

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 19.30 held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice Chairman), J Ali, E Baker-Walker, S Fateru, A Jimmy, A John, O Munagala, P Park, B Patrick-Okoh, L Stevenson and R Worman.

OFFICERS: Chief Officer & RFO, Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk and Services Manager, Laura Cutter
Finance Officer/Deputy RFO, Jodie Smart
Head of Parks & Open Spaces, Dave Hunt
Marketing & Events Co-Ordinator, Liz Matthews

FC 023 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Ali, J Fuller, R Hailstone, J Jackson, R Ross and A Roupelis all due to Personal Commitments. No apologies were received from Councillor G Choudhury.

FC 024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

FC 025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one Member of the Public present who made no representation and wished to observe the meeting.

SBC Ward Councillor (Haydon Wick), Stanka Adamcova, enquired about removed shrub beds in Abbey Meads. Understanding that this area caused visibility and safety issues, residents would like more information. Councillor V Manro advised that this was a Council decision following on from works agreed via a Contractor two years ago, despite the severe cut back, the Parks & Open Spaces Team still needed to make frequent maintenance visits. More discussion on this in Agenda Item 10, later in the meeting.

FC 026 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

FC 027 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

FC 027A Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2024.

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor E Baker-Walker

Vote: Agreed with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2024.

FC 027B Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024.

Proposed: Councillor Heyes

Seconded: Councillor John

Vote: Agreed with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024.

Initials _____

FC 028

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Adamcova gave an update that the School Safe Environment Zone project had been successful and was now starting off the programme for next year which will include Haydon Wick and Haydonleigh Primary schools. Councillor S Adamcova asked that members forward any concerns or views to her.

Councillor S Adamcova also noted that the contentious High Street planning application will be called in to next Swindon Borough Council planning and that she will attend.

In other case work, Councillor S Adamcova stated that she was looking into the transfer of Francomes play area, as noted this is in a current state of disrepair.

FC 029

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr V Manro – Nothing to report.

Cllr S Heyes – Nothing to report.

Cllr E Baker Walker – Thanked the Parks and Open Spaces Team for sorting a resident concern the next day.

Cllr A John – Nothing to report.

Cllr O Munagala – Nothing to report.

Cllr P Park – Nothing to report.

Cllr L Stevenson – Nothing to report.

Cllr S Fateru – Nothing to report.

Cllr A Jimmy – Nothing to report.

Cllr B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Cllr R Worman – Queried whether Full Council knew the detail of the recent Grounds Maintenance Working Party and asked the Officers to breakdown the costs of the Gras Cutting service and the Shrub Bed Maintenance service to ensure that the Parish Council's model and resource plan is correct. *The Chairman responded that this was already in process and more detail will be coming to future meetings.*

Councillor R Worman further commented that to be a progressive Council, Haydon Wick Parish Council should look at how it holds meetings and whether Councillors could participate online. *The Chairman explained that legislation does not allow online meetings to occur and voting rights would be revoked by those not in person at the meetings, however, the recording of meetings for members of the public to view from home could be a future agenda item.*

Also suggested the Marketing & Events Co Ordinator to review the Rodbourne Cheney magazine, in particular the article on policing and how the neighbourhood policing team have been introduced and asked that she consider replicating this in the next Haydon Wick Living magazine.

FC 030

CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

The Deputy Clerk and Services Manager informed Members that a large hole had been dug at Moulden Hill. The Parks and Open Spaces manager and Swindon Borough Council are liaising to rectify but communications are required.

FC 031

SUMMER EVENT

Members noted the verbal report of the Marketing & Events Co Ordinator.

Sponsorship income received so far is £1,500.00, stalls income is at £280.00. There is a potential further sponsorship in discussion of £1,000.00 and another potential sponsor for the dog show. The infrastructure has been booked. Janet's Puppy School is judging the dog show. There is a good variety of stalls booked in. Attractions include ATB skate jam, petting farm, storm in a teacup (circus workshop) inflatables and musical entertainment. The bar and related logistics have been confirmed. The magazine is out to print with the details.

The Chair added that this is the biggest event of the year, and the Council really needs everyone there. The Chair also asked Members to please reach out to business networks for stalls and sponsorship. The signup sheet for volunteers was then circulated.

Initials _____

FC 032

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Members noted the verbal report of the Parks & Open Spaces Manager. The grass cutting schedule initial problems have been resolved (waterlogged ground etc). Mechanical problems have been minimal. Staff sickness and annual leave have been contributing factors to delays. Two mowers are out of action tomorrow whilst air seats are fitted – to mitigate effect on operators. So far since 2nd April, there have been 56 available mowing days, with 11 days lost due to weather and staffing resources. Shrub bed maintenance – started with compact mini tractor which is on hire for three-months mainly operated by two newly trained staff members assisted by two seasonal staff for a three-month period. Councillor P Park asked that we get a realistic update to residents on when we can get to areas. Residents aren't happy with Voyager Drive and require more specific dates to set expectations. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces responded that the office receives approximately five enquiries per day which he prioritises those that need immediate action. There should be a date but may antagonise the residents if it is delayed.

The Marketing & Events Coordinator left the meeting at 8.09pm.

The Chair stated that the Ealing way/Elsham way roundabout had received a heavy cut. The contractor did a heavy cut a few years ago, it is a vast area with poor visibility on the roundabout. Planting at this time of year is not ideal. It is proposed to leave the area until September, at such time a review of what planting is required to install a strip of hedging slightly back from the road and grassing the rest of the area will be undertaken. Unfortunately, the communications didn't happen first on this occasion, and this will be improved going forward.

Proposed: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED: To leave the Ealing Way/Elsham Way Roundabout to regenerate until September 2024. At such time a review of what planting is required to install a strip of hedging slightly back from the road and grassing the rest of the area will be undertaken. A budget of up to £1,000.00 for the works has been approved Budget – 4006/307.

FC 033

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FC 033A

Members note the Income and Expenditure report for Month 2.

FC 033B

Members noted the bank statements and reconciliations for May 2024.

FC 033C

Members discussed and approved May and June 2024 expenditure under purchase daybook references 3465-3512 and cashbook reference 372. The total for approval is £208,693.05.

Councillor E Baker Walker left the meeting briefly at 8.21pm

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor O Munagala

Vote: Agreed with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: To approve expenditure under purchase daybook references 3465-3512 and cashbook reference 372. The payments total is £208,693.05.

FC 033D

Members retrospectively approved the payments made using the credit card and petty cash for payments made in April and May 2024 respectively.

Proposed: Councillor John

Seconded: Councillor Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed with 1 abstention

RESOLVED: To retrospectively approve expenditure using the credit card for payments totalling £1,967.37 in April 2024 and petty cash payments totalling £45.99 in May 2024.

Initials _____

Councillor E Baker-Walker rejoined the meeting at 8.22pm.

FC 034 COMMUNITY LED ACTION PLAN

Members discussed the progress of the Community Led Action Plan. The Deputy Clerk and Services Manager stated that Members had assigned themselves specific projects at Full Council previously. The Chair asked if any Members need support on what they are championing and reiterated that these were the Council's goals and Members need to lead on them. The Chair stated that he would send out the action plan again.

Councillor E Baker-Walker reminded Members that there is a litter pick organised for Thursday 27th June 2024.

FC 035 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received a verbal update from the Chair regarding the progress of the Grounds Maintenance Facility build. The first tranche payment will be made this week. The concrete base in. Tomorrow a couple of trees will be felled to allow for access and drainage. This is included within the planning permission. Communications will go out tomorrow regarding this. The steel work will be next step in the build. The Chair reminded Members that they can visit site during the monthly visit with the Project Manager.

FC 036 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

One member of the public and Ward Councillor S Adamcova left the meeting at 8.27pm.

FC 037 TRANSFER OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES LEASE

Members noted the lease of public open spaces transferred from Swindon Borough Council and nominated Councillors E Baker-Walker and L Stevenson to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council with the amendment of removing 'Little Copse' from the list of play areas.

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To nominate Councillors E Baker-Walker and L Stevenson to sign the lease of public open spaces transferred from Swindon Borough Council with the amendment of removing 'Little Copse' from the list of play areas.

FC 038 TRANSFER OF SERVICES/POTENTIAL DEVOLUTION

Members noted the update from the Transfer of Services Working Party on the potential Swindon Borough Council devolution. The Chair informed Members that there had been no further update since previous Full Council meeting and opened discussion around drafting a statement so that Members and Officers knew how to respond to public enquiries where Swindon Borough Council may incorrectly state that certain services are now the responsibility of the Parish Council. Discussion was had around sharing the statement with the Local Councils Forum so that they may comment or devise their own statement from the draft. It was agreed that the statement would be shared but that the Parish Council was not seeking consent from the forum on their chosen statement. The Chair asked Members to forward any suggested wording to him so that a draft can be brought to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman _____

Initials _____