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Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 23rd June 2026** at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V MANRO (Chairman), S HEYES (Vice Chairman), N BRADLEY, C CHIKEZIE-MORRIS, I EDWARDS, R HEATH, A HUGHES, J IRELAND, J JACKSON, L JACKSON, A JOHN, S NUKANA, B PATRICK-OKOH, A ROUPELIS, C SKINNER and L STEVENSON.

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

Also in attendance: SBC Ward Councillor S Wilson and Tracy Boxall, CALM Representative

FC 018 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Councillor R Hailstone (Personal Commitments).
No apologies were received from Councillor A Jimmy.

FC 019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor V Manro declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 16.

FC 020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
There were none.

FC 021 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
There were none.

FC 022 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Approval of the minutes were deferred to allow for some changes to be made and brought back to Full Council in July 2026.

FC 023 COUNCIL'S CHOSEN CHARITY 2026/2027
The Chairman welcome Tracy Boxall from CALM to the meeting. Tracy gave a short presentation about CALM, the Parish Council's chosen charity for 2026/27. She is looking forward to working with the Council. She explained about the passing of her son to suicide, and how she got introduced to CALM, who are a national Charity. Tracy explained that every day, month and year there is a suicide which often goes unheard of. Sadly, over the last ten years in the age group of 15 – 24, over six thousand young lives have been lost to suicide. The numbers are high. CALM have a London based call centre currently taking calls from 5pm until midnight, seven days a week and the calls are manned by professional counsellors, for which funding needs to be raised on a continuous basis. CALM are well known for doing annual walks to raise money, along with many other events but the annual walk in Swindon is popular. The walk in Swindon takes place every October, planned around when the clocks go back, marking the darkness. Tracy also organises lots of other fundraisers including bingo, hampers and cake sales. She is thrilled to be

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working with the Parish Council in 26/27 and very much look forward to working with Councillors to raise money and raise awareness of suicide.

The following items were brought forward on the agenda: 16. Weed Spray and 17. Brookfield Play Area Safety Surfacing.

FC 024

WEED SPRAYING

Members noted the report and recommendations. In summary:

- It was noted that weeds on paths and roadsides have become increasingly prominent since the end of May, creating an impression that the parish is not being maintained, despite continued service delivery in other areas.
- The report was presented compares weed control approaches taken by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and neighbouring parish councils, to help determine the Parish Council's future service delivery.
- In 2025, the Parish Council budgeted for and outsourced weed control, completing one full treatment round in May/June over a three-week period. A second round was stopped when SBC indicated it would be carrying out weed control across the parish.
- As SBC had been expected to continue this work in 2026, the Parish Council had not yet arranged further outsourced weed control.
- Members considered several options, including use of the current HAKO machine, purchasing a weed-removal attachment, hiring an additional sweeper, outsourcing the work, or waiting for SBC to confirm its programme.
- It was agreed that use of the current HAKO would be too time-consuming and not a long-term solution, and that purchasing an attachment may not be compatible with future replacement equipment.
- Members felt the previous outsourced treatment had been successful and, as SBC's position remained unclear, favoured outsourcing weed control again this year.
- The cost of one application was noted as approximately £10,000, with delegated authority to be given to the Chief Officer to arrange the works.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To proceed with giving the Chief Officer delegated authority to award the contract for 2026/2027. To outsource Weed Spraying, up to the value of £10,000.00 per application.

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FC 025

BROOKFIELD PLAY AREA SAFETY SURFACING

Members noted the report and recommendations. In summary:

- Members agreed to give delegated authority to the Chief Officer to progress the Brookfield Play Area surfacing project up to a value of £30,000.00.
- Council had previously agreed, during last year's budget-setting process, to replace the loose-fill surfacing at Brookfield Play Area with a wet-pour rubber surface.
- It was noted that a simple design was being pursued to keep costs down, and that wet-pour surfacing is easier to maintain than bark-pit surfacing.
- The project had been slightly delayed by the election period and member inductions, but it was hoped the works would be completed before the autumn and winter months.
- As the project falls below the public tender threshold, it will be procured in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and the Procurement Act 2023.
- The matter was brought to Full Council to avoid further delay and allow quotations to be obtained promptly.

Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson Seconded: Councillor L Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

Resolved: To proceed with the recommendation to give the Chief Officer delegated authority to proceed with the project up to the value of £30,000.00, to allow for more quotations to be received and the project to proceed without unnecessary delays.

Parks & Open Spaces Manager left at 8.06pm.

FC 026

SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor V Manro (Priory Vale) Regularly working on case work and resident concerns and conducting regular Ward walks. A lot of work on Adult Social Care, and working with local care providers, the Swindon Carers Forum was good, and a lot of good services are available, home line support is to continue but with a different module. The future use of the library is under discussion and how to utilise it by offering more services and events at this location.

Councillor S Wilson (Haydon Wick) – Francome Play Area, met with Deputy Clerk and Chief Officer they can now instruct Persimmon to dismantle the area. The road safety in Haydonleigh and Holmleigh is being progressed. At the Westfield/Bryony way junction, a new speed check consultation is currently going ahead. Concerning the grass and overgrown hedges at Morrisons, the store have agreed to cut the grass, but they do not own the hedges so further investigation of ownership is required, in the meantime the Church have kindly agreed to cut them back with the help of the volunteers.

Councillor A Hughes (Priory Vale) – Attended the National Literacy Event at the civic officers and the Armed Forces Day. Some case work, repair of traffic bollards and progressing some other cases.

Councillor L Stevenson (Priory Vale) – Support of residents in case work. Communicating on a regular basis. Focusing on paths to look after tree management and general maintenance so continue to work with HWPC and SBC to keep these pathways looking good. Work continues around Mouldon Hill, algae has been noticed in the lake water which has been reported to SBC.

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Armed Forces event at Lydiard Park (although held a week early) was a wonderful and humbling day.

FC 027

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor J Ireland – Attended the Working Party for the Haydon Wick Living Magazine.

Councillor L Jackson – Attended Seven Fields Conservation Group meeting. Attended Code of Conduct training which was very good. Has been advised that a local company will provide a £50.00 voucher to restore the bedding plants at Westfield Way roundabout.

Councillor L Stevenson – Attended The Big Knit and a knitter would like to donate baby items to the Parish Council to donate to Great Western Hospital.

Councillor A Hughes – Nothing to report.

Councillor S Nukana – Nothing to report.

Councillor N Bradley – Attended Seven Fields Conservation Group meeting - further information to follow when actions have been fulfilled.

Councillor V Manro – An issue was raised by a resident regarding the speeding bikes on the pathways. This has previously been raised this with the police and they are going to try and have more police present to help with this common problem. It was suggested more communications are needed on issues about the bikes and issues they can cause pedestrians, particularly with hidden impairments. *Action: to push out some comms and mirror any police messaging.*

Councillor S Heyes – Jovial Monk is opened to the public as a cool space.

Councillor A Hughes – Nothing to report.

Councillor C Skinner – Attend the half term Lego event and briefly a Memory Café to observe what goes on.

Councillor J Jackson – Nothing to report.

Councillor A John – Attended the Armed Forces Day – what a lovely event.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Councillor C Chikezie-Morris – Nothing to report.

Councillor I Edwards – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Roupelis – Attended Haydon Wick Living Magazine Working Party and the Armed Forces Day.

FC 028

CHIEF OFFICER'S / CLERKS REPORT

Reminded members there is the annual Allotment competition on the 30th June 2026. There is still a requirement for further judges if any Councillors available to help with this please contact the office as soon as possible. Commented on how delighted it was to see one of our Councillors – Leanne Steveson – prominently featured at the Armed Forces Day and her heartfelt speech. Greenmeadow School would like to get involved in the Community Bus Shelter Project. The school has invited the Office and Community Administrator to speak at an assembly about the project, and it would be helpful if a couple of Councillors could attend too. Proposed dates are Thursday 2nd or Friday 3rd July, with times still to be confirmed. The project is slipping slightly; it is necessary to get the pupils' entries back before the summer holidays. Attended a very useful seminar about the usage and safety of open spaces and parks for teenage girls.

