

Minute Book: Page 16

Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 26th August 2025** at 19.30 held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors S Heyes (Vice Chair), S Fateru, R Hailstone, L Jackson, A Jimmy, A John, O Munagala, P Park, B Patrick-Okoh, R Ross, A Roupelis, L Stevenson and R Worman.

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO

In the Chairman's absence the Vice Chairman, Councillor S Heyes, chaired the meeting.

FC 053 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors J Ali, J Fuller, J Ireland, J Jackson and V Manro - all Personal Commitments.

FC 054 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Park raised that he is the Penhill Ward Councillor for the Library & Leisure Trust for Central North Swindon.

Councillor S Heyes declared an interest in the North Swindon Library item as St Andrews are in similar discussions.

FC 055 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present who observed the meeting.

Two North Swindon police officers also attended and presented the latest crime statistics. Over the past seven weeks, overall crime levels have remained relatively low, with a total of 143 reported incidents. These included 56 domestic violence cases, 27 theft offences at the Orbital (noting that many shop thefts go unreported), alongside incidents of arson, drug offences, burglary, and robbery.

The officers also reported on ongoing operations to address nuisance scooters. Due to limited resources, enforcement cannot be carried out daily, and a cautious approach is taken because many riders do not wear helmets, raising safety concerns. Councillors urged residents to report all incidents via 101. Even riders wearing balaclavas can often be identified, so residents are encouraged to provide photos and detailed descriptions where safe to do so.

Members raised additional concerns regarding speeding on Thamesdown Drive, uncontrolled dogs not on leads, and the process by which victims are updated when a reported crime is later closed. It was noted that the responsibility for dog control lies with the owner, there is no longer a dog warden service, and police intervention is limited unless a situation escalates.

FC 056 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parish Council submitted a right-to-reply letter to the *Swindon Advertiser* in response to a published complaint that unfairly criticised its role in managing litter on Akers Way. The letter, presented to Full Council, clarified that responsibility rests with SBC, while reaffirming the Parish Council's commitment to working collaboratively to resolve the issue for residents.

Minute Book: Page 17

FC 057

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis

Vote: Agreed with three (3) Abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 and the Chairman signed the minutes.

FC 058

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were none present.

FC 059

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor R Hailstone – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Various Working Party meetings. Play Area Bus Tour. Thyme Close consultation event.

Councillor S Heyes – Attended the recent Bat Walk, which was amazing.

Councillor L Jackson – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Various Working Party meetings.

Councillor A John – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Various Working Party meetings. Through BMW two volunteers are assisting with Parks & Open Spaces Team.

Councillor O Munagala – Attended Summer Extravaganza.

Councillor P Park – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Play Area Bus Tour. SBC Environment Agency and Tadpole Stream backed up and with them to help with flooding.

Councillor R Ross – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Haven.

Councillor A Roupelis – Attended Summer Extravaganza.

Councillor L Stevenson – Attended Summer Extravaganza. Luna Park family event. Attended the Bournemouth trip as a parent and her children loved it. Wildwick photography walk. Vintage Tea Dance. Thyme Close consultation event.

Councillor R Worman - Attended Summer Extravaganza and various Working Parties.

Councillor A Jimmy – Nothing to report.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

FC 060

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

As an interim update ahead of Community Development Committee, where a full event audit will be presented, pleased to confirm that just over £500 was raised at the Summer Extravaganza for The Kelly Foundation.

FC 061

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FC 061A

Members noted the monthly Income and Expenditure report for July 2025.

FC 061B

Members received and approved the Bank Statements and Bank Reconciliations for July 2025.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- To note the bank balances at 31st July 2025.
- To note that the two HSBC savings accounts have been removed from the table below as they remain at zero balances.
- To retrospectively approve two (2) CCLA withdrawals which happened prior to

Initials _____

Minute Book: Page 18

Full Council on 26th August. This was essential to meet payroll and supplier payments - £111,000 15.08.25 & £25,000 20.08.25.

FC 061C Members received and approved expenditure under purchase daybook references 4305-4388 and cashbook reference 433. The total payment is £318,877.83 July & August 2025.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve expenditure under purchase daybook references 4305-4388 and cashbook reference 433. The total payment is £318,877.83 July & August 2025.

FC 061D Members retrospectively approved the payments made using the credit card for payments made in June 2025.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone

Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To retrospectively approve expenditure using the credit card for payments made in June 2025.

FC 061E Members noted a VAT Return for Q1 has been submitted and Council has received £26,346.36.

FC 061F Members allocated two Councillors to sign the Castle Water Direct Debit forms, namely Councillors S Heyes & L Jackson.

FC 062

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FC 062A

NALC Star Council Awards 2025/26 – requested any revisions to the nomination to be received by Friday as it has to be submitted before the 5th September 2025.

FC 062B

Orbital Market - Council discussed the potential facilitation of future markets at the Orbital. While members recognised the value such an event could bring to the North Swindon community, significant concerns were raised regarding timing, budgets, and resourcing. Office capacity is already limited, budgets are tight, and with the Council approaching the end of its term (and purdah in early 2026), Members felt this was not the right time to pursue the initiative. It was agreed that markets could be considered as a longer-term aspiration, but would require clear commitment, adequate resourcing, and detailed planning. In the meantime, hosting smaller-scale events at the library was suggested to maintain visibility and community presence at the Orbital. It was suggested residents could be asked about the importance of markets when the Council re-consults as part of the future strategy/Community Led Action Plan. It was noted that a business plan would be required to weigh the costs of running market stalls against available resources. Members agreed this should be revisited to decide whether to lead such an initiative directly or to work in partnership.

FC 063

ACTIONS ARISING

Members noted actions from previous Full Council meetings.

FC 064

NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Members received Swindon Borough Council's new Code of Conduct and agreed to adopt it. Based on Local Government Association's model code – it was reported the new version is simpler to understand than previous one especially when dealing with pecuniary interests etc.

Proposed: Councillor R Hailstone

Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To adopt Swindon Borough Council's new Code of Conduct.

Minute Book: Page 19

FC 065 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

None present.

FC 066 TADPOLE

Members received an update following the Working Party meeting held on the 12th August 2025. Members heard the meeting reviewed progress on the draft MoU and agreed a rough entrance location during the site visit. Key issues discussed included costs and budgeting, with no HWPC funds available this year but potential allocation in 2026/27 once clearer costings are established. Car park options range from low-cost surfacing to full excavation, while reusing the old bridge could add significant cost. Planning permission requirements and fees remain unclear, though a joint application may reduce costs. A longer lease of up to 99 years with a proposed 10-year break clause with regular reviews was requested given the scale of investment. Maintenance and security are expected to be shared, with gated access and possible cameras. The project's long-term aim is joint community use and increased visitor numbers. Next steps include refining cost estimates, clarifying planning requirements, updating the MoU, and preparing for council and railway trustee reviews. After a thorough discussion, Councillors agreed to the revised MoU, depending on the contribution to the access costs in return for the peppercorn rent.

The meeting was reminded that the MoU is not legally binding but reflects the shared understanding between Haydon Wick Parish Council and Swindon & Cricklade Railway. It will guide the preparation of a formal lease agreement reflecting these terms and show commitment as the planning progress is embarked upon. *Action: Chief Officer to inform Railway of the acceptance to the revised MoU.*

Proposed: Councillor P Park

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed with three (3) Abstentions.

RESOLVED: To agree to the revised MoU, depending on the contribution to the access costs, in return for the peppercorn rent.

FC 067 NORTH SWINDON LIBRARY

Members received an update from a recent Working Party meeting held on 12th August 2025. Members acknowledged the meeting had focused on scoping out the library's role and encouraging greater community engagement in partnership with Swindon Borough Council. Feedback from a recent Haydon Wick Haven event was shared, and positive contributions from Live Well and North Swindon Police were acknowledged. It was agreed that different types of events (e.g., AGM, engagement sessions, youth/family activities, crafts, councillor drop-ins, Christmas events) would better suit the space. Concerns were raised about ownership and maintenance issues, particularly the disabled toilet and it being the responsibility of the leaseholder (Asda) to resolve. Current library opening times were reviewed for potential event scheduling, and there was brief discussion on how partnerships could help manage maintenance costs and generate funding. After discussion it was agreed to trial another event with different audience to establish suitability for other age groups – potentially an October half term session for children and families. *Action: Chief Officer to inform SBC that another trial event to be held and to let them know there no commitment to any longer-term partnership at this stage.*

Proposed: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh

Seconded: Councillor P Park

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To note the notes from the Working Party held on Tuesday 12th August 2025. To trial another event with different audience to establish suitability for other age groups, potentially an October half term session for children and families.

Minute Book: Page 20

RESOLVED: To extend the meeting by 10 minutes to 21.46.

FC 068

PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE

Members noted the confidential summary from the Personnel Sub Committee held on the 26th August 2025.

FC 069

INSURANCE MATTERS

Members noted the live insurance matters.

FC 070

ACCIDENT REPORTING

Members noted the accidents reports.

The meeting closed at 21.29.

Chairman _____

Initials _____