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Minutes of the **Parks & Open Spaces Committee** meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes (Vice Chair), J Ali, L Jackson, J Jackson, V Manro, O Munagala, P Park, R Ross, R Worman

OFFICERS: Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO
Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR & Services Manager
Jason Watts, POS Operations & Facility Manager

POS 049 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted for Councillor L Stevenson (personal commitments). No apologies received from Councillor O Munagala.

POS 050 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor P Paul declared an interest in Seven Fields agenda item as he is a member of the Seven Fields Conservation Group.

POS 051 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public was present who expressed concern about the potential wildlife pond in the Goodearl site. Minimal number of neighbours are affected by the sight line of the possible siting of the pond. The member of the public was also interested in the proposed Goodearl Dog Play Area consultation and therefore the Committee agreed to bring the item forward.

POS 051A Goodearl Dog Play Area – Consultation of residents adjacent to the proposed site officially closes on Friday 12th September. There have been no responses received to date but there has been a demand via the Community Led Action Plan Consultation 2022 – 2025 and the Community Choices Consultation 2025, there has also been a petition locally requested a dog play area. Sponsorship has been received from Muddy Squad (£1,500). Next steps to inform Swindon Borough Council (SBC) of our intentions for the site and see if the Parish Council must apply for planning permission or pay street licences fee.

POS 052 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

POS 053 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2025.

Proposed: Councillor J Jackson Seconded: Councillor S Heyes

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes held on Tuesday 8th July 2025 and they were signed by the Chairman.

POS 054 SEVEN FIELDS

In the absence of Councillor L Stevenson (Seven Fields Liaison) the operational update was received by the POS Operations & Facility Manager. The meeting confirmed the boundary maps and designated pathways that need cutting and some repairs to be made to Kings Bridge, by installing chicken wire to make it less slippery. A representative from SBC was also present. A wider public engagement meeting is

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being planned for 22nd September (venue to be confirmed). Members suggested regular site visits to look at the trees and identify issues with the SBC.

POS 055

DEPUTY CLERK & SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Open to suggestions for speakers to come to the Plot Holders meeting on Monday 6th October 2025, please contact the Office & Community Administrator.

Action: Swindon Allotment Group to be approached.

POS 056

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor J Ali – Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone – Nothing to report.

Councillor S Heyes – Think about dog events and competitions, like local gardening centre are offering, which could tie in with the dog walking community in line with the opening of the Dog Play Area.

Councillor L Jackson – Using the POS reporting tool and its efficient way to report cases and the work is being done well.

Councillor J Jackson – Out in the parish particularly around the Moredon area and has an item on the agenda to discuss.

Councillor V Manro – Main entrance into the Orbital Centre is very poorly maintained. Trying to get some action by Asda and SBC (main entrance). Date of the work to be confirmed and ideally overnight to reduce impact on the traffic.

Councillor P Park – Will be submitting issues from residents.

Councillor R Ross – Nothing to report.

Councillor R Worman – As a resident he is submitting Freedom of Information requests to SBC and will bring any meaningful to a future meeting.

POS 057

PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

POS 057A

Members noted the comprehensive report and agreed to purchase two (2) short reach hedge trimmers in preparation for Autumn / Winter works at a cost of £960.00 + VAT to be met with existing budgets.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor R Ross

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To purchase two (2) short reach hedge trimmers in preparation for winter works at a cost £960.00 + VAT to be met from 4615/307.

POS 057B

POS Reporting System: Noted the statistics report. It is working well between POST and the Office for quick resolution and tracking performance and the method of communication.

A Tree Reporting category is being implemented to include the actions that POST can conduct in the winter months, but the statistics will be stored separately so as not to skew the reactive case turnarounds.

POS 058

AKERS WAY LITTER PICKING RESPONSE

Noted the 'Right to Reply' letter from the Chairman has been published by the Swindon Advertiser. There is a draft press release pending to issue to the wider circle of press contacts and SBC's CEO and Will Stone, MP North Swindon has been made aware of the issue. Members agreed to issue the draft press release to call SBC to action.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor J Jackson

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To issue the press release as presented.

POS 059

PROPOSAL TO INVESTIGATE INSTALLING A MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) AT MOREDON PARK

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Members noted the report and discussed the possibility of going out to public consultation for the use of the open space at Moredon Park. From early conversations, there is an appetite for a Multi-Use Games Area. This initiative could be developed for inter-generational activities such as football, which could also be adapted to walking football, and potentially a league of MUGA Teams locally across the Borough. Members noted there are 6 MUGA's in the Parish of Haydon Wick, but the one closest for Moredon residents is in Abbey Meads or Torun Way. Members noted there is Moredon Sports Hub at the end of Akers Way which provides a good local facility for most Moredon residents, so investing in a piece of open land that services a small number of houses could be an unfair balance. The Committee agreed to take the proposal to the next Play Area Working Party for further discussion and to bring recommendations to a future Committee meeting.

POS 060

PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Members noted the report and agreed to the recommendations. Members queried the delay with the Capesthorpe Play Area as noted it has featured in several reports as still outstanding. The POS Operations & Facility Manager advised there are no issues with the project, the team has been deployed to other priorities and projects but are keen to finish up work prior to the change in season.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes

Seconded: Councillor R Worman

Vote: Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. **To purchase some gate springs, caps for play equipment and wet pour binder at a cost of £853.00 + VAT to be met from 4305/302 and 4518/302.**
2. **To purchase four sections of rope for White Eagle play area as they are worn out with split wires at a cost of £359.37 to be met from 4305/302.**

POS 061

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN – SEARCH FOR SITES

Members noted an email sent from Swindon Borough Council regarding searching for sites which could be enhanced with biodiversity. Seven Fields, Lyddon Way and Tadpole Field were suggested and Mouldon Hill is already included from SBC.

Action: Committee was asked to send more ideas to be submitted to Officers to forward on to SBC.

POS 062

AFC HAYDON VALE REQUEST

Shipping container proposal was received from AFC Haydon Vale who lease the site for grass roots football, recently the club has purchased extra equipment for grounds maintenance (line marking, grass cutting, etc) which would be easier to access from the field rather than the Shield & Dagger car park where other equipment is stored. A site visit is due to take place this week which will enable the Council to be more informed about the proposal. This proposal has been received before and had objections from members of the public living in proximity to the site - but unsure where they location was being proposed and if it was the same location as the newest proposal that has been submitted. Members suggested that if the Council did consider the request following the site visit, the shipping container could be tucked away and behind the garage hedge line, to be aesthetic.

POS 063

OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO VOYAGER DRIVE PLAY AREA

The Council received notification of a recent issue of a possible traveller incursion and followed the escalation process by contacting SBC and North Swindon Police. It was noted there are 22 similar vulnerable sites across the parish. Voyager Play Area remains particularly difficult to secure due to its size and multiple access points, and as the land is owned by SBC, questions remain about whether the Parish should

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invest in preventative measures. Historic methods such as bunds and hedges were discussed, but concerns were raised about setting precedent for other sites. As incursions are not a regular occurrence, the matter will continue to be monitored.

POS 064

CORPORATE AWAY DAY SUPPORT

Summary was given by Councillor L Jackson of recent BMW Corporate days which have been received positively by both parties. It was confirmed that HWPC now has a positive partnership with a large company within Swindon, whereby 40% of its workforce lives within the parish and can now appreciate what the Parish Council does locally. It is great news to hear that BMW Swindon is keen to do more in the local community. Councillor L Jackson was thanked by the Committee for creating the new partnership and asked to pass on thanks to BMW Swindon directly.

POS 065

PROJECT UPDATES

- A) Bus Shelter Installation** – The contractor is happy to do the street work licence (as has the information required) but will charge a £50.00 administration fee for doing so. The Chief Officer has recognised funds in the Professional Fees budget to account for this. Once this is confirmed the contractor will submit the licence, order the shelter and plan in the works.
- B) White Eagle Outdoor Gym** – The supplier confirmed for the fencing element has ceased trading, so another supplier has been lined up, there is an additional cost to the fencing with the new supplier, but the contractor will take the hit on this. It is likely that this means the project will be pushed back from original commencement date Tuesday 9th September to the Monday 22nd September. The aim is still for the project to be completed by October Half Term (wc 22nd October).
- C) Thyme Close Play Area** – Tree sculptor was in attendance Tuesday 12th August and a consultation was held on Thursday 14th August which was incredibly popular, the information is yet to be analysed but whilst the team and councillors were at the site, there was a chance for some refurbishment work, minor repairs, repainting, and some craft sessions for the children. Due to its popularity, a second craft session was arranged at the end of the holidays which was also well attended. A further session will be arranged for the team to go down and finish the painting. Analysis from the consultation will be presented to Community Development – as the funds will be met via the Community Choices budget.

POS 066

GROUND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

- **Building Handover & Site Readiness**
 - Building handover to Council scheduled for 15th September
 - Councillor site tour to be arranged ahead of handover (date to follow).
 - Official opening, plot holder invitations, and resident tours to be scheduled.
- **Operations & Facilities**
 - Housekeeping meeting with Affleck to cover operational elements (PV system, alarm, maintenance schedule, sewage, keypad entry, etc.) before end of September.
 - Fire Risk Assessment site visit completed, awaiting report and recommendations on signage, fire extinguishers, etc.
 - POS & Facility Manager progressing equipment purchases (fire cabinet, spill pallets, work benches) within allocated budget, sourcing cost-effective options via office clearance/Facebook Marketplace.
- **Utilities & Connectivity**

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- Ongoing complaint with EDF regarding meter decommissioning and registration issues.
- WiFi installed with boosters from Parish Council office (installation by Cllr Manro).
- Commissioning of WiFi for PV, air source systems, and related services scheduled for 8th September.
- **Project Finances & Contributions**
 - Project Manager finalising final claim, invoices, and overall financial position.
 - Contractor confirmed free provision of an industrial-size fridge and sponsorship support for building signage.
- **Relocation**
 - Notice being given to SBC/Waterside this month with planned move-out by 31st October.

Noted the expenditure the fire cabinet and spill pallet required to safely house petrol in preparation for the GMF move. Quote is just over £1,300.00 compared to the allocated budget of £2,306.00.

POS 067 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
There were none.

POS 068 BUDGET MONITORING: INCOME & EXPENDITURE
Members noted the budget.

POS 069 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Budget setting
- Vehicle status and replacement plan
- Play Area Working Party

Meeting Closed at: 21.11. Signed by Chairman: _____

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