

## **HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS:** Councillors R Hailstone (Chairman), E Baker-Walker, A Jimmy, A John, O Munagala, P Park, R Ross and R Worman

**OFFICERS:** Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter  
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt  
Meetings Administrator, Julie Coe

### **POS 045 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Ali, S Heyes and V Manro (Personal Commitments).

### **POS 046 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **POS 047 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was one (1) member of the public in attendance to observe the meeting and understand the shrub bed maintenance schedule further as areas within Abbey Meads has been cut sporadically, not following a planned route and in some areas some shrub beds have been cut back more than others. In some places there are low branches, shrub beds encroaching on the footpaths and brambles which could be unsafe to pedestrians and cyclists. The member of the public acknowledged that the autumn/winter schedule was carried out to a good standard, but the spring/summer seems to have been a challenge. *The Chairman acknowledged the concerns of the residents and explained there is an update later in the meeting to discuss some of the issues experienced this season and the improvements to the work schedule which are due to take place imminently.*

### **POS 048 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

### **POS 049 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as a true record.

**Proposed: Councillor A John**

**Seconded: Council E Baker-Walker**

**Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.**

**RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and they were signed by the Chairman.**

### **POS 050 SEVEN FIELDS**

Councillor E Baker Walker advised that a resident had fed back that Seven Fields is looking pleasant with good clear pathways. Still awaiting a response from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) regarding the annual hay cut, it has been reported that the fields are currently filled with Ragwort which could be an issue for local farmers willing to collect the hay.

### **POS 051 MEMORIAL TREE AT HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK**

Following the passing of a local resident, family members requested planting a memorial tree in the Haydonleigh Skate Park. The Parish Council has been liaising with The Kelly Foundation and the approximate cost for a tree is £145.00. The maintenance would be carried out by the Parks & Open Spaces Team during opening the skate park and emptying the bins on weekday mornings. Members were concerned that a small tree could be prone to vandalism or be removed and considered that a bench may be more durable and suitable within this location as it

would be less prone to vandalism. Members acknowledged that the cost of a bench in line with the Council's Memorial Bench Policy was more expensive than the tree and noted that currently there is no seating in the skate park to avoid unwanted loitering whilst skateboarders are practicing their sport. After discussion, Members agreed to proceed with planting a Memorial Tree which would be a greener alternative and could be protected by a tree guard and displayed with a plaque for users of the Skate Park to acknowledge the reasoning behind the placement of the tree. Friends of the resident who passed could be part of the tree planting session and encouraged to help with preserving the tree.

**Proposed: Councillor A John**

**Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy**

**Vote: Agreed Unanimously.**

**RESOLVED: To work with Kelly's Foundation to source a tree for the family and to be placed at Haydonleigh Skate Park. Cost to be met by the family with upkeep from the Parish Council.**

**POS 052**

**DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Deputy Clerk & Services Manager updated the Committee that she had attended the Clerk's Forum on behalf of the Chief Officer. Key points included:

- Introduction of the new Chief Executive Officer (S Mowbray) and the new Chief Operating Officer (B Pinchbeck) and an update on key projects that they would be working towards
- Updates on waste and recycling changes
- No updates on the progress of the Local Plan
- Another Parish Council was looking to hire a mini compact street sweeper, so the Chief Officer will make contact.

The Chief Officer will report other items arising from this meeting to Full Council.

**POS 053**

**COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Councillor A John:** Thames Water has begun replacing the pipes on Thamesdown Drive and has closed the footpath behind Purton Road. This project will take at least twelve months to complete.

**Councillor R Hailstone:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor E Baker-Walker:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor A Jimmy:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor O Munagala:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor P Park:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor R Ross:** Nothing to report.

**Councillor R Worman:** Nothing to report.

**POS 054**

**LEISURE GARDEN COMPETITION**

Councillors R Hailstone, P Park, the Head of Parks & Open Spaces and the Administration Assistant completed the judging for the Leisure Garden Competition 2023 and arrived at clear first, second and third place winners at each of the three sites. This year there was a category for 'Best Beginner' which was received well and show cased new plot holders progress to date. It was noted that the plots were generally very well maintained across all sites.

**POS 055**

**HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES' REPORT**

Members noted the report. It was confirmed that there are currently 63 items on the daily work sheets to be fulfilled, but this is mainly down to huge growth in shrub beds, owing to heavy rain conditions over the last quarter of this year. Other key topics included an update on public consultations:

1. Torun Way – Litter Bin Request, one response has been received to date, further updates will be reported at the end of the consultation period.
2. Voyager Drive, Memorial Bench Request – no responses to date, but further updates will be reported at the end of the consultation period.

3. Tiny Forests sites have been shortlisted, the chosen areas for this project are Voyager Drive and Grace Walk. These areas have been leaflet dropped to the residents explaining to densely plant trees and leave them. Long term project will be to establish which species thrive and remove any that do not survive and replace them. Consultation will commence upon acknowledgment of a successful funding bid.

Councillors R Hailstone, A John, E Baker Walker, R Ross and P Park agreed to assist the Head of Parks & Open Spaces by undertaking a Tadpole Tree Count on Tadpole Field to establish how many trees have survived and which trees will need replanting in line with the Trees for Climate planting project.