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FC 029 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Noted there were outstanding matters from previous meetings, which were ongoing.

FC 030 SWINDON LOCAL COUNCIL FORUM UPDATE
Meeting held on the 19th June 2026, positive action from the new Cabinet member who is ensuring the Parish Protocol is progressing to cement the SBC/Parishes working relationship. Councillor V Manro is no longer the Chair of the Forum because he is now a SBC Ward Councillor. Updates will continue as usual as other Parish Councillors will be in attendance.

FC 031 FINANCIAL MATTERS
FC 031A Members received and noted the income and expenditure for May 2026.
FC 031B Members received and noted the Bank Statements and Reconciliations for May 2026.

FC 031C Members noted the Investments and retrospectively approved the Account Transfers for April & May 2026.

FC 031D Members received and approved expenditure under purchase daybook references 5189 and 5259 and cashbook reference 484. The total payment is £108,899.92 for May and June 2026.

Proposed: Councillor N Bradley Seconded: Councillor S Nukana
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve expenditure under purchase daybook references 5189 and 5259 and cashbook reference 484. The total payment is £108,899.92 for May and June 2026.

FC 031E Members retrospectively approved the payments made using the credit card for payments made in May 2026. The total payment was £830.27.

Proposed: Councillor A Roupelis Seconded: Councillor Bose
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To retrospectively approve the payments made using the credit card for payments made in May 2026. The total payment was £830.27.

FC 031F Members considered the proposed changes to the Councils arrangements. There is a banking signatory to be decided due to the passing of a Councillor.

Proposed: Councillor A John Seconded: Councillor J Jackson
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the proposed changes to the banking arrangements and Councillor N Bradley was selected to be the fifth signatory.

Councillor C Chikezie-Morris left the meeting at 8.45pm.

FC 032 COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES
May and June allowances have been paid - it is understood not all Payslips have been received. *Action: Chief Officer to liaise with Payroll.*

FC 033 PLANNING & HIGHWAYS RECOMMENDATION – IMPACT ON CHANGES TO NATIONAL PLANNING REGULATIONS & FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

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Planning and Highways discussed the matter earlier this evening and concluded that it was too early to make a decision but wished to hear what Full Council may have to say on the matter. Members heard how the proposed national planning reforms, which would introduce a National Scheme of Delegation, would reduce the number of applications decided by planning committees. They noted that, under the proposals, parish councils would lose call-in powers, and routine applications would increasingly be determined by officers at Swindon Borough Council. Members recognised that the current Planning & Highways Committee may need to change into a Working Party in due course but were not ready to make that decision until later in the year. Members were keen to ensure that residents are kept informed of any changes. They concluded no immediate decision should be taken and that the matter should be deferred until closer to October 2026.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh left the meeting at 9.15pm.

FC 034

FILMING REQUEST FROM RAW RESEARCH

The Council has received an enquiry from Raw Research, a casting and research company working on behalf of the Cabinet Office. Raw Research is producing a campaign focused on how government investment is empowering communities across the UK, with Swindon identified as one of the featured areas. The campaign will take the form of a short 30-second documentary-style film and accompanying photographs, showcasing real residents and organisations going about their daily lives. Filming is planned for 13th July 2026. The Deputy Clerk will liaise with the production company and discuss the location suggestions she's already sent them.

FC 035

FRANCOMES PLAY AREA

SBC Ward Councillor Stanka Wilson had a meeting with Persimmon representatives to identify possible ways forward for the play area and the associated land, which remains in Persimmon's ownership.

Three possible solutions were identified for the future of Francomes Play Area:

- Transfer of the play area for £1.
- Dismantling of the play area, managed and paid for by Persimmon.
- Refurbishment of the play area, with Persimmon contributing an amount equivalent to the cost of dismantling.

