

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes (Vice Chair), A John, J Fuller, J Jackson, K Naik and S McDermott.

OFFICERS: Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, David Hunt
Senior Administrator, Jill Sharp

POS 128 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors R Ross and V Manro (Personal Commitments)

POS 129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 130 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One (1) member of the public attended and made representation under Agenda Item 10 – was pleased to note information for vehicles but would like to see individual costs per vehicle. Deputy Clerk & Services Manager advised that this report would be presented in more detail at the upcoming Finance & Policy meeting. Comments included that the costs for replacement tyres for the mowers were high. The Head of POST advised that it was in line with normal trends due to the nature and hours of work. Also questioned the cost of contract vehicle hire, the Chairman advised that this would be covered under Agenda Item 10 – Vehicle Audit.

POS 131 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no items to report.

POS 132 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor S McDermott

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 and signed.

POS 133 SEVEN FIELDS

Members noted the report read by the Chairman from Councillor E Baker Lee:

- The Seven Fields Conservation Group (SFCG) has now grown in number and are in the process of preparing a report.
- The repair of King Bridge has not been carried out by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and we have been trying to contact them about when this may take place. It was understood it was to have happened in October. SBC took over responsibility for King Bridge two years ago. Contact was made and it was understood that a discussion will take place at the Borough level about the plans going forward. In the meantime, the chicken wire floor grip is damaged again and is causing a trip hazard, the Head of POST will organise an interim repair.

- Seven Fields Park Run is continuing to be successful and the Park Run team is looking at the possibility of holding a run on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. SBC have been contacted to request chippings to be delivered to Stour Walk and volunteers will be spreading these where needed. Attendance at Park Run has an average turnout of 100, with the highest being 254.

POS 134 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes Advised that SBC has had issues with some street lighting and any issues are now being forwarded to SSE advised there may be a prolonged fixing lead time. Member of public advised that his area had experienced this, and SSE were out the next day.

Councillor K Naik Regrettably missed September's meeting but would like to know if it was still possible to plant Tulips. Chairman advised that this would be dealt with under Agenda 15.

Councillor J Fuller Queried if there is any update on the application for the entrance at Tadpole Lane. Councillors confirmed that a response from Swindon Borough Council was still pending. Councillor Fuller requested that the Ward Councillors present (Councillor Heyes & Councillor Jackson) chase a response.

POS 135 DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Havisham Drive - Councillor V Manro had received an additional Poppy Wreath and Councillor A John would place at the Havisham Drive location.

POS 136 PARKS & PROJECTS

Members noted the reported items and discussed the officer's recommendations that the purchase of a replacement net for Gaynor Close Play Area.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor S McDermott

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The purchase of a replacement net for Gaynor Close Play Area be met from the remaining budget £2,430.90 + VAT to be coded to 4316/302.

POS 137 VEHICLE AUDIT

Members noted the report on the Council's current fleet of vehicles. It was acknowledged that, due to the aspiration of converting some of the vehicles to electric and needing electric charging points, there is little that can be done until the grounds maintenance facility has progressed. It was acknowledged that the hire of caged tippers was expensive and should be reviewed as a priority. The Deputy Clerk & Services Manager explained that the costs are high because they are specialist vehicles carrying waste and were in high demand during Covid-19 with encouragement for social distancing and working in partnership bubbles. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces gave an example of a three pin charge smaller tipper type vehicle used at other councils and would research options. A detailed version of the report will be submitted for the Finance & Policy Committee to review on 16th November 2021.

POS 138 CCTV UPDATE

Members noted the report. The consultancy fee for one day's work correcting the CCTV system, cost £350.00 + VAT and has been met from the CCTV

Infrastructure budget (4628/605). A new iPad is required as the program only works on an App compatible with a smart phone or tablet. There are sufficient funds within the budget for this purchase. Also, that the Proposed new CCTV locations report is being submitted to Full Council on 26th November 2021.

POS 139 GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

Members noted the Grass & Hedge Cutting report. There were no recommendations to consider. The Head of POST advised that their grass cutting schedule has finished for the season and the hedge cutting contractor has advised that they anticipate finishing the schedule by early January (dependent on weather conditions).

POS 140 HEAD OF POST REPORT

Members noted contents of the Head of POST report containing no recommendations. Key points included scheduling of the Park & Open Spaces Team, winter projects and an update on graffiti in the local underpasses.

POS 141 HIRE OF THE MINI COMPACT SWEEPER

Hiring of vehicle has been a success to date but still evaluating its value. Residents have commented to staff and officers that it has improved their locations. Evaluation is still proceeding as now concentrating on public footpaths and kerb edges.

POS 142 TREES, WILDFLOWERS AND BULBS WORKING PARTY

Members received a verbal update from Councillor McDermott on the status of the wildflower creation areas and the bulb planting for 2021/2022. It was acknowledged that there are still 11,000 bulbs to plant and volunteer uptake hasn't been well received this year. Two volunteer bulb planting events will be held on Saturday 20th November and Saturday 27th November 2021 by the Head of POST. The events will be added to social media, but Councillor attendance would be appreciated. The bulbs need to be planted by the end of November 2021.

Councillor K Naik requested that tulip bulbs are considered to enhance some areas as some of the bulbs planted last year have not blossomed and has received an offer of some free bulbs from a local resident to assist with the bulb planting scheme. Members agreed that it is too late in the year to plant tulips and that an upcoming aspiration for raised flower beds was being explored, the tulips could be planted in the raised flower beds and receive regular maintenance.

Members also noted the report which was submitted in advance detailing budget aspirations from the working party for 2022/2023.

POS 143 BUDGET ASPIRATIONS

POS 143A Horticultural Budget [4309/302]:

- To set the horticultural budget to £4,050.00 to include £750.00 for the creation and maintenance of wildflower areas, £1,000.00 for community bulb planting schemes, £1,000.00 for planters and £2,300.00 for the creation of decorative flower beds (pending further operational and maintenance considerations from the Trees, Wildflower and Bulbs Working Party).

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor K Naik

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To submit a budget aspiration to set the horticultural budget to £4,050.00 for 2022/2023.

POS143B

Play Area Budgets [Various/302]:

- To set the Play Area refurbishment budget to £49,000.00 to enhance Trent Road Play Area by adding pieces of accessible equipment and for installing timber mesh fencing at Basil Close (4316/302).
- To increase the Play Area Equipment Repairs budget (4305/302) to £10,000.00 to allow the team to progress with in-house repairs.
- To set the Play Area Resurfacing budget to (4518/302) to £40,000.00 for resurfacing of Trent Road Field and £10,000.00 for wet pour repair kits and small repairs.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To submit the following budget aspirations for budget setting for 2022/2023:

- **Play Area Refurbishment Budget (4316/302) to £49,000.00**
- **Play Equipment Repairs Budget (4305/302) to £10,000.00**
- **Play Area Resurfacing Budget (4518/302) to £50,000.00**

POS 144

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the Parks & Open Spaces income and expenditure budget for Month 7.

POS 145

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting on 14th December 2021.

POS 146

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 147

PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received a verbal update regarding the Grounds Maintenance Facility. The planning application deadline has been extended until 15th January 2022 to allow sufficient time for the drainage report to be received. The project is now at a stage whereby it requires a project manager to oversee the development and a contractor to provide a turnkey service.

The meeting closed at 20.58

Chairman: