

HAYDON WICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 20.00 held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice Chair), E Baker-Walker, S Fateru, J Fuller, R Hailstone, J Jackson, L Jackson, A Jimmy, A John, O Munagala, P Park, B Patrick-Okoh, R Ross, A Roupelis, and L Stevenson.

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO HR & Services Manager
Jason Watts, Operation and Facility Manager
Julie McMorro, Meetings & HR Administrator

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE Swindon Borough Ward Councillor S Adamcova

FC 190 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Ali, J Fuller, R Ross (Personal Reasons) and Councillor A Roupelis (Work Commitments).

FC 191 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R Hailstone declared a personal interest in Agenda 19: Tadpole.

FC 192 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

FC 193 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th February and 4th March 2025.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 25th February and 4th March 2025 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

FC 194 SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor S Adamcova gave an update and advised that SBC (Swindon Borough Council) has been shortlisted in the 'Most improved council' category of the prestigious 2025 LGC Awards, run by the Local Government Chronicle. SBC's entry drew on feedback from residents, colleagues and the independent views of Ofsted and the Local Government Association (LGA) to evidence improvements made over the past year. The Council's submission referenced the development of the Swindon Plan, finalised in July last year, following a borough-wide engagement exercise that generated feedback from 700 residents, colleagues, and partners to help shape the organisation's long-term priorities. The winner of this prestigious award will be announced in June 2025. Other updates included the Social Services department currently being inspected and the findings of this could be a much enhanced and improved department.

The meeting also heard that Swindon's Cabinet looked at funding available for road improvements and local confirm works include Holmleigh and Wheatlands. It was noted that the footpath in Seven Fields has been approved for 2028.

FC 195 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Fateru – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Jimmy – Nothing to report.

Initials _____

Councillor L Jackson – Attended the over 60s Tea Party and is supporting the Litter Heroes campaign.

Councillor J Jackson – Attended over 60s Tea Party and same above litter pick.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Councillor O Munagala – Nothing to report.

Councillor E Baker-Walker – Discussed issues with Thames Water regarding the High Street and they have committed to twelve- weekly checks of the sewers. Parking is still an issue in The Brow. Met with a contact to possibly commence Chronic Pain cafes and this proposal is going to Community Development Committee. Other concerns raised in Bluebell path have been passed to SBC.

Councillor P Park – Attended over 60s Tea Party.

Councillor L Stevenson – Defib update almost complete. Cllrs monthly engagement opportunity at The Orbital this Saturday has three spaces to fill.

Councillor R Hailstone – Attended Tadpole Working Party and the Swindon Local Councils Forum (SLCF). Forum decided to continue to pursue a Protocol with SBC. Also reported on the Standards Committee and proposed they adopt the new Code of Conduct.

Councillor A John – Attended the SLCF which included many areas such as data sharing. Attended over 60s Tea Party. Mentioned that SBC Planning Enforcement issues are not being addressed and asked for the Council's support to push SBC again.

Councillor S Heyes – Attended Tadpole Field Working Party and pleased to report that progress is being made. Completed a local litter pick.

Councillor V Manro – Attended Tadpole Field Working Party and SLCF. Good to see positive ways parishes are starting to work together more and could lead to cost savings and working better with the SBC.

Action: Meetings Administrator to send historic Planning Enforcement issues to Cllr S Adamcova for escalation at SBC.

FC 196

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Deputy Clerk and Memory Café Co-Ordinator recently attended Safe Guarding training.

FC 197

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Noted the actions arising report.

FC 198

FINANCE MATTERS

FC 198A

Payment Schedule for February/March 2025

Proposed: Councillor E Baker- Walker Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members discussed and approved February and March 2025 expenditure under purchase daybook references 3988-4014 and cashbook reference 416. The payments total is £91,356.16.

FC 198B

Roundabout Income: Noted there is £1,891.50 of 2024/2025 roundabout income due from SBC.

FC 199

PARKS & OPEN SPACES MATTERS

FC 199A

Vehicles – Goupil Battery Upgrade

Members received and noted an update on the status of upgrading the electric vehicles (Goupil) batteries. Comprehensive analysis has been conducted and the current lease provider is not able to upgrade the electric vehicles with lithium batteries because it is not financially viable. As such the £7,000 allocated in the POST budget will be used to hire an additional van during November 2025 – February 2026. This is when the batteries are maxed out with heating and road conditions, often becoming short on charge and needing to return to the Depot to be charged, thereby making it difficult to complete the day's tasks.

Initials _____

FC 199B

Weed Spraying

Members reviewed options for weed spraying along kerbside edges and major footpaths. In collaboration with St Andrews Parish Council, quotations have been sought. St Andrews had already gathered quotations, and it is proposed the parishes work together to streamline the process. A budget of £20,000 has been allocated for 2025/2026 financial year and quotes received from Contractor A is £18,700.00 at £9,350 per application - providing two applications in April and August. By comparison other contractors and options were considered including conducting the work in-house by employing seasonal workers. The new service will be trialled in 2025/2026 and an analysis of the service and return on investment will be discussed at future meetings.

Proposer: Councillor J Jackson

Seconded: Councillor L Stevenson

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED: To approve Supplier A, and work in conjunction with St Andrews Parish Council, to conduct two weed spraying applications in April and August 2025. Cost is £9,350.00 per application. Total contract value is £18,700.00 ex VAT.

FC 199C

Grass Cutting

Members received an update on the 25/26 Grass Cutting resourcing and a proposal for back up mowing. To address the need for additional mowing at the start of the season, the Council considered outsourcing some areas to its existing contractor, Countrywide, as a temporary extension to their contract. To cover this cost, Officers proposed reallocating funds from the Seasonals Salaries budget to the Grounds Maintenance budget, avoiding the need for any Seasonals recruitment, training, PPE, and equipment expenses. After discussion, Members agreed to the Officer's recommendations.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson

Seconded: Councillor L Jackson

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED:

1. **To appoint the Council's current contractor, Countrywide, to extend their areas of grass cutting from April – June 2025. This is instead of hiring an additional mower for 3 months. Total cost £8,712.00 for 5 cuts (fortnightly) throughout April – June 2025. Budget code 4522 / 307.**
2. **To utilise the additional mower hire budget (£1,974.00) and some seasonal salary budget (£7,639.00) to meet the cost for Countrywide to conduct the service.**
3. **To note the remaining seasonal budget availability will be reduced from 16 weeks to 8 weeks by using this model but there are no further seasonal recruitment plans.**

FC 199D

It was noted that Stephen Hill Funfair is using the grass at the Orbital with permission from SBC.

FC 200

GROUND'S MAINTENANCE FACILITY

There was a recent tour of the Facility, flooring is going down and the final touches with the completion date still on track for the end of April 2025. Affleck has agreed to allow the POST team to start moving their items in from the middle of April to get things in place to be ready for completion date.

FC 201

CHERRY TREE PLANTING IN MEMORY OF MEGAN

Request received to plant a Cherry Tree in Oakhurst following the sad passing of their daughter who was struggling with acute mental health issues residents will purchase and plant the tree subject to getting permission from the Parish Council.

Proposed: Councillor E Baker- Seconded: Councillor O Munagala Walker

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

Initials _____

RESOLVED: To approve the request by the resident to plant a Cherry Tree in the chosen area of Oakhurst.

Action: Chief Officer to get date of the planting from the residents as some Councillors may wish to join them.

FC 202

MENTAL HEALTH BENCHES IN PARISHES

Correspondence was received from SBC regarding a campaign to support the installation of Mental Health Benches in Haydon Wick Parish. It is the Parish Council's understanding that SBC have the funds for the benches, and there was general agreement to support the proposal. The Parish Council would need to conduct robust due diligence and public consultations as to where the benches are positioned.

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree to SBC's proposal to install Mental Health Benches in Haydon Wick Parish, subject to funding from SBC to cover the infrastructure and licence fees.

Action: Chief Officer to respond positively to their request and to ask if there is funding in place to cover all related costs such as street furniture licence fees.

FC 203

THE KELLY FOUNDATION – MENTAL HEALTH HUB FOR NORTH SWINDON

Members received a proposal from The Kelly Foundation to agree in principle to supporting a Mental Health Hub in North Swindon. It was noted the huge difference the organisation is making and excellent help to the community. All North Swindon's parishes have been approached. They are not asking for funding currently and their plans are subject to receiving considerable grants from funding bodies such as The National Lottery. However, they would like to know the parishes view and are requesting a provisional sum of £9,000. After a thorough discussion, Members were very supportive of the proposal and suggested fundraising for the requested £9,000.

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor E Baker Walker

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To agree in principle to supporting a Mental Health Hub in North Swindon provided by The Kelly Foundation.**
- 2. To appoint the The Kelly Foundation for a second year running as the Council's Chosen Charity in 2025/26.**

Action: Chief Officer to respond positively to their request and to notify the charity they are the Parish Council's chosen charity for 2025/2026 and the Members have pledged to raise the £9,000 funding requested through a programme of fundraising events and activities.

FC 204

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 11-15 MAY 2025 – COUNCILLORS EVENT (s)

The meeting received an update on the various Mental Health Week events taking place in May.

FC 205

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Members noted the forthcoming dates for the:

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – Tuesday 29th April 6.15pm – 8.15pm

Annual Council Meeting (ACM) – Tuesday 13th May 7.30pm – 8.00pm:

FC 206

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Please pass to Chief Officer prior to the next meeting in April 2025.

FC 207

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

There were none.

FC 208

TADPOLE

The Tadpole Working Party met with Swindon & Cricklade Steam Railway on 19th March 2025 to discuss plans for car park expansion and allotment development. The car park will potentially increase capacity by 10-15%, with approximately 190 spaces. Environmental considerations include a permeable surface for water management. Legal aspects such as lease agreements and planning permissions were reviewed, with cost estimates pending from solicitors and the Railway. For allotments, around 4,000 square meters of space will remain, allowing flexibility in plot sizes. The Working Party acknowledged evolving trends toward smaller plots. A local contractor is preparing a quote covering bridge engineering and construction. Discussions with SBC will clarify planning requirements, with the possibility of the car park being exempt from full planning permission. Next steps include obtaining cost estimates for legal agreements before recommending lease progression to the Council.

The meeting closed at: 21.01

Chairman _____

Initials _____