Following a meeting with the Chief Officer and Deputy Clerk and earlier discussions within Council, the preferred way forward was agreed as asking Persimmon to dismantle the play area at its own cost. SBC is happy to continue liaising with Persimmon directly and will copy Parish Officers into the emails. Once the play area has been dismantled, consideration will be needed regarding both the play area land and the surrounding land, which remain in Persimmon's ownership. The Parish Council has indicated that it could formally take on the land to ensure regular maintenance continue – the Council is already maintaining the grass surrounding the play area – but only after the play equipment has been removed.

FC 036

POTENTIAL DONATION OF A COUNCIL MASCOT

Members received a verbal update and considered a tabled report regarding the possible donation of a Council mascot. The report explained that Mouldon Hill Country Park is a valued green space within the Parish, and that a friendly frog mascot had been suggested to reflect the wildlife and community spirit associated with the area. The mascot was described as a fun, welcoming and recognisable presence which could be used at Council events and initiatives. Members were also shown the mascot in the meeting room. The proposal received a mixed response, and Members questioned whether a frog was sufficiently symbolic of the Parish. It was resolved to undertake a short public consultation and to consider the feedback before making a final decision at the Community Development Committee meeting on 7 July 2026.

Proposed: Councillor S Nukana

Seconded: Councillor L Jackson

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To undertake a short public consultation and to consider the feedback before making a final decision at the Community Development Committee meeting on 7 July 2026.

FC 037

Exclusion of Public & Press

To resolve 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: Sensitive.

Meeting and HR Administrator left the meeting at 9.34pm

FC 038

NESTING SEASON – HEDGE CUTTING

Members noted the report following concerns raised by the public in relation to hedge cutting and a possible nesting bird offence. The Council had reviewed the matter internally and confirmed that pre-work visual inspections were carried out and that staff acted in accordance with established procedures and environmental protection requirements. It was also noted that no definitive evidence had been identified to confirm an active nest within the section of hedge being cut at the time of the works. The Council further confirmed that, had an active nest been identified, works would have been stopped immediately. Following review of the information provided by all parties, Wiltshire Police closed the case with No Further Action (NFA). The Council noted the matter was now closed and that no enforcement action was taken. The Council also noted its commitment to continuous improvement, including reviewing resident communications regarding grounds maintenance and nesting bird considerations.

FC 039

GROUND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Members received and noted two update reports. Highlights included:

- Project Status
 - Snagging works near completion; minor defects remain (including gutter leak).
 - Flooring works completed/imminent.
 - EV charging points pending due to lack of broadband connection.

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- Handover scheduled for 23/06, but not yet confirmed by the Contractor. Agreed with Project Manager to proceed despite connectivity delay.
- **Contract & Financial Position**
 - Final account still outstanding; no Practical Completion Certificate issued.
 - Contractor retains liability and insurance responsibility until completion certified.
 - Estimated contract sum remains ~£103,927.87 with most queries resolved.
- **Rectification & Next Steps**
 - 12-month defects period to be agreed (potentially backdated).
 - Defects log to be maintained; final inspection due 6–12 months post-completion.
- **Broadband Connectivity Update**
 - City Fibre unable to provide standard broadband; offered dedicated leased line.
 - Proposal: 200Mbps line at £190/month, subject to potential additional installation/civils costs. Triple the cost of the initial proposal.
 - Reliable broadband confirmed as essential for operations (CCTV, EV charging, solar monitoring, alarms).
- **Options & Considerations**
 - Quote appears competitive vs market rates, but further clarification needed on total costs and contract terms.
 - Alternative solutions identified (4G/5G, fixed wireless, satellite).

Proposed: Councillor V Manro Seconded: Councillor I Edwards

Vote: Agreed Unanimously with one (1) Abstention.

RESOLVED: To give the Chief Officer delegated authority to procure the broadband installation services up to £2,280.00 per year inclusive of installation charges. This is subject to consulting with Councillors with technical expertise, who will review alternative options and ensure best value prior to final procurement decision.

The meeting closed at: 21.40

Chairman _____

Initials _____