

Minute Book: Page 55

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 24th February 2026** at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice Chairman), R Hailstone, J Ireland, J Jackson, L Jackson, A Jimmy, A John, P Park, R Ross, A Roupelis, L Stevenson and R Worman.

OFFICERS: Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR & Services Manager

FC 178 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor B Patrick-Okoh (Personal Commitments), O Munagala (Work Commitments). No apologies were received from Councillors S Fateru or J Ali.

FC 179 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor P Park – Seven Fields Conservation Group Member
- Councillor R Hailstone – Swindon & Cricklade Railway, working volunteer

FC 180 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present who asked the following questions:

- 1) **Why has Haydon Wick Parish Council been given twice the amount of money than St Andrews Parish Council?** Each parish sets its own budget, which is a portion of council tax, dependent on the services that it delivers. No parishes can be compared like for like, there will always be variances due to demographic size, staffing, services provided, etc.
- 2) **Has any vehicle been fined on Bryony Way since the installation of the yellow lines?** Unknown, this is enforceable by Swindon Borough Council (SBC), so the query would need to be redirected.
- 3) **Has Haydon Wick Parish Council received any confirmation as to whether Swindon Borough Council will conduct weed spraying and street sweeping?** Invited SBC Officers to the Swindon Local Councils Forum (collective meeting of all Swindon parishes & SBC) meeting on the 12th March to discuss further updates.
- 4) **What community partnerships has the parish invested in?** A range of community groups and organisations continue to expand through partnerships and networking opportunities. Examples include the Council's chosen charity, recently awarded grant recipients through the Council's Community Grants Scheme, as well as joint working initiatives and sponsorship arrangements.

FC 181 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **9th March:** 4pm – 6pm, preview of the Art Exhibition at the Parish Council Offices for Parish Councillors.
- **11th March:** 6.30pm – 9.30pm, Charity Curry Evening – please spread the word and invite family & friends.
- **S171 Street Works Licences:** The cost for parish applications for street work licenses has been reduced by 50% from April, this is a result of collective lobbying via the Swindon Local Councils Forum.
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Minute Book: Page 56

FC 182

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th January 2026. *Amendment to Councillor R Ross' attendance.*

Proposed: Councillor A John

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 20th January 2026. The Chairman signed the minutes.

FC 183

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD (SBC) COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No updates received. Apologies received from Councillor S Adamcova (Haydon Wick).

FC 184

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr L Stevenson: Attended drop-in session for Underground Youth Centre, young people in attendance playing electronic games and pool. Nice to discuss directly with young people, more support from the Parish Council is needed to drum up attendance. Will continue to support where she can. Attended the craft sessions and the cream tea, nice to interact with the residents throughout the week. Attended the Skate Jam, whilst cold, it was another opportunity for good interaction.

Cllr R Worman: Attended the Personnel Sub Committee.

Cllr A Jimmy: Nothing to report.

Cllr A Roupelis: Attended the half term Skate Park and Lego sessions.

Cllr L Jackson: Attending Abbey Park on Thursday 26th at 9am with Councillor J Ireland to engage with the School Council as part of the Community Led Action Plan.

Cllr J Jackson: Nothing to report.

Cllr J Ireland: Attended Memory Café and Haven, went to Over 60s Cream Tea, which was seamlessly cleared away after the event. Took part in the craft sessions, also supported some social events at St John's Church – celebrated Chinese New Year with the Chinese nationals within the congregation. Attended Hilda's 100th birthday party at Orchid Care Home – wonderful afternoon, very moving. Hilda received 304 cards to celebrate her special day.

Cllr P Park: Nothing to report.

Cllr R Ross: Attended Over 60s Cream Tea and the Haven.

Cllr R Hailstone: Planted two Oak Trees as part of the Oaks at 80 Project at Purton Road and Rex Barnet Walk with Councillor V Manro and members of the Parks & Open Spaces Team.

Cllr A John: Attended the Longevity Games, which was a positive and well organised event. Could use more attendance from the Parish Council to support the initiative.

Cllr S Heyes: Attended Personnel Sub Committee.

Cllr V Manro: Attended the Cream Tea, Skate Jam, Lego Sessions and the Haven helping with a variety of tasks and engaging with residents.

FC 185

DEPUTY CLERK'S REPORT

Elstree Way Roundabout Remedial Works: Has been completed by Countrywide. Grass seed has been sown, and a low-level shrub bed has been planted. Members concurred that the work had been done to a good standard.

Minute Book: Page 57

FC 186

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Members noted the previous actions outstanding from meetings. Queries were raised in relation to:

- **FC015:** System tested and published? *Tried and tested but haven't run in a meeting.*
- **FC119:** Francomes Update? *Will be on the Parks & Open Spaces Committee agenda for next week.*
- **FC066c:** Cold Harbour Junction? *Letter to MP 2024, gentle nudge to get some movement on that? More may come up with the Blunsdon Stadium developments. Objections to some of the planning applications as realised that the junction is inadequate.*
- **FC014b:** Voyager Play Area Benches – anti social behaviour – any updates? *Nothing reported recently, this will be reviewed and if necessary, added to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee agenda.*
- **FC124:** Tree ID – Any updates from contacting park wardens at Westonbirt, for sharing best practice? *Will review the action and provide an update.*

FC 187

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FC 187A

Members noted the Income and Expenditure to January 2026. Query on the bus shelter miscoding, explained this is for the installation, some purchase order coding to be done in the background. Will get clarification from the Accountant.

FC 187B

Members received and noted the Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliations for January 2026 (attached).

FC 187C

Members received and approved expenditure under purchase daybook references 4833 - 4905 and cashbook reference 472. The total payment is £127,139.59 for January and February 2026.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson

Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members approved the Payment Schedule for January and February 2026 under purchase daybook references 4833 - 4905 and cashbook reference 472. The total payment was £127,139.59.

FC 187D

Members resolved to retrospectively approve the payments made using the credit card for payment made in January 2026. The total payment was £3,526.84.

Proposed: Councillor R Ross

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed to retrospectively approve the payments made using the credit card for payment made in January 2026.

FC 188

GENERAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members noted the Council's General Insurance arrangements have been renewed for 2026/27.

FC 189

PARISH COUNCIL ALLOWANCES FOR 2026/2027

Members received and considered the Independent Remuneration Panel's suggested Parish Council Allowances for 2026/27 and resolved to adopt the Chief Officer's recommendation. After discussion members agreed to reject the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommended Members' Allowance for 2026/27 and continue with the status quo and align the Councillor Allowances with the annual Cost of Living uplift awarded to employees, ensuring a proportionate and financially responsible approach. Members acknowledged that allowances must be fair to account for

Minute Book: Page 58

attracting new Parish Councillors and being reimbursed for some expenses incurred. Chairman suggested reviewing this ahead of budget setting in October 2026. Members noted the current allowance is £78.28 per month for Councillors and £145.55 per month for the Chairman. With the budgeted 5.5% cost of living uplift this will equate to £82.59 per month for Councillors and £153.55 per month for the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis

Seconded: Councillor A Jimmy

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To reject the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommended Members' Allowance for 2026/27. To continue with the status quo and align the Councillor Allowances with the annual Cost of Living uplift awarded to employees, ensuring a proportionate and financially responsible approach. Current budgeted uplift is +5.5%. Members noted the current allowance is £78.28 per month for Councillors and £145.55 per month for the Chairman. With the budgeted 5.5% cost of living uplift this will equate to £82.59 per month for Councillors and £153.55 per month for the Chairman.

FC 190

SWINDON LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Members noted the Council's submission to Swindon Borough Council's above consultation, as presented. Chairman thanked Councillors that contributed to the report, it has now been submitted. Await next stage of the infrastructure plan, may be more proposals and consultation to come.

FC 191

CHARLOCK/RUSHMERE PATH UNDERPASS

Members received an update from Councillor L Jackson, repairs would take place in the underpass to alleviate some of the flooding and blocked draining issues, week commencing 30th January 2026. The work did not take place and there has been no response from SBC Ward Councillors. Barriers are not fit for purpose, as they are being moved, exposing open drain covers and there is still surface water. Wider issue as there is some that are flooded locally at Purton Road and other areas. Members agreed to write to SBC to resolve these issues. *Action: Deputy Clerk to draft and issue to Chief Officer to send to SBC reinforcing the seriousness of the matter.*

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor L Stevenson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To formally write to Swindon Borough Council raising the Parish Councils concerns about the underpass and request an update on the remedial works which are still outstanding.

FC 192

MEDIA POLICY REMINDER REFRESHER

Members received a reminder of the Council's Media Policy and acknowledged that they must not speak to the media on behalf of the Council. Members received suggested amendments to the Policy presented by the Officers which were further amended by a proposal from Councillor V Manro. Some Members were concerned that there was insufficient time to be able to discuss the matter and the proposed amendments fully this evening, it should be referred to the Working Party for further discussion. Others felt there was sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision this evening.

Councillor R Worman requested a named vote on all proposals and voting during this debate.

Proposal A

Initials _____

Agree to the Officer's Recommendations within the amended Social Media/Communications Policy.

Proposed: Councillor R Worman

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: 4 For (Hailstone, Ross, Park, Worman)

7 Against (Manro, Heyes, John, Jackson, Jackson, Roupelis, Stevenson)

2 Abstentions (Ireland, Jimmy)

Proposal B

Take to the Communications Working Party and not agree on the proposed amendments this evening.

Proposed: Councillor R Worman Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: 3 For (Worman, Hailstone, Park)

8 Against (Manro, Heyes, John, Ireland, Jackson, Jackson, Roupelis, Stevenson)

2 Abstentions (Ross, Jimmy)

Proposal C

Accept the revised amendments to the Social Media/Communications Policy as circulated prior to the meeting and to continue to monitor and test the policy, welcoming further discussion and input from the Communications Working at a later date.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: 8 For (Manro, Heyes, John, Ireland, Jackson, Jackson, Roupelis, Stevenson)

3 Against (Worman, Hailstone, Park)

1 Abstention (Ross)

Proposal C was carried and resolved to incorporate the amendments into the Social Media/Communications policy, with regular reviews at the Communications Working Party. If there are any further queries or concerns Members requested to raise this or contact the Chief Officer.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with 8 For, 3 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED: To incorporate the amendments into the Social Media/Communications Policy and review at the Communications Working Party.

