unit at a cost of £1,000.00 to be met from 4305/302.**

POS 013 PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Councillor V Manro updated that the Contractors were on site at Goodearl and making good progress. Signage has been displayed and there are clear marked

footpaths for plot holders. For health and safety reasons, site visits need to be arranged in advance with the Contractors and Councillor V Manro is liaising with them for a suitable time. A banner has been ordered to place on the heras fencing at the site and a press release with follow shortly. Plot holders are being kept up to date with the plans and as the project develops further.

Key payment dates were available for Members to review, and the Deputy RFO plans to go into more detail about the Public Works Loan Draw Down at Finance & Policy on 21st May 2024.

POS 014 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the Parks and Opens Spaces Income and Expenditure for Month 1. There was a query about the vehicle tax showing 142% spent within the first Month of the Financial Year due to the Street Sweeper, the Deputy Clerk & Services Manager confirmed that she would ask the Deputy RFO would clarify this outside of the meeting and report back.

POS 015 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Please pass to Chief Officer by 2nd July 2024.

POS 016 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

There were none.

Meeting Closed at: 8.42pm

Signed by Chairman_____