**POS 056      SPRING/SUMMER SHRUB BED MAINTENANCE**

The programme has progressed throughout the season with excessive growth across the parish partially due to the ideal growing conditions. Full Council recently agreed to the hire of a tractor and side arm for an initial 3-month period from 12<sup>th</sup> September until 15<sup>th</sup> November. The machine will be operated by the Council's in-house trained operators. The introduction of the side arm flail will mean the amount of green waste generated for removal will be zero as the operation pulverizes the green waste and will speed up the maintenance process. Officers are working together on the resourcing, scheduling and timescales which will be made available to the public within the next few working days.

**POS 057      GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The schedule is on the website for the public to view and the team is on track and meeting the schedule dates. The next update will be completed once the team finishes the current cycle which is expected to be on the 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**POS 058      PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT**

Members noted the report. The fencing repair at Haydonleigh Skate Park will be fixed in-house by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Issues with obtaining the correct tools and identifying that further panels being loose have now been resolved and Haydonleigh School has been kept up to date during the process.

**POS 059      PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

The Parks & Open Spaces Team will commence their temporary move to Waterside on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August. The welfare unit on Goodearl site will be disconnected and off hired from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**POS 060      OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING**

Income and expenditure were noted for month four (4). Members noted that some areas have been overspent already. The Chairman explained that some items within the Parks & Open Spaces budget have to be paid for in advance for the whole year and explained that the Finance Officer has recently undertaken a quarterly budget review so this would identify any items for discussion at a later date.

**POS 061      TADPOLE LANE**

Members noted that the hedges surrounding Tadpole Field are overgrown and causing difficulty for pedestrians to access the Swindon & Cricklade Railway. Members considered creating a permissible path throughout the Field to allow for a safe walking route but noted to create a permissible pathway there would need to be a double width kissing gate installed to ensure that this remains accessible and with signage. There was a suggestion not to designate a pathway or encourage the use of the field by leaving the far-left hand side of the field, closest to residential properties, open. However the feeling of the meeting was to proceed with creating a permissible pathway. Members suggested that the hedge cutting outside of the Field takes place once the tractor and flail is available, to ensure a safe pathway to residents and encourage walking to the events at Swindon & Cricklade Railway, subject to a site visit and risk assessment conducted by the Head of Parks & Open

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Spaces. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces will review this and present options to Full Council.

**Proposed: Councillor E Baker-Walker    Seconded: Councillor P Park**

**Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.**

**RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council creating and trialing a permissive pathway throughout Tadpole Field.**

**POS 062      AUTUMN BULB PLANTING**

The Bulb, Tree & Wildflower Working Party would be meeting in August to discuss locations for autumn bulb planting. Councillors were encouraged to filter through any suggested sites for the Working Party then review and then presented back to a future Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

**POS 063      ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Please send to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting by 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

*Member of the public left at 20.40.*

**POS 064      EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & 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 065      RESIDENT ISSUES**

Members received updates on several matters across the parish.

Sunningdale Road - tree maintenance concerns with the Parish Council and SBC. It has been established that the property is located within the boundary line of Haydon Wick Parish Council and Central Swindon North Parish Council, with the overall maintenance being the responsibility of SBC. Members suggested lobbying the SBC Ward Councillors and requesting to meet collectively to achieve a resolution for the resident.

Chatsworth Road – fence replacement – awaiting quote for confirmation and if Council will contribute to costs via an insurance claim. Members suggested that the resident had some responsibility for contacting the Parish Council sooner to try to mitigate against the full replacement. In the meantime, agreed to cut back the hedge away from the fence line.

Upton Road Footbridge - overgrown trees are large causing the footbridge to become slippery. The bridge is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council to maintain. Members suggested contacting Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to obtain guidance and whether it would be willing to assist.

**POS 066      PARKS AND OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

Contract remains with the Contractor's Solicitors and chased again to try to expedite the return of the papers.

**POS 067      CCTV**

No update as still awaiting information from SBC regarding permission to install mains powered CCTV cameras into lamp posts columns.

**POS 068      AFC HAYDON VALE**

The Parish Council issued a statement in conjunction with AFC Haydon Vale regarding the lease renewal and the continued partnership. The Chief Officer and Chairman met with AFC Haydon Vale to discuss the terms and conditions and ways to improve communications and working together in the future. AFC Haydon Vale

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

has now agreed to the terms and conditions for the next 12 month lease. AFC Haydon Vale would like to negotiate a 10 year lease as this would aid grant funding and secure a permanent home for the club. Members discussed the need for a Working Party to develop a strategy for football within the parish and Councillor A Jimmy agreed to join AFC Haydon Vale's Committee as the Council representative to develop the working relationship and communication methods further.

**Proposed: Councill E Baker-Walker      Seconded: Councillor A John**

**Vote: Agreed Unanimously.**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To note a Working Party was set up for developing a strategy for football within the parish with all local football clubs. The Working Party comprises of Councillors A John, R Worman and A Jimmy.**
- 2. To note Councillor A Jimmy was appointed as the AFC Haydon Vale liaison Councillor.**
- 3. To recommend to Full Council negotiating a ten year lease at Trent Road with AFC Haydon Vale.**

**POS 069**

**STREET SWEEPER**

There was no update available for this meeting, however, the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to meet with a representative Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August and will report back to Full Council.

**Meeting Closed at: 21.20      Signed by Chairman \_\_\_\_\_**