

Minute Book: Page 20

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Tuesday 29th April 2025** at 6.15pm at the GLL Haydon Centre Studio Room, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes, P Park, R Hailstone, B Patrick-Okoh, A Jimmy, A John, L Stevenson, J Jackson

CLERKS: Chief Officer/Clerk and RFO - Georgina Morgan-Denn
Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR& Services Manager - Laura Cutter

STAFF: Mel Bourton, Jackie Fawcett, Liz Matthews, Jo Newman, Jason Watts

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There were 52 members of the public in attendance.

APM 37 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Advised that the Parish Council has had a challenging and fast paced year and is looking forward to building on future community projects and enhancing the services that the Parish Council undertakes.

APM 38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2024.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 26th March 2024.

APM 39 UPDATE FROM THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER MR PHILIP WILKINSON OBE

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Philip Wilkinson OBE attended the meeting with two colleagues. All answered the questions sent in advance and received on the night, namely:

1. Why do we have a Police Crime Commissioner?

Elected by residents but remains apolitical. The job of the PCC is to hold the Chief Officer of the Police Force accountable and engage with residents to identify the priorities and budget to allocate to the aims and objectives every year.

2. Budget:

Wiltshire Police is the third lowest police force in the country. The funding formula was explained and due to the population density because of large rural areas like Salisbury Plain, the Wiltshire Police Force receives £35.00 less per person in the district. For that reason, there is a £16,000,000 annum deficit which needs to be funded via precepts and other income streams. For the average Band D property, the cost is £269.00 per annum compared to £305.00 per annum for Dorset and £308.00 per annum for Gloucester.

3. County Lines:

It has been identified that the issue is not regional but national and, in some cases, international. This is a priority and is intelligence led. Wiltshire Police is in the Top 10 Performing Forces for minimising disruptions and does not become complacent. Crime rates are down by at least 29% on robbery and 18% on sexual offences, which are good statistics but there is still work to be done to reduce them further.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour:

There are increasing patrols by the PCSO's, whilst they do not have the powers to arrest, but do a brilliant job preventing crime, finding resolution and providing community outreach. Surveys have been completed and overall the majority have trust and confidence in the Police.

APM 40

ROUND UP OF THE COUNCIL YEAR

The Chairman welcomed attendees and highlighted the Council's ongoing commitment to community engagement, quality service delivery, and responsible financial management.

Key points included:

- Community Engagement: Resident feedback continues to shape the five-year Community Led Action Plan through consultations that ensure transparency and local relevance.
- Service Delivery: Ongoing investment supports 23 play areas, the Skate Park, Memory and Community Cafés, and proposed new projects such as a dog park.
- Youth Engagement: partnerships like the Underground Youth Club and Council's own skate events help to promote health, creativity, and social inclusion among young residents.
- Tackling Isolation: Growing attendance at initiatives such as the Memory Café, Menopause Café, and community trips demonstrates successful efforts to reduce loneliness.
- Infrastructure Investment: The new Grounds Maintenance Facility enhances operational efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- Financial Management: The Council completed the year with a clean audit, balanced budget, and maintained the lowest Band D precept among Swindon's largest parishes.
- Future Planning: Work has begun on the next phase of the Community Led Action Plan, underpinned by strong governance and resident involvement.

The Chair concluded by inviting feedback and questions to help guide future priorities.

APM 41

HAYDON WICK HEROES

- **Mike Gregory - Volunteer of the Year** [add the nomination words]
- **Blythe Wood- Stevens - Young Achiever of the Year**
- **Emmanuel United Reform Church, Lunch Club - Community Group of the Year**

APM 42 PROJECT UPDATES & COMMUNITY GRANT PARTICIPANTS

APM 42.1 WILLIAM KING – SEVEN FIELDS CONSERVATION TRUST

Presentation received detailing the history and successes of Seven Fields. Key projects for the upcoming year will be fixing the bridge as Swindon Borough Council no longer has funded and obtaining more volunteers to join the Conservation Group. Thanks were given to the Parish Council for maintaining the grass paths throughout the fields and for liaising with the Borough Council to conduct the hay cut annually.

APM 42.2 JOHN STOOKE – THE KELLY FOUNDATION

Presentation received detailing the hard work and initiatives put forward for the Kelly's Foundation and its aims for the coming year. Testimonials on how the Kelly's Foundation has helped individuals was shared with the audience.

APM 42.3 NEIL PULLEN – WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Update received on partnership working with the Parish Council and the Heaton Close tree site. Details on upcoming plans and matters arising from Mouldon Hill, inclusive of the tree planting on the field adjacent to the car park.

APM 42.4 MANDY GARRATT – TUESDAY ART GROUP

Update received on what the Tuesday Art Group does and how frequently it meets. Thanks to the Parish Council for the support given on the Art Exhibition. Several members of the public attended.

APM 42.5 SWINDON AND CRICKLADE RAILWAY

Acknowledgement to Haydon Wick Parish Council for their support. The representative advised of the location of the railways and the events that are ran. There are four large events a year including the Christmas Santa Train amongst others. There are 700 members but only around 120 of these volunteer and help. Therefore if anyone is interested, please go along and talk to a member to help and this will be greatly appreciated. Talks have begun with Haydon Wick Parish Council reference the land adjacent to the Blunsdon Railway to explore change of use from a field to a car park.

APM 43 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

Several members of the public engaged with the Councillors and Police team by asking questions, which were addressed during the meeting. The Council was also pleased and honoured to receive very positive feedback regarding the Parks & Open Spaces operations.

APM 44 MEETING CLOSSES WITH REFRESHMENTS AND A COMMUNITY NETWORKING EVENT

Chairman thanked the team involved with organising this evening's meeting, and for residents and speakers to attend. He hoped everyone enjoyed hearing how Haydon Wick Parish Council is committed to improving and growing its services to make the Parish the best it can be.

The meeting closed at 20.00.

Chairman _____

Initials _____