

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes (Vice Chair), A John, V Manro, R Ross and S McDermott.

OFFICERS: Deputy Clerk & Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt

POS 188 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors K Naik, J Fuller and J Jackson (Personal Commitments).

POS 189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor V Manro declared an interest in Agenda 16 – SBC's Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation.

POS 190 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There were no members of the public present.

POS 191 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

POS 192 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2022.
Proposed: Councillor S McDermott Seconded: Councillor V Manro
Vote: Agreed unanimously.
RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 8th February 2022 and signed.

POS 193 SEVEN FIELDS
Report received from Seven Fields Conservation Group regarding recent works from Thames Water removing bollard stones to gain access to Seven Fields. Central Swindon North Parish Council has confirmed it is responsible for the stones and will reset them once the work has been completed. Also reported issues raised with logs in stream on Pond Street access which the Head of Parks & Open Spaces will investigate.

POS 194 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
Councillor R Hailstone Reported the bulbs planted in the winter months have now begun to grow on Purton Road and Westfield Way.
Councillor V Manro Met with representatives from Emmanuel Church who are interested in what the Council is doing and the increased services the Council is providing. Emmanuel Church would like to collaborate or volunteer in some of the projects and were interested in the plans to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Emmanuel Church will contact the Chair of Community Development Committee.

Initials _____

Councillor A John	Commented on the overall tidiness of the parish and acknowledged the bulbs beginning to bloom.
Councillor S McDermott	Provided details of a recent interaction with a resident at the Parish Council Offices regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primrose Close footpath needing to be reinstated and maintenance of the bridge that runs over the brook• Dog Fouling issues Some items will be passed to Community Development Committee – such as fire work safety.
Councillor R Ross	Nothing to report.
Councillor S Heyes	Nothing to report.

POS 195

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Members received the report noted the contents.

Footpath in between Morrisons and Haydon Court – paving slabs loose causing a trip hazard. Administrator passed on to SBC Highways to investigate, but it was established that this was private land for Morrisons to deal with. As there was the potential for trip hazard the SBC Highways Officer went in to Morrisons to report this directly and have left for them to deal with.

Happy to chat benches – reports of antisocial behaviour during the day from the neighbouring property, North Swindon police copied into correspondence with photographic evidence to conduct additional patrols. Disappointing, and not how intended for the benches to be used. Head of POST to review options and report back – any suggestions for mitigating this, please email Dave.

KGV Play Area – rollers damaged on the back fence which acted as a security barrier. The rollers had been pulled down to head height and were unsafe for people entering the park through the gate, so they have been removed temporarily, the team is looking into options and the anti-vandal paint is still in use.

Ukrainian Flag – the Council will be flying the Ukrainian flag in solidarity with Ukraine. This was agreed with the Chairman under the Emergency Scheme of Delegation. A report will be taken retrospectively to Finance & Policy next week.

Covid-19 Test Collection Centre – the Parish Council Office is a registered lateral flow test collection centre, as the tests are chargeable from 1st April 2022, Swindon Borough Council will no longer be providing them. Once the supply of tests has gone, the Parish Council will be automatically removed from the Site Finder website after 31st March 2022.

POS 196

PARKS & PROJECTS

Members discussed and noted the contents of the report. Brookfield Play Area Boat has been removed due to repeatedly being vandalised. Options for replacement being sought. External inspections carried out 7th & 8th March, a report of findings will be submitted to the Head of Parks & Open Spaces by the end of March and a Play Area Working Party has been agreed to discuss any issues arising. This will be reported back to a future Committee meeting.

POS 197

HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK

Members noted the report and discussed the request from the Youth Development Co Ordinator to purchase a noticeboard to install at Haydonleigh Skate Park at a cost of £609 + VAT. Concerns that the noticeboard would be damaged. Also queries about the positioning of the noticeboard. Feedback previously given by skatepark users at the opening event was to create a messaging style board which could be tagged, include graffiti and a section for notices. The idea will need to be developed further and taken to Community Development Committee for discussion.

POS 198

HEAD OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES REPORT

Members noted the Head of Parks & Open Spaces report, hot topics included:

- Daily work sheets statistics
- Update on winter projects
- A virtual play safety session for Parks & Projects team booked.
- Three contractors have been asked to quote for two external standard three pin charging points at the office. These will be used to charge the vehicles overnight.
- Interviews for two Parks & Open Spaces Operatives and a Street Sweeping Operative were carried out Monday 7th March 2022.
- Grass cutting plans and resourcing underway, hoping to start cutting mid-March (dependant on weather conditions) to make good progress. Grass Team will be responsible for its own back up until the new operatives start on 4th April 2022.

POS 199

GREAT WESTERN COMMUNITY FOREST PROJECT (GWCP)

Members discussed and noted the full contents of the report. There has been a delay in the project due to the repositioning of the tree planting area being further away from the water course, which required further assessments. The materials have been ordered and a small sample of whips have been delivered. The Administration Assistant has reached out to volunteers to see if there is interest in the event and the event details will be shared on social media this week. Dates for planting will be the 19th & 20th March and 26th & 27th March. Swindon & Cricklade Railway has allocated some car parking spaces and use of the facilities and café. Due to the location and limited car parking spaces, interest is being registered to control numbers. The Community Bus can be in use for Councillors, Staff and any members of the public who are unable to drive or walk to the site.

POS 200

THE BIG COMMUNITY BULB PLANT

Members noted the report from Councillor S McDermott on a bulb planting initiative for October 2022. The idea will be developed in finer detail closer to the time and will be an item to be discussed at Community Development Committee to help promote. A timeline has been created to keep the project on track and to engage local primary schools and youth community groups with as much notice as possible factoring in half terms and summer holidays. The Committee agreed in principle to the initiative and that it should be developed further ready for implementation late summer. Budget is already allocated to bulb planting in 2022-2023 so no costs were presented in the report.

POS 201

LEISURE GARDEN UPDATE

Members noted the report regarding the current waiting list and the plans for a youth & community plot at Ventnor Close. The proposal of site representatives has been deferred until the Annual Plot Holders meeting so that the plot holders can discuss this to see if it is something they wish to be implemented.

POS 202

ARTICLES FOR HAYDON WICK "LIVING" MAGAZINE

Councillor S McDermott requested that articles for Haydon Wick Living Magazine is discussed at the Committee monthly, so as Editor of the magazine, she can allocate sufficient pages. This will be a standing agenda item so that if

more important time sensitive projects come in, the list can be adapted. Ideas included:

- **Chair of Parks & Open Spaces Committee Report**
(Author: Councillor R Hailstone)
- **Voyager Drive resurfacing and Gaynor Close opening**
(Author: Councillor S Heyes)
- **Trees for Climate**
(Author: Councillor V Manro)
- **Grounds Maintenance Facility**
(Author: Councillor S Heyes)
- **Parks & Open Spaces Operational Update** – to include grass cutting machines, electric vehicles, and enhanced services
(Author: Head of Parks & Open Spaces)
- **Community Bulb Planting** – to be deferred to Community Development Committee.

POS 203 SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY – CONSULTATION

There were no comments to submit regarding this consultation. Members acknowledged that Haydon Meadow (SSSI) was mentioned and an interesting fact that arsenic in the soil is common within this area. Councillor R Hailstone advised of two areas locally with the potential of contaminated land which are Stone Crop Way open space and an open space area off Haydonleigh Drive, both are adjacent to water courses.

POS 204 OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members discussed and noted the Parks & Open Spaces income and expenditure budget for Month 11.

POS 205 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 12th April 2022.

POS 206 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 207 PARKS & OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Councillor S Heyes gave a verbal update on the Grounds Maintenance Facility:

- The planning application has been resubmitted with the new location, due back in early April 2022. Public planning notices have been displayed at the site.
- Potential contractors advised that for site access when the facility is under construction, a clear pathway to site will be required which will result in the loss of two additional leisure garden plots.
- Bidders have until 31st March 2022 to submit a bid for this project.
- Head of POST is obtaining costs for the installation of three phase electric and gas to the site.

The Committee gave delegated authority to the Chief Officer to progress with the installation of three phase gas and electricity supply to the site, up to the value of £2,500.

**Proposed: Councillor S McDermott Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone
Vote: Agreed unanimously.**

RESOLVED: To give delegated authority to the Chief Officer to progress with the installation of three phase gas and electricity supply to the site, up to the value of £2,500. To proceed with testing the earth at the site for potential pollution.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman: