

Minute Book: Page 19

Minutes of the **Finance & Policy Committee** of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on **Tuesday 20th January** at 7.00pm at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors: V Manro, R Hailstone, S Heyes (Chair), A John, A Jimmy, P Park, A Roupelis, R Worman.

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Julie McMorrow, Meetings and HR Administrator

Meeting commenced at 7.09pm.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors J Ireland, R Ross and L Stevenson.

Members agreed for Councillor S Heyes to Chair the meeting.

FP 080

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors B Patrick-Okoh. (Personal Commitments). No apologies were received from Councillor S Fateru.

Councillor V Manro joined the meeting at 7.11pm

FP 081

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

FP 082

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

FP 083

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report.

FP 084

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members reviewed the minutes of Finance and Policy Committee held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 and agreed they were a true record.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed with two (2) Abstentions.

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee to be held on Tuesday 18th November 2025.

FP 085

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To be reported in Full Council, following this meeting.

FP 086

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

To be reported in Full Council, following this meeting.

FP 087

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Committee noted all outstanding actions are in progress.

Initials: _____

Minute Book: Page 20

FP 088 FINANCIAL REPORTS

FP 088A Members noted the Q3 analysis for 2025/26. It was reported there is a projected underspend of approx. £36,000 in the current financial year and the previously budgeted use of Reserves was £23,500. In summary, if the projections remain at the predicted levels there will be a projected savings versus the budget of approx. £59,000. This is largely due to significant delays with the Grounds Maintenance Facility build project resulting in higher than budgeted investment dividends and the National Joint pay agreement being lower than the budgeted figure.

FP 088B Members received and noted the Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliations for December 2025. The Chief Officer reported an additional CCLA withdrawal of £10,000.00 was actioned on 22nd December 2025 to cover any debits during the Christmas office closure. Councillor Hailstone wanted to better understand the fluctuations of interest received on the CCLA account and was particularly interested to understand how much more interest has been accrued since November 2025 – to coincide with the projected completion of the GMF project. *Action: Chief Officer to request more detailed CCLA interest analysis from the Council's Accountant.*

FP 088C Members received and approved expenditure under purchase daybook references 4720 and 4829 and cashbook reference 467. The total payment is £118,498.82 December 2025 and January 2026.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis

Vote: Approved Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve expenditure under purchase daybook references 4720 and 4829 and cashbook reference 467. The total payment is £118,498.82 December 2025 and January 2026.

Councillor L Stevenson arrived at 7.20pm.

FP 088D Members retrospectively approved the payments made using the credit card for payments made in December 2025.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To retrospectively approve expenditure using the credit card for payments made in December 2025.

FP 089 BUDGET & PRECEPT

Members considered the recommendations of the Budget Setting Working Party and undertook a detailed review of the baseline budget for 2026/27, alongside additional budget aspirations for the forthcoming financial year. Overall, the budget was acknowledged as positive and forward-looking, representing continued progress rather than a standstill. It includes ongoing investment in the Council's successful rolling play area refurbishment programme, with an agreed £100,000 allocation for wider improvement works. Further proposals include partnership projects with local groups, which are expected to deliver exciting improvements across several of the parish's open spaces, as well as increased funding for the Council's highly popular Christmas and Summer events. The budget also incorporates the running costs of the new Grounds Maintenance Facility and the establishment of an accrual fund for the replacement of tools and equipment, ensuring machinery remains reliable and fit for purpose. After discussion, Councillors agreed to a recommendation to Full Council of a Precept of £1,573,942.69, which is

Initials: _____

Minute Book: Page 21

£176.13 per year on a Band D household. This represents an increase of 14.61% or an additional £22.69 per year.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to a recommendation of a Precept of £1,573,942.69, which is £176.13 per year on a Band D household. This represents an increase of 14.61% or an additional £22.69 per year.

FP 090

SNOW AND ICE POLICY

Committee received the updated policy and procedure for keeping prominent pathways and underpasses treated during wintery conditions. The policy featured Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) map of the salt/grit bin locations, which it was noted was out of date. Members were encouraged to report any missing bins to SBC. It was noted that there are roads in the Parish where residents are elderly and unable to distribute the grit themselves. It was commented that SBC should have provisions to grit these areas.

Action: Meetings Administrator to inform SBC Ward Councillors.

Proposed: Councillor R Worman

Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council the updated Snow and Ice Policy.

FP 091

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be submitted in advance of the 17th March 2026.

FP 092

EXCLUSION of PUBLIC & PRESS

FP 093

ACCIDENT REPORTING

An accident was reported and noted by Councillors.

Meeting Closed at: 7.36 pm.

Chairman Signed: _____

Initials: _____