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Minutes of the **Parks & Open Spaces Committee** meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on **Tuesday 6th January 2026** at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS: Councillors R Hailstone (Chair), S Heyes (Vice Chair), J Ali, L Jackson, V Manro, R Ross, L Stevenson and R Worman

OFFICERS: Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR & Services Manager
Jason Watts, POS Operations & Facility Manager
Julie McMorro, Meetings & HR Administrator

POS 091 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor J Jackson and O Munagala (Personal Commitments).

POS 092 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 093 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

POS 094 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year to all.

POS 095 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson Seconded: Councillor L Stevenson

Vote: Agreed with two (2) abstentions.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes held on Tuesday 4th November 2025 and they were signed by the Chairman.

POS 096 SEVEN FIELDS

Councillor L Stevenson gave an update. Anti-social behaviour continues, with quad bikes and scooters damaging fields, creating mud tracks, causing noise pollution, and harming wildlife. This has been reported to the Police and highlighted on social media, and officers have confirmed increased patrols. To help protect the fields and pathways, the need for a dedicated open space for young people is being investigated.

Councillor Stevenson also reported finding significant litter, including canisters containing hazardous substances.

Some areas of the access ground are waterlogged annually, so more durable surfacing is being explored with Swindon Borough Council. Wood chippings currently help alleviate the issue and are free to use, though mainly used by Park Run. A Working Party is being considered, with further details to follow once Councillors have expressed interest.

POS 097 CHIEF OFFICER/DEPUTY CLERK & SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

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- The current security contractors are to cease trading so alternatives will be sourced and brought to a future meeting. The contractor currently looks after King George V Park and Haydonleigh Skate Park. They are responsible for the locking and opening of both sites, so an alternative is being sourced with immediate effect.
- An email from the Project Manager at Francomes Park has been received and has said it is believed to be outside of the Haydon Wick Parish Council (HWPC) remit, this will be confirmed in due course. If this is the case HWPC would not bear the responsibility to make any repairs and incur any costs.

POS 098

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Hailstone – Nothing to report.

Councillor S Heyes – Nothing to report.

Councillor J Ali – Nothing to report.

Councillor L Jackson – Reported the death of the geese at Mouldon Hill and is awaiting confirmation of Bird Flu.

Councillor V Manro – Mouldon Hill consultation is underway. HWPC agreed to do a QR trail along the walking route, and this is now making progress. Unfortunately, a dog passed away in the lake at Mouldon Hill and there has been some communications into the office and to other Councillors regarding the culvert. It is being suggested by the public to be the cause, there have been three (3) dogs that sadly have reportedly died in the same area of the lake since 2017.

Councillor R Ross – Nothing to report.

Councillor L Stevenson – Speaking to residents about bird flu, there has been a loss of geese and a swan at Mouldon Hill, awaiting to here is officially bird flu. 21- 25th Garden bird watch. Encouraged Members to sign up.

Councillor R Worman – Problems with lights out on Sunningdale Road, Haydonleigh and Eastville Road, despite contacting Ward Councillors and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) with no response, eleven (11) streetlights are out. Please can HWPC add some weight to help assist with this.

POS 099

POS 099A

PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

Members received an update on the Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance Schedule.

Tidy Up Team Update

All waste removal and litter picking- activities are progressing as planned. Fly tipping- remains a regular issue throughout the parish; on several occasions we have found items left with signs such as “free to good home.” Residents should be aware that, even with such signage, this still constitutes fly tipping-.

The team continues to focus on known litter picking- hotspots and is monitoring all areas closely. We have received positive feedback from residents along Akers Way regarding the improvements.

Mini Compact Street Sweeper – Operational Update

- **Leaf Clearance:** With the autumn leaf fall now easing, the team is concentrating on built-up debris along kerb edges while continuing routine path clearance.
- **Monday Hotspot Coverage:** The team maintains its focus on known hotspot areas each Monday, with particular attention to underpasses where litter tends to accumulate more heavily. Overall parish coverage is progressing well. Residents are encouraged to contact us if they notice anything requiring urgent attention.

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- **Equipment Maintenance:** The sweeper was taken out of service for four hours to allow for a vacuum pipe replacement, ensuring the machine continues to operate at optimal performance.

Grounds Team – Shrubs & Hedges

Hedge cutting has now been completed in Taw Hill and Haydon End, with work currently progressing along Westfield Way. Alongside this scheduled work, the team continues to support reactive requests as they arise.

Crown Lift / Epicormic Removal

The team is working across the parish to remove low-level- tree limbs and epicormic growth. This programme of work will continue throughout the autumn and winter months.

Other

Welcomed three additional seasonal support operatives, who are settling into the team well. As anticipated, efficiency has improved since moving into the new GMF building, and we are delighted to be back at the heart of the parish and community.

It was noted that the tidy up team had done an outstanding job over the Christmas Period ensuring the rota was managed well to avoid any overflowing bins.

A resident request has come in to cut hedges around Shepperton Way, this type of hedge is very difficult to cut due to the density of the plant. It may look untidy after cutting back but it will recover after 12 – 18 months. This hedge is a Catoni Astor.

A public consultation to be considered to ensure this is what residents want for the area and potentially a trial stretch of 6ft of hedge row to check cutting conditions and appearance ahead of cutting the whole hedge. The Parks & Open Spaces Team will all be briefed about this hedgerow, so it isn't mistakenly cut as a general action within the POS Reporting system.

Action: POS Operations & Facility Manager to review other specialist tools that could be available to hire and Deputy Clerk & Services Manager to create a public consultation document.

POS 099B

Members noted the statistics for the reporting system for October – December. A comparison of POS reporting requests received over the two periods reveals notable shifts in the volume and distribution of issues raised by residents. Overall, the total number of requests decreased from 104 in the August-October period to 101 in the October-December period, representing a marginal reduction of 2.9%.

POS 100

FLY TIPPING IN WOODLAND AREA

Members received an update on a locally fly tipping issue in the woodland copse between Cloverland and the roads of Bryony Way. The resident that emailed into HWPC office had been shocked by the fly tipping issues and this has been reported to SBC thus far no response has been received. It is suspected that it is coming from nearby properties. There are some boundary issues which need to be established to obtain who is responsible for the clearance of this.

POS 101

WHITE EAGLE OUTDOOR GYM OPENING EVENT

A verbal update on the plans for the opening event for this outdoor gym was received. This is taking place on 11th January 2025 between 10am – 11am with representation

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from Longevity Games to demonstrate use of the equipment and Harlequin, Parish Councillors and the Live Well Team for community engagement.

POS 102 PARKS & PROJECTS TEAM UPDATE

POS 102A Members received and noted the update from Parks & Projects. Included in the report were recommendations for Queen Elizabeth Drive Play Area and Brookfield Play Area to have refurbishments. This will be taken to a Working Party for agreements.

POS 102B Members received a report updating on Francomes Play Area. After investigation the Project Manager has suggested that this play area is not the responsibility of the North Swindon Development Company, as it falls outside of the Haydon III development. This is to be confirmed. The play area remains closed with clear signage for the nearby residents to see.

POS 102C A verbal update of the Play Area Accessible Play Area Conference on the 5th November 2025 was received, and Committee noted the highlights.

POS 103 WILDFLOWERS, TREES, BULBS & CLIMATE CONTROL WORKING PARTY
Catherine Waite area has been reseeded. This will be monitored to enable direct comparisons in other areas.

POS 104 WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST – BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN
Councillor V Manro attended, some simple changes which can be done, bird boxes, bat boxes and wildflower areas, solar panels and water capture. HWPC is already doing these suggested ideas and working well in this area already. Awaiting back from SBC regarding the tree planting and if HWPC are in receipt of a grant to purchase the trees.

POS 105 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs)
Members considered a list from Swindon Borough Council. After an incident with a dog jumping up at a resident in Seven Fields pathway. A request for a FOI from SBC to ask if there is a law if dogs should be kept on leads. The answer returned was that SBC does NOT have a PSPO regarding dogs on leads. There is a highway code that recommends dogs should be on leads but does not appear to be enforceable. Councillor Worman would like to propose a designated area for dogs to be without leads and suggested a pathway Seven Fields. Committee agreed to take to Full Council.

Proposed: Councillor R Worman

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED: Members agreed the proposal of a designated area to allow dogs off leads, to be located in Seven Fields. Agreed to take to Full Council.

POS 106 REFURBISHMENT OF FOOTBRIDGE OFF ELSHAM WAY, HAYDON WICK
It was noted that SBC will be conducting maintenance works at the footbridge off Elsham Way from 5 January – 12 January 2026.

POS 107 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE UPDATE OF THE SWINDON LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
Members noted that the consultation remains live until Friday 20 February 2026. Councillor R Worman suggested that the concentration should be on pathways in Haydon Wick only. Encouragement was given to request all Councillors to look at this consultation and fill out the questionnaire, advising the Deputy Clerk of key highlights to collate and report back to Full Council for a collective response. Deadline is 20th February 2026.

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- POS 108 SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL – EMERGENCY BIKE KITS INITIATIVE**
These would need to be housed in buildings around the parish and there is a proposal to have one in the GLL and at the North Swindon Orbital, however permission at the Orbital is yet to be agreed. Other areas to but suggