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Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 23rd September 2025** at 19.30 held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), J Ali, R Hailstone, J Ireland, J Jackson, L Jackson, A Jimmy, A John, P Park, B Patrick-Okoh, A Roupelis and R Worman.

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk RFO, HR and Services Manager
Liz Mathews, Marketing & Events Coordinator
Julie McMorro, Meetings & HR Administrator

FC 071 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor J Fuller, S Heyes and L Stevenson (Personal Commitments). Councillor R Ross (Work Commitments).

No apologies were received from Councillors S Fateru and O Munagala.

Councillor A Roupelis joined the meeting at 7.33pm.

FC 072 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nothing was declared.

FC 073 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members in attendance, the Vicar of St John's Church who is trying to establish the ownership of the land outside the Church. It is believed to be Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) but they have not given a definitive answer. *Action Chairman to contact SBC to establish ownership of land.* Questions were also asked about the potholes and poor condition in the parish - it was confirmed there are some that will be resurfaced in December. St John's Church offered to help with this year's Christmas Parcel scheme. *Action: Deputy Clerk to progress the volunteering assistance.*

Another resident was interested in the Abandoned Shopping Trolley agenda item and asked questions about whose responsibility it is to retrieve them, if they have tracking devices and how the thefts are reported? It was confirmed that it is not the Parish Council's responsibility – SBC ultimately is responsible. The cases aren't reported and the trolleys, which do not, to our knowledge, have trackers on them. The resident was welcome to stay on for the agenda item discussion later.

FC 074 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report.

FC 075 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th August 2025.

Proposed: Councillor A John **Seconded: Councillor L Jackson**

Vote: Agreed with five (5) Abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 26th August 2025 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

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FC 076

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Ward Councillor S Wilson provided a written report in view of her absence.

Repainted Road Surface Markings – Councillors may have noticed the freshly repainted white lines, double yellow lines, zebra crossings, and roundabouts on Westfield Way and Thames Avenue. I am especially pleased with the repainting of the roundabout near Morrisons.

Bryony Way 20mph application – The formal consultation closed on 15 August. The council received 18 submissions — 11 in support and 7 objections. I received correspondence regarding the scheme and other road safety issues in the area. Therefore, I plan to organise a public meeting to discuss possible solutions. I will keep Cllrs informed of the date and time, and you are all welcome to attend.

Akers Way/Blue Bags – The Cabinet member has instructed relevant officers to work with Georgina to address the issue and improve the collection method in the area. I am sure that Georgina will provide further information.

FC 077

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor V Manro – Attended the Swindon Local Council Forum (SLCF) and there is an agenda item later to update Council.

Councillor J Ali – Attended Longevity Games with an excellent turn out.

Councillor R Hailstone – Attended SLCF and there was a long report from SBC which was deemed quite positive and showed keenness to get the Protocol and framework in place to commence working with Parishes. It was hoped a conclusion on this is expected before the Elections in May 2026.

Councillor A Roupelis – Youth Club at the Underground, which the Parish Council supported, appears to be falling into neglect and needs support.

Councillor J Ireland – Attends the local craft group at St Johns Church and they make 'fiddle rugs' for with people living with dementia. Attended Swindon Open Studies – a borough-wide Art Exhibition which is continuing over the weekend. Visited the Underground youth club recently and agreed with Cllr Roupelis that there is a lack of attendance and it needs some help.

Councillor L Jackson – Attended the Longevity Games with an excellent turn out.

Councillor A John – Attended the Haven coffee morning recently.

Councillor P Park – Attended Longevity Games with an excellent turn out. Will be taking part in the Swindon Half this weekend and reminded Members there will be some road closures.

Councillor R Worman – A plea to all Councillors, whilst using a wheelchair and it has been noted that there is a lack of dropped kerbs across the Parish. Please email your location as he is going to take this up with SBC Ward Councillor Wilson.

Councillor A Jimmy – Nothing to report.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Councillor J Jackson – Nothing to report.

FC 078

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Updated the meeting on Akers Way. A Waste Manager from SBC has confirmed there is going to a trial of a new bag (which is hopefully seagull resistant) and it is hoped this will have a positive impact on the litter issues in the area.

FC 079

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members received and noted actions outstanding from previous meetings.

Initials _____

FC 080

SWINDON LOCAL PLAN 2043

Members noted the document and poster advising that a consultation for the 2043 Swindon Local Plan. The plan has been developed to set out the strategic development plans across Swindon spanning over the next twenty (20) years. It was acknowledged that it is vital that all Councillors understand the importance of this consultation as it will shape the future for housing, employment and the open spaces and environment. If any Councillor, outside of the Planning & Highways Committee wishes to support the Committee please contact Councillor A John.

Members mentioned the importance of commenting on the lack of public transport and needing a robust transport system to support minimal car usage. All members were encouraged to attend a Local Plan consultation event. Dates of engagement sessions have been sent to all Councillors by the Chief Officer. Deadline for the Council's submission is 13th October 2025. It was acknowledged that Members may also wish to submit their personal view as a member of the public, not representing the Parish Council.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis

Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To give Planning & Highways Committee delegated authority to submit the final comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

FC 081

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & MATTERS

FC 081A

Remembrance Sunday - arrangements were noted. Swindon Big Knit has provided poppies they already have made to be sold, and the money donated to the Royal British Legion. They will also provide a post box topper for the post box opposite the Parish office. The large poppies for lamp posts are still being investigated. Concerns were raised about protests during Remembrance Sunday Services, but it was acknowledged the authorities will have this on their radar.

FC 081B

Summer Extravaganza: good attendance for the twenty (20) day events leading up to the finale at Trent Road playing field. This year's Summer Extravaganza was slightly different owing to the venue which was good but did not allow set up the day before as previous years. Feedback in general was very complimentary with some key areas being very popular including, the Mobile Farm, the free activities and the Craft Zone. The location, music and all over atmosphere. It was discussed that Councillors who join the Events Working Party must offer more assistance in the planning of events and with their attendance. Members agreed to the Officer's recommendations for the location of next year's event to take place at Trent Road on Saturday 16th August 2026.

Proposed: Councillor R Worman

Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To hold the 2026 Summer Event at Trent Road Playing Field on Saturday 16th August 2026.

FC 081C

Councillor Engagement – Plastic free 'awareness' day scheduled for July was not progressed by Councillor Munagala but there are multiple topics which Councillors have committed to and are progressing.

Kelly Foundation Fundraising: Members settled on a 'Bikeathon'. After discussion it was agreed it would take place in the HWPC office over a 24-hour period. This could be live streamed – further details to be agreed. There was positive uptake with Councillors V Manro, J Ireland, L Jackson, A Roupelis, B Patrick-Okoh, J Ali, P Park, R Worman, R Hailstone and A Jimmy offering to take part. The Officers agreed to join in too. Agreed date is the 21st & 22nd November 2025.

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Councillor A John is organising a Chocolate-themed quiz & bingo to raise for money. This is taking place on Friday 10th October at the Haydon Wick Working Men's Club. All Councillors were encouraged to take part, gather a team together and donate raffle prizes.

Marketing and Events Coordinator left the meeting at 8.30pm.

FC 082
FC 082A

PARKS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & MATTERS

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys: Members noted the proposal to review and improve the management of abandoned shopping trolleys in the Parish. Parks and Open Spaces team currently pick up approximately 1-2 trolleys a day and return them to Waterside for Asda supermarket to collect.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members resolved to adopt the proposal to Review and Improve Management of Abandoned Shopping Trolleys in the Parish. In doing so, it will review current HWPC processes and develop a cost for recovery and report back to Full Council. Council will:

- 1. write to all supermarkets within and bordering the Parish and request their processes for abandonment.**
- 2. write to SBC and request copy of their policy on abandoned trollies.**

FC 082B

Haydon Vale FC Container Relocation: Members noted that a consultation will commence to canvas residents on their views on the proposed relocation at Trent Road. Currently the container is in Shield and Dagger Car Park. The consultation will run for two weeks, and if there are no concerns raised from residents, the project will be carried forward to Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

FC 082C

Active Swindon Trail Challenge: Members noted the North Swindon Autumn Trail being championed by SBC. The purpose is to create 'wellbeing' routes and walks for families and children to enjoy.

FC 082D

Replacement Vehicle: Members noted the fault history of BJ62 NLC and options to replace it. After a thorough discussion and better understanding on the lifespan of this essential fleet vehicle, it was agreed to not go ahead with the scheduled MOT, to get a scrap price for the vehicle and to proceed with leasing a vehicle for three years.

Proposed: Councillor J Ali

Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To scrap BJ62 NLC and not to proceed with a MOT.**
- 2. To proceed with Option 4 and hire a vehicle for 3 years at a cost of £795.00 per month, with effect from 24th September 2025.**
- 3. To note there is £7,500.00 allocated in 4610/307. £4,770.00 for the remaining 6 months of the financial year and an increased budget of £9,520.00 for Years 2 & 3.**
- 4. To note the vehicle status across the whole fleet.**

FC 082E

Project Updates

Bus Shelter at Torun Way – With the correct licences in place HWPC are hoping to have this shelter in by the end of Autumn in readiness for the winter to allow the children to keep dry. Harlequin are the contractors awarded with these works.

White Eagle Outdoor Gym – Work is commencing on Wednesday 24th September 2025 with an estimated finish date of 24th October 2025. There will be an opening event, date to be confirmed.

Goodearl Dog Play Area – Most residents are happy with this ‘dog area’ with just one resident who has raised concerns and the Chairman of HWPC will visit to discuss and gather more information, this is being sponsored by ‘Muddy Squad’.

Thyme Close Play Area – Work continues and there will be some painting taking place on Thursday 25th September 2025.

Weed Spraying – This was delayed by one week due to poor weather. However, with recent updates confirming that SBC has begun weed spraying, Council will review the schedule to either amend or cancel it, to avoid duplicating effort

FC 083 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & MATTERS

FC 083A Financial & Operational Risk Assessment – Members noted the Committee’s recommendation for Full Council to adopt the revised risk assessment. The updated version has amendments to the process for managing the Council’s investment product and maintaining sufficient cashflow in the current bank account. As well as the process for cashless event ticketing and platform fees.

Proposed: Councillor J Ali

Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED: To adopt the revised Financial & Operational Risk Assessment, as presented.

FC 083B 2024/25 AGAR External Auditor Report Section 3 – Committee noted the External Auditor’s report and conclusions for the 2024/25 AGAR.

FC 083C Budget Setting 2026/27 – Committee noted the timetable for setting next year’s budget setting. Working party invitations will be sent out to all Councillors accordingly and options and aspirations will be presented to at all Committee meetings leading up to the first meeting prior to Finance and Policy in November 2025. *Action: Meetings Administrator to send invitations.*

FC 084 SWINDON LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM (SLCF)

Members noted the SLCF minutes from June 2025 and received an update that the September meeting and the Annual Meeting. It was noted a further AGM may need to be scheduled for June 2026, subject to post-election membership changes.

- Councillor V Manro: re-elected as Chairman
- Councillor I Jankinson: re-elected as Vice Chairman
- Laura Cutter: continuing as Secretary

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) County Advisor highlighting the 2026 Elections, training support for SBC, NALC conference discussions on devolution, and ongoing training needs (e.g. planning).

Swindon Local Plan 2043 – Regulation 18 Consultation: Runs 1st Sept–13th Oct 2025. Parishes and councillors encouraged to attend events (request made for evening sessions) and review documents. Hard copies available in libraries. Concerns noted regarding highways, dwelling numbers vs local amenities, and play areas.

Borough & Local Councils Partnership Working: Planning Framework, partnership initiatives and operational updates such as improvements to Member Hotline and improved mapping system.

Fly Tipping: Increase in builder’s waste has been reported across the Borough.

Street Work Licences: SBC reviewing charges; proposals for tiered fees.

Elections 2026: Notices published 23rd March, nominations close 9th April. Purdah period: 23rd March–7th May. Costs not yet confirmed; parishes need details for budgets. Concerns about lack of candidates and modernisation of support (e.g. childcare expenses).

Member of the public left the meeting at 9.00pm.

FC 085

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

RESOLVED: In accordance with Standing Order 3 (d) that 'in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted and in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they be instructed to withdraw'. Reasons: *Contractual and Sensitive*.

FC 086

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Project Timings: The project remains on schedule. Handover of the building is planned for Wednesday, 1st October 2025.

Building Control: The Building Control Officer has requested a few additional items relating to ventilation and fire screening. These are minor and may not be completed before HWPC takes ownership, but the BCO has confirmed they can be addressed after occupation.

Cycling / Smoking Shelter: Hard standing for the cycle/smoking shelter will be concreted by the 1st October 2025.

Financial Matters: The Project Manager has reported no further claims for payment and no new information regarding outstanding sums or the final account.

Snagging and Handover: The Project Manager has completed an initial snagging inspection, which identified only a few very minor issues. Upon handover, the **rectification period** under the JCT contract will begin. This will establish both an end date and a plan for the final snagging inspection.

Utilities (EDF Contract): The EDF contract (three-year term) is still under review. The meter is installed and operational. However, discussions with EDF have not been resolved questions remain around rates and charges. A letter of complaint for their failings since March to date is drafted to send to the Ombudsman.

FC 087

TADPOLE

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been sent to Solicitors, and a draft lease will incorporate the terms being negotiated. Comments received by the solicitors will be discussed with the Working party in due course.

FC 088

NORTH SWINDON LIBRARY

Members agreed to hold a further event which will attract a different audience. A site visit is being arranged for next Tuesday 30th September 2025 and it will be considered to hold the Annual Parish Meeting there in 2026. It was confirmed the use of the Library can be used outside of their normal working hours.

The meeting closed at: 9.22pm

Chairman _____

Initials _____