

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2023.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), S Heyes, A John, V Manro, S McDermott, E Baker Lee and R Ross

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

POS 204 APOLOGIES
No apologies were received from Councillor K T Naik.

POS 205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

POS 206 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There was one (1) member of public present who raised the following questions:

- 1) **When will the edges, mainly small trees that overgrow the main footpath (Pond Street) from Seven Fields to Blunsdon Road) hedges at Seven Fields be cut by flail?** *The hire of the mechanical flail was only for a period of 7-10 days and Seven Fields / Pond Street was not part of the scheme of works. The plan is that the edges of Seven Fields / Pond Street footpath will be cut by hand by the internal Parks & Open Spaces Team as part of the enhanced autumn/winter shrub and hedge maintenance.*
- 2) **Is hand cutting efficient maintenance?** *The Head of Parks & Open Spaces confirmed that doing the works by hand will allow for a harsher cut back and will assist in future maintenance of the hedges.*
- 3) **Requested some resurfacing around the car park at Mouldon Hill?** *The meeting heard that this is being programmed into Swindon Borough Council's work programme and being funded from S106 funds.*
- 4) **Thanked the Parks & Open Spaces Team for the installing the bin in Mazurek Way, the residents have been very positive about it.**

POS 207 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

POS 208 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 10th January 2023.
Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor S Heyes
Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.
RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 10th January 2023 and signed by the Chairman.

POS 209 SEVEN FIELDS
Members noted that Park Run Seven Fields has recently had its 100th event and the Seven Fields Conservation Group is meeting at the end of February so Councillor E Baker Lee will report back to the next meeting.

POS 210

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes: Nothing to report.

Councillor J Jackson: Nothing to report.

Councillor V Manro: The Thames Water area at the Queen Elizabeth Drive has had four higher capacity pumps installed.

Councillor A John: Nothing to report.

Councillor R Ross: Nothing to report.

Councillor S McDermott: Nothing to report.

Councillors E Baker Lee: Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone: Noticed that the spring bulbs are starting to bloom.

POS 211

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

POS 212

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES' REPORT

Bradshaw – the suppliers of the electric vehicles – has sent through a joint publicity document to the Community Development Officer to review and promote.

POS 213

AUTUMN/WINTER SHRUB AND HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Members noted the report regarding the current hedge cutting schedule and progress to date. The team is working in Haydon Wick, Greenmeadow and Moredon. The quality of the shrub maintenance has received excellent feedback and the Officers will share progress pictures on social media. Members requested a timeline for the next report to assist with managing enquiries.

POS 214

PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report and the work schedule of the Parks & Projects Team. Members asked when the fencing work at Basil Close will be completed, and the Head of Parks & Open Spaces updated that quotations for timber fencing are still being sought but should be received within the next couple of days and the project will be completed before the end of March 2023.

POS 215

PARK YOGA

Members received recommendations from the Community Development Committee of suitable locations for the Yoga in the Park project that the Council hopes to implement in the spring/summer months. Members noted the importance of advertising people walk to these events or signposting to suitable nearby parking locations. The events will be spread across different parts of the parish to make them local for all residents to enjoy.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the recommendations within the report to continue with Yoga in the Park at the following locations:

- **Voyager Drive (Haydon End)**
- **Village Green (Abbey Meads)**
- **Trent Road (Haydon Wick)**
- **Havisham Drive (Haydon End)**
- **King George V Field (Haydon Wick)**
- **Queen Elizabeth Drive (Haydon End)**

POS 216

MAZUREK WAY PLAY AREA MEMORIAL

Following a recent incident, the shrubs at Mazurek Way Play Area were reduced to ground level by Wiltshire Police Constabulary. The shrub beds were cut to ground level to have extensive reduction in the authority's search for potential evidence pertaining to the incident. Members considered ways in which to reinstate the hedges and received an update that the victim's family have already progressed with a memorial in Penhill. Ideas for sensory planting could be done at Ventnor Close within the Youth & Community Plot, the Head of Parks & Open Spaces will progress with this and report back.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To create sensory planting areas on the Youth & Community Plot at Ventnor Close Allotments.

POS 217

TADPOLE FIELD

Members received a report regarding repairs to fencing at Tadpole Field. Members acknowledged the gaps are not that large and there are no desire lines indicating frequent public use. Future for Tadpole Field, such as creating leisure gardens, may result in a pedestrian gate and vehicle gate being installed. Members agreed to leave the field as it is, with regular monitoring and not promote public access.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To leave the field as it is, with regular monitoring, and to not promote public access.

POS 218

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received a verbal update from the Grounds Maintenance Facility Working Party that final quotes have been received which has allowed the Council to budget for the expected expenditure in forthcoming financial years. The build is expected to take six months, from the date of awarding the contract. A full report will go to Full Council at the end of February 2023.

POS 219

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted the Income & Expenditure for Month 10 (February 2023).

POS 220

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 14th March 2023.

20:14 The member of public left the meeting.

POS 221

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND 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 221

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (GMF)

Members discussed the quotation received for the proposed GMF and associated costs. Some members were concerned how this could impact on the parish precept for future years, whilst other members acknowledged how far the project has come and the costs/time spent to date on the project and reiterated why Facility was needed to operate professionally and sustainably

Initials _____

for years to come. Some Councillors felt the recommendations needed further clarification for an informed decision eg. external project manager cost, confirmation of interest rates, a recalculation of a longer repayment term on the loan, confirmation of the life span of the building (currently 30+ years) and if there will be running cost savings once the new building is operational. Other Councillors felt that recommendations in the report should be voted on which subsequently fell. Members acknowledged that the decision was significant to the future of the Council and therefore must be discussed in depth with Full Council at the end of the month. It was noted a full report would be circulated well in advance.

**Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Three (3) for, four (4) against and one (1) abstention.**

RESOLVED: To defer making any formal recommendations to Full Council and to discuss the report with Full Council on the Tuesday 28th February 2023.

POS 222

TREE MAINTENANCE

Members received a report detailing outstanding tree maintenance works and costs. The work needs to be completed prior to birds nesting season which takes place in April – September. Swindon Borough Council has responsibility for some of the tree works and the Ward Councillors present confirmed they would take this on and try to find a resolution. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces will send a descriptive list through with any background information for the Ward Councillors to progress with and report back to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.10

Chairman_____

Initials _____