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Minutes of the **Community Development Committee** meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on **Tuesday 7th April 2026** at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS: Councillors R Ross (Chairman), L Stevenson (Vice Chairman) J Ireland, L Jackson, J Jackson, A Jimmy, A John, V Manro, A Roupelis.

OFFICERS: Julie McMorrow, Meetings & HR Administrator (Clerking the Meeting)
Liz Mathews, Marketing & Events Co-Ordinator
Jackie Fawcett, Office & Community Administrator

Also In Attendance: Councillor P Park (7.40pm – 7.50pm)

CD 100 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor B Patrick-Okoh.
No apologies were received from Councillor J Ali.

CD 101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CD 102 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor P Park attended as Member of the Public to listen to the Cycling presentation.

CD 103 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This was the Chair's Community Development meeting as Cllr Ross will be standing down this May. She gave her sincerely thanks to her colleagues and the parish team for their support during her time serving Haydon Wick Parish Council.

CD 104 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members reviewed the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 and the Chair of the Committee signed the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

CD 105 BRITISH CYCLING PROGRAM

Members were presented with an overview of the Swindon Community Cycling Programme at Moredon Sporting Hub, launched in July 2024. The inclusive initiative supports people who are not typically active, including SEND students and disability groups, with popular sessions such as "learn to ride," and has recently featured on BBC Points West. The Hub has also approached all Swindon parishes for funding to help sustain the programme. Following questioning, it was confirmed that the requested £6,000 would be used to support ongoing salary costs. The committee agreed to bring the request forward for further debate at the Full Council meeting in April.

CD 106 COMMUNITY PROJECT – CLEANING STREET NAME SIGNS

The volunteer was unable to attend the meeting but has embarked on a worthwhile community project to clean street names in the parish.

Initials _____

CD 107

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor L Stevenson – Attended the Council's Easter events.

Councillor A John – Attended the Community Emergency Working Party meeting.

Councillor J Ireland – Attended the Annual Parish Meeting/Networking part, Charity Curry night and gave a presentation to a school talking to children about the future of the Parish.

Councillor V Manro – Attended the Swindon Local Councils Forum and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillor R Ross – Attended the Council's Easter events.

Councillor J Jackson – Nothing to report.

Councillor L Jackson – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Roupelis – Nothing to report.

CD 108

CHIEF OFFICER/DEPUTY CLERK, HR & SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

Thanks were given to the Chair of the Committee, who will be standing down as a Councillor in May. She was recognised for her consistent hard work, visible presence at countless community events, and unwavering support for Haydon Wick Parish Council and more recently leading the Council's fundraising efforts for The Kelly Foundation. She has been a dependable Chair for the Committee, providing strong and dedicated leadership.

CD 109

COMMUNITY CAFÉS

CD 109A

Memory and Companions Cafés - Members received and noted a report on the Memory and Companions Cafés. It was noted the Memory Café was at full capacity, which is a testament to its success and ever-growing need in the community. It was acknowledged that future options for the growing demand for the Café should be discussed at a future Council meeting.

CD 109B

Haven - Members received and noted the report on the Haydon Wick Haven. This Café continues to be run very well and is very successful.

CD 110

COMMUNITY & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CD 110A

Members noted the Community and Youth activities report and Members commented on the successes of the events thus far. It was acknowledged the new format to hold a Brunch for the Council's volunteers was very popular and well received, and so likely to be repeated next year.

CD 110B

Alternative Christmas Youth Event - Members received a proposal for an alternative Christmas Youth Event to be held on the 12th December 2026 at the North Swindon Library at Orbital Park. The event will be cost neutral if one hundred (100) tickets per show are sold, however, there is the space to increase those numbers should there be a demand for it. It is recommended trialling this new format in 2026, providing a fresh festive experience which appeals to whole families, and makes creative use of the local library.

CD 110C

Craft & Connect - Members received a proposal to continue Craft & Connect sessions. These sessions have proven very positive and it is felt there is a need for them within the Parish and they attract another demographic, outside of the regular activities the Councils organize for the youth and older generation in our parish. The cost to continue to run the sessions will fall within the Marketing & Events allocated budget.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

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RESOLVED: It was resolved to support both proposals and therefore proceed with the alternative Christmas Youth Event on the 12th December and to continue to run the Craft and Connect activities.

CD 111 MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

Members noted the report and agreed in principle to offer the Parish Council's meeting room as a venue for workshops and/or display space during the Swindon Open Studios fortnight in September 2026. Committee requested more information for the next Community Development Committee meeting in July to formally debate any decision.

CD 112 FUNDRAISING FOR THE KELLY FOUNDATION 2025/26

Noted there is £3,000 raised for The Kelly Foundation with the last fundraiser being held on the 10th April 2026. The final total will be confirmed at Full Council in April.

CD 113 COMMUNITY CHOICES

Members noted and approved the recommendations in the report.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis

Vote: Agreed Unanimously

RESOLVED: Committee agreed to the recommendations in the report:

1. Noted 2025/26's Celebrating Community Programme review.
2. Noted the budget allocated for 2026/27 is £7,500.00 – split between £5,000.00 for community projects and £2,500.00 for youth projects.
3. Noted the Community Choices consultation will run in May, with the final shortlist of projects to be confirmed at a future Full Council meeting.
4. Agreed the theme for 2026/27 will be 'A Healthy Inclusive Community'.

CD 114 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 11TH MAY – 17TH MAY 2026

Members noted the report and various events taking place over this period:

- Swindon Borough Council Public Health Team has invited local organisations to support Mental Health Awareness Week (11–17 May), with a focus on men's mental health through inclusive wellbeing activities.
- Proposed activities (subject to confirmation from external providers):
 - Men's Outdoor gym session (11th May evening – TBC pending trainer confirmation).
 - Swindon & Cricklade Railway talk with refreshments (11th or 15th May – TBC, aimed at social connection for retired/senior men; railway confirmed presentation).
 - Community event (*EUFEST*) at Haydon Wick Skate Park (16th May), youth activities, live music, food vendors, mental health partners, and a youth writing competition. HWPC to support logistics, licensing and stand.
- The Parish Council has community groups (e.g. Worthy Hangout and The Kelly's Foundation) to SBC Public Health to strengthen community support for the initiative.
- SBC need safeguarding documentation and assurances (including policies, DBS checks, insurance, risk assessments, and relevant qualifications) due to public health involvement and promotion of the programme.

CD 115 COMPLIMENTARY VENUE HIRE

Members noted and approved the report to increase the Chief Officer's delegated authority for complimentary room hire from 2 hours to 2.5 hours per week, to support the growing needs of the Live Well programme operating from the Parish Council's premises.

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Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson

Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To increase the Chief Officer's delegated authority to offer complimentary room hire to community groups for up to 2.5 hours per week.

CD 116

BUDGET MONITORING

Members noted the report and offered no questions.

CD 117

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be sent to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting on Tuesday 7th July 2026 (subject to Council approval).

The meeting closed at: 8.17pm

Chairman:

Initials _____