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Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 22nd July 2025** at 19.30 held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice Chair), S Fateru, J Ireland, J Jackson, L Jackson, A John, P Park, B Patrick-Okoh, A Roupelis, L Stevenson and R Worman.

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Jason Watts, POS Operations & Facility Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Swindon Borough Council Ward Councillor S Wilson
HWPC Work Experience Student Isaac Tunley

FC 037 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Ali, R Hailstone, J Fuller and R Ross (Personal Commitments). Councillors A Jimmy and O Munagala (Work Commitments).

FC 038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor P Park declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 D – Seven Fields Conservation Group, as he is member of the Group.

FC 039 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There were none.

FC 040 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
Introduced Isaac Tunley, a Work Experience student working for the Parish Council as part of a two-week work placement. Isaac will be presenting an Agenda Item later in the meeting.

A positive email received recently and read to the meeting: As a resident of Abbey Meads, I would like to thank you and your maintenance teams for keeping the area so well manicured. The trees and shrubs are being kept so well, and it is a pleasure walking around the area. I spoke to your team on Elstree Way this morning and thanked them personally for all their hard work, but I wanted to let you know what a hard-working team you have, always with a friendly smile when you walk past.

RESOLVED: To suspend Standing Orders for the duration of the meeting to permit the student to speak.

FC 041 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2025.
Proposed: Councillor J Jackson **Seconded:** Councillor P Park
Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.
RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

FC 042

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Wilson – mentioned the recent Longevity Games. Congratulated Councillors L Jackson and P Park for taking part encouraging more Councillors and Officers to get involved. Also highlighted that it is important that Councillors lead by example and encourage residents to sign up for the next event in September. Cllr Wilson previously attended the Parks & Open Spaces committee and took an action to confirm when the cemetery trees will be re-inspected. The inspection will take place next year - 2026. Also informed that the Public Notice for the 20mph Bryony Way is due to be published on 25th July. Further information on the Greenmeadow scheme application will be provided when available. Cllr Wilson was asked about the state of the roads in Haydon Wick and residents' frustrations are becoming apparent. Councillor Wilson asked for the residents' details as she is happy to meet with them and discuss the matter.

FC 043

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor S Heyes – Attended the June Orbital market. Getting lots of compliments about the grounds maintenance service currently. Attended the Tadpole Working Party meeting.

Councillor J Ireland – Attend various Working Parties and several activities this month as she scopes the role of being a Parish Councillor e.g. Play area bus tour, Memory Café, Haven, Toddler Groups, met with the Underground about Youth provision in the Parish and assisted with the Leisure Gardens competition judging. Attended a Councillor Fundamentals Training session provided by the County Association – Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC).

Councillor J Jackson – Attended a PTA event at Haydonleigh School. Went on the bus tour of the parish play areas.

Councillor L Jackson – Attended a PTA event at Haydonleigh School. Just Giving income received from a fundraising activity on the stall. Went on the bus tour of the parish play areas. Also attended June Orbital market, lots of footpath issues have been reported to SBC. Longevity Games event was brilliant.

Councillor A John – Attended Armed Forces event at Lydiard Park and there are things we could do locally. Also attended the Swindon Local Councils Forum

Councillor V Manro – Attended Oakhurst PTA event and raised funds for The Kelly Foundation and the School PTA by splitting the proceeds. Helping the work experience student during his fortnight placement with the Council by taking him on door-to-door consultations and various other activities.

Councillor P Park – Attended the Haydonleigh PTA event in a volunteer capacity. Went on play area bus tour. Assisted with Leisure Gardens (Ventnor) competition, attended the Communications Working Party and the working party for Benjamin Smile's Accessibility Conference due to take place in September.

Councillor L Stevenson – Attended the June Orbital market with footpath issues reported to SBC.

Councillor R Worman – Attended various working party meetings. Reported his Estate is looking great and the roads have just been swept.

Councillor S Fateru – Nothing to report.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Roupelis – Nothing to report.

FC 044

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Asked Councillors to complete the Summer Event rota with availability and maximum time available they can help at the annual event.

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- FC 045** **COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT & CHARITY FUNDRAISING**
FC 045A **National Awareness Days:** Councillor O Munagala is due to submit a Plastic Free activity this month. Other future engagement activities are confirmed in the spreadsheet. Reminder to any Councillor not listed in the spreadsheet to pick an activity. Reports to be given at Council meetings.
- FC 045B** **Fundraiser Ideas & Auction of Promises:** Councillors to add ideas to the spreadsheet. Councillors will be responsible for an area at the Summer Event to stage a programme of fundraising activities e.g. football, stocks and more. Chief Officer requested the Councillor's fundraising programme for the event be provided to Marketing to include on socials and promotion as soon as possible.
- FC 045C** Noted the Council's fundraising page is now live and £9,000 target for The Kelly Foundation: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/haydon-wick-parish-council>.

FC 046 **PARKS & OPEN SPACES**
FC 046A **ELSTREE WAY/ELSHAM WAY REMEDIAL WORKS**

The Work Experience student presented his report to Council. His report examined the issue surrounding the harsh cutting of hedges at the Elstree Way/Elsham Way roundabout in Autumn 2024, which has resulted in poor regrowth, weed spread, and strong local reaction. Following a report at Parks & Open Spaces Committee on 8th July, further resident consultations were carried out week commencing 21st July. This revealed visibility and road safety as the top priorities, with 89% supporting low hedging or open views and a preference for natural enhancements like grass, lavender, or wildflowers—though concerns were raised about bees and pet safety. Financially, the proposed £12,500 rejuvenation project is not budgeted for in 2025/26 and would take around 12 years to pay off through reduced maintenance costs, raising doubts about its value, especially as interim maintenance costs are currently low in comparison. Feedback suggests the issue is highly localised, with awareness and concern fading quickly outside the immediate area. While residents closer to the roundabout are supportive of improvement if visibility is maintained, Council is asked to weigh this against cost, precedence for future projects, and potential reputational risk if left unresolved.

Councillors gave thanks to the student for his excellent presentation and thorough reporting.

Council resolved to approve the allocation of up to a maximum £12,500 towards the remedial works at the Elstree Way/Elsham Way roundabout. Two motions were presented: a) to use the second weed spraying application funds £12,500.00 or b) to use funds from existing Parks & Open Spaces projects totalling £12,500.00. Both motions ensured the General Reserves remain unaffected. During discussion, it was acknowledged that it is still early in the financial year to draw from General Reserves, particularly as a significant capital project remains incomplete, meaning the final budget position for that project is not yet known. While the Elstree Way roundabout issue is highly localised, members noted that if similar circumstances arose elsewhere within the parish, local councillors would rightly expect a resolution. It was also suggested that Council may wish to consider a wider programme of roundabout improvements—such as bee corridors and biodiversity enhancements—which could be proposed during the next budget-setting process. Thanks were extended to the contractor who provided an updated quotation with an alternative approach, potentially reducing the overall cost of the remedial work.

Voting

1. *Second Weed Spraying Application*

Proposer: Councillor P Park Seconded: Councillor J Jackson
Three (3) For, Eight (8) Against, One (1) Abstention
Not carried.

2. *Redistributing Parks & Open Spaces funds up to £12,500 and to get more quotations with either hedges and grass or hedges and wildflower planting*

Proposer Councillor V Manro Seconded Councillor L Stevenson
Eight (8) For, Three (3) Against, One (1) Abstention
Carried.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor L Stevenson

Vote: Agreed with Eight (8) For, Three (3) Against and One (1) Abstention.

RESOLUTION: To approve funds up to £12,500.00 redistributing existing Parks & Open Spaces funds (as detailed below) to fund the remedial works. To give delegated authority to the Chief Officer proceed with placing an order, after obtaining more quotations, for either hedges and grass or hedges and wildflower planting schemes.

Decorative Flower Beds (307 / 4309)	£2,000.00
Bulb Planting (307 / 4309)	£500.00
Contingency Grounds Maintenance (307 / 4515)	£1,742.40
Tadpole Lane – Capital Project (605 / 4614)	£8,000.00
Play Area Wetpour Surfacing (302 / 4518)	£250.00
TOTAL OF THE ABOVE	£12,500.00

SBC Ward Councillor left the meeting 20.36.

FC 046B HAYDONLEIGH SKATE PARK: noted the changes to the skate park opening times and agreed to exploring the solar lighting.

FC 046C SBC's DOG FOULING PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION CONSULTATION: Noted the Council's response which was to confirm the status quo and request enhanced enforcement provision.

FC 046D SEVEN FIELDS CONSERVATION GROUP: Chief Officer reported the draft meeting minutes from the Group's recent meeting had been distributed too early. The report below is from unapproved minutes. Councillor L Stevenson has received the Management Plan which is 20 years old and needs updating. There has been an operational discussion with the POS Operations & Facility Manager about desire lines which was clarified following the recent conservation group meeting. The desire lines will encourage walkers to keep to the mowed lines. A website for the fields is being developed. The annual hay cut is due to take place sometime in July – however historically this has never happened without a lot of pressure on SBC. Confirmation there is a HWPC Wildwick event taking place at the fields on 6th August 2025.

FC 047 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
Outstanding actions were noted.

Initials _____

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FC 048 SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) – SHARED LEADERSHIP (14.07) & CLERK'S OPERATIONAL (07.07) MEETINGS

Members noted the verbal updates given by the Chairman and Chief Officer following recent SBC meetings. Minutes will be circulated once received from SBC.

Work Experience student left the meeting 9.00pm

FC 049 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

There were none present.

FC 050 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY (GMF)

Council noted the current position regarding ongoing delays to the GMF project, primarily caused by failed meter installation attempts. It was agreed to retrospectively support the decision, made in consultation with the Project Manager, to proceed with an alternative meter installation arrangement via another provider to avoid further delays. The original installation failed due to an incorrectly qualified engineer, and ongoing disputes as many technical responsibilities remain unresolved. Council acknowledged that this step was necessary to progress the project and mitigate further risks.

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To note the current position and to retrospectively support the decision to proceed with the alternative installation arrangement, to prevent further delays to the GMF. Cost excluding VAT £1,650.00 [EMR/365 - GMF Contingency].

FC 051 TADPOLE

Noted the updates from the recent Working Party Meeting and Site Visit and agree for two Councillors to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor R Worman

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For two Councillors to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Haydon Wick Parish Council and Swindon & Cricklade Steam Railway.

FC 052 NORTH SWINDON LIBRARY

Noted the update and agreed to set up a Working Party with the Councillors listed below and any others who wish to be included that could not be present at tonight's meeting.

Councillor R Worman

Councillor L Stevenson

Councillor A John

Councillor L Jackson

Councillor P Park

Councillor V Manro

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To set up a Working Party and invite other Councillors who were not present at tonight's meeting.

The meeting closed at: 21.30.

Chairman _____

Initials _____