FC 193

MOULDON HILL – WATER SAFETY

Members received and noted the Chief Executive Officer's response to the Water Safety concerns at Mouldon Hill. Members were concerned that the update was vague, there was no clear timeline for assessment or completion dates, temporary fix proposed but need a permanent measure, more clarity from Swindon Borough Council required. *Action: Deputy Clerk to draft a further response to the CEO for the Chief Officer to send explaining the gravitas of the situation and finding a more robust solution.*

Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Write a response to SBC's Chief Officer with the further queries to obtain clarity on the situation, with a clear timeline and proposed next steps.

FC 194

CANAL TRUST

Minute Book: Page 60

Members received a draft Memorandum of Understanding to formalise arrangements of working with the Canal Trust subject to approval from Haydon Wick Parish Council. Query regarding the tow path, Canal Trust has just asked for woodchip from the Parish Council. Vegetation can often encroach this tow path, potentially could aid volunteers with some areas of grounds maintenance on these hedges. Consideration of working with other parishes that border the canal, there are currently six projects in progress, but most are a distance from the parish of Haydon Wick. Members agreed in principle to the Memorandum of Understanding and will await further discussion. Members requested to extend an invite the Canal Trust for the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026.

Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree in principle to the Memorandum of Understanding and to submit the further queries to the Canal Trust.

FC 195

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA LOAN SCHEME

Members noted the Council is purchasing one camera as part of a joint procurement opportunity with Swindon parishes. The cost for one camera is £338.04 and has been met with funds remaining in Biodiversity & Climate Change [101/4480].

20:48 Member of Public left the meeting.

FC 196

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 197

CLARY ROAD – DRAYCOTT SPORTS

Members received an update and draft Memorandum of Understanding to develop a partnership with Draycott Sports at Clary Road. Key highlights of the discussion included:

Drainage & Site Preparation

- No formal drainage currently in place; site requires ploughing, levelling, reseeding, and drainage installation.
- A brook along the field may support effective drainage once the land is levelled.
- Waterlogging is primarily in existing furrows.

Leasehold with SBC

- SBC holds ~80 years of a 99-year lease, original intention for football use. SBC approval needed for new proposals.

Sport England Grant & Football Club Involvement

- Grant conditions would need to be agreed by the Parish Council to fully understand the Council's responsibilities in the event there was a change to the constitution of the Football Club.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis

Seconded: Councillor L Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members noted the update and draft Memorandum of Understanding to develop a partnership with Draycott Sports at Clary Road.

Initials _____

FC 197

TADPOLE – SWINDON & CRICKLADE RAILWAY

Members received a verbal update on matters arising at Tadpole in partnership with Swindon & Cricklade Railway. The Railway has covered the legal fees to date and will be invoiced accordingly in due course. The bridge has been assessed as fit for use within their application, although there may be a restriction on the number of people permitted to use it at any one time. However, significant costs are associated with the required renovation works, and their planning team is considering the available options and will determine a recommended course of action for the Trustees.

Regarding overall project funding, they currently have approximately half of the required funds in place and will therefore need to secure grants and/or donations to cover the remaining amount. A discussion is taking place to explore whether elements of the project can be implemented in phases, enabling the field to become usable while further fundraising efforts continue. There are clearly important and constructive discussions ahead.

FC 198

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Fire windows should be received by Wednesday 4th March 2026 and the Building Control Officer is set to be in attendance during that time. The Contractor is aware that if the issue is not resolved by the 6th March 2026 when the new mowers are delivered they will be liable to pay for storage costs.

FC 199

PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE

Members received recommendations from the Personnel Sub Committee held on 18th February 2026.

1. **note a change to the payroll process for an employee.**
2. **note the Chief Officer has successfully passed their annual appraisal and their objectives for 2026/27 have been set.**

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Sub Committee held on 18th February 2026.

21.04 Councillor P Park left the meeting

FC 200

SEVEN FIELDS

Members acknowledged recent correspondence from the Seven Fields Conservation Group and received an update from the Seven Fields Liaison (Councillor L Stevenson).

After discussion, Members concurred that the Parish Council should continue to engage with the Seven Fields Conservation Group and work closely in understanding the constitution, expectations and management plans and work on improving communications.

Members agreed for the Chairman to respond, advising that Councillor R Worman had been appointed as the Council's second liaison until May to replace Councillor P Parks position, since he had to step down when joining the Conservation Group.
Action: Chairman and Chief Officer to agree the Council's response to Seven Fields.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson

Seconded: Councillor J Ireland

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

Minute Book: Page 62

RESOLVED: Members agreed on a response to the correspondence and to temporarily appoint Councillor R Worman as the Council's secondary Seven Fields Liaison, replacing Councillor P Park who had to step down from the duty as a Member of the Conservation Group.

The meeting closed at: 21.24 pm Chairman _____

Initials _____