

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

POS 168 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors D Rodgers (Personal Commitments), K T Naik (Work Commitments). Councillors V Manro, S Heyes and J Jackson (Borough Councillor Commitments).

POS 169 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

POS 170 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One (1) member of public attended the meeting and raised the following items:

- Whitworth Road Cemetery, overgrown trees causing large branches to fall in to neighbouring residential gardens. The trees are overgrown, and the roots are breaking up the concrete within the area. *The Head of Parks & Open Spaces confirmed that the maintenance of Whitworth Road Cemetery remains with Swindon Borough Council, he has agreed to conduct a site visit and liaise with Swindon Borough Council.*
- Asked for the approximate costs of the Grounds Maintenance Facility, because at one point costs were in the region of £350,000.00 but now seem to be in the region of £750,000.000 to £1,000,000.00 which is a huge expense to residents. *The Committee confirmed the costs are not yet known and acknowledged over the last 24 months supplier and material costs had increased significantly. The costs are due to be received by Friday 9th December 2022 and the Council will go out to tender again with the final specification to four interested companies. At each stage, comparisons are reviewed to ensure best value and the best solution operationally in terms of locations and logistics.*

POS 171 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report.

POS 172 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members approved the minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022.

Proposed: Councillor A John **Seconded: Councillor S McDermott**
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 and signed by the Chairman.

POS 173 REQUEST TO USE KING GEORGE V FIELD

Members received a request from 1st Swindon Sea Scouts to use King George V Field for part of a Holi Festival Event in March 2023. The paint is washable,

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and any unlikely damages will be covered within the £50.00 prepaid bond. As this is a public space, the Committee suggest giving the event organisers permission to put posters up in advance so that members of the public do not get involved with the activity.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross

Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the use of King George V Field for the Holi Festival Event in March 2023 and to ask the event organisers to display posters in advance of the event.

POS 174

SEVEN FIELDS PARK RUN

Members noted that Seven Fields Park Run will be running events on Christmas Day and New Year's Day subject to the number of volunteers available to facilitate this. Councillor S McDermott added that Lydiard Park is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, which may mean that the numbers for Seven Fields may prove more popular.

POS 175

HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK OPENING HOURS

Members noted the report from the Head of Parks & Open Spaces detailing concerns from Haydonleigh Primary School that the skate park is being used prior to school which is resulting in late attendance. Original planning permission for the skate park confirms opening times at 9am until 9pm. Operational rounds have been revisited so that Haydonleigh Skate Park is not opened before 9am.

POS 176

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor E Baker Lee:

Following the recent stabbing incident at Mazurek Way, has been in discussion with lady who runs a support group called 'no more knives'. Would like to support the campaign and be certain that there are no further repercussions. The aim is to educate people and work with the police to get knives off the street. Initial meeting is due to be held on Monday 12th December, Councillor Baker Lee will report back to a future meeting.

Councillor R Ross:

Nothing to report.

Councillor S McDermott:

Inconsiderate parking issue at Greenmeadow Avenue. Contacted Swindon Borough Council who has confirmed as the parking is not illegal (i.e. blocking a road, parking on yellow lines or parking on the pavement) there is no enforcement that SBC or the Police can do. Due to the road layout being on a curve, recycling and delivery lorries must mount the grass verge and the grass is getting churned up. As the Parish Council maintains the grass verge, this should be investigated, and a letter or notice could be placed on the vehicle explaining the issues.

Councillor A John:

Express condolences to the family of the victim in Haydon End over the weekend.

Councillor R Hailstone:

Acknowledged that leaf fall this autumn has been prolonged and asked if the mini compact sweeper is out daily? *The Head of Parks & Open Spaces explained it does go out daily but is currently due for repair. A set Monday AM round is done which is subways, schools, and slopes, followed by main footpaths. If any areas need urgent attention email tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk*

POS 177

DEPUTY CLERK AND SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mazurek Way – The Police requested to cut back the hedges at Mazurek Way as they need to search the hedgerow for evidence. The play area is currently cordoned off and the Parks & Open Spaces Team is on hand to assist the Police with any collection of debris from the hedgerow.

Mouldon Hill – The Police informed that a safe vault has been found in the river by the footbridge in Mouldon Hill, this has been escalated to Swindon Borough Council who maintain the area and may be able to retrieve.

Penn Close Traffic Restrictions – Swindon Borough Council has imposed traffic restrictions at Penn Close and surrounding streets for a 'no waiting at any time' and 'school zone' area. Residents are concerned how this will be monitored and enforced. Questions via social media have been redirected to the Traffic Officer at Swindon Borough Council.

POS 178

HEAD OF PARKS & OPEN SPACES' REPORT

Members noted the items included within the report such as any outstanding items on the daily work sheets and the scheduling of winter projects.

POS 179

AUTUMN/WINTER SHRUB AND HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Members noted the report regarding the current hedge cutting schedule and progress to date. Two temporary seasonal operatives joined the Parish Council on Monday 5th December 2022 until 31st March 2023 to focus on the hedge cutting schedule. There is a shortage of electric tool batteries so the new equipment for the seasonal operatives is fuel powered.

POS 180

ACCESSIBLE PLAY AREA ACCREDITATION

Members received a verbal report regarding Play Area Accreditation Schemes and whether the Committee wished for the Officers to conduct some more research on this. Members acknowledged the costs but could not see the benefit to the residents of the accreditation schemes. Members acknowledged that refurbishments include consultations on accessible equipment with local charities and the play areas within this area are not new, they are upgraded or refurbished using existing footprint.

POS 181

PARKS & PROJECTS REPORT

Members noted the report and after discussion agreed to the Officers' recommendations to proceed with 22/23 RoSPA Play Safety for the external play area inspections at a cost of £1,224.00 to be coded to 4306/302.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To proceed with RoSPA Play Safety at a cost of £1,224.00 to be coded to 4306/302.

POS 182

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received an update on the proposed Grounds Maintenance Facility, the costs were delayed due to Affleck awaiting external supplier costs and should be back by Friday 9th December 2022. An additional cost of £1,500.00 was recently paid to Affleck, outside of the contract, for renewed planning drawings to incorporate building regulations. The Working Party will meet to discuss the costs and provide an update at Full Council. The revised lease for Goodearl site has been reviewed and accepted with the relevant changes. The architect has been appointed for the temporary relocation to Ventnor Close with a view to submit the planning application on Friday 16th December.

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POS 183

OPERATIONAL BUDGET MONITORING

Members received and noted the Income and Expenditure for Month 7 (November 22).

POS 184

BUDGET SETTING AND ASPIRATIONS

Members received an aspiration to refurbish and resurface Trent Road Playing Field Play Area. Members felt the play area is run down and Trent Road Playing Field is receiving more visitors since the introduction of grass-roots football. The project was delayed last financial year in view of the resourcing and pricing of the Grounds Maintenance Facility which is likely not to come into fruition until mid-2023. There was acknowledgement that the play area needs to be resurfaced and potentially expanded to provide new inclusive equipment. Some similar play areas in other parishes feature an outdoor gym which is a previous aspiration, subject to grant funding, for the Parish Council.
Proposed: Councillor S McDermott Seconded: Councillor E Baker Lee
Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To submit a budget aspiration for £70,000.00 to resurface and partly refurbish Trent Road Playing Field Play Area in 2023/2024.

POS 185

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on 10th January 2023.

POS 186

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 187

TREE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The Officers presented the report in the exempt session to discuss more specific descriptions of the houses/ area in question. After discussion, the Committee approved the recommendations within the report.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker Lee Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the report and current tree enquiries which are under review.
2. To consider planting two trees on the open space to the rear of Frome Road, with the cost of £280.00 to be met from 4301/307.
3. To consider planting two replacement trees at Blossom Park with the cost of £300.00 to be met from 4301/307.

The meeting closed at 20.35

Chairman _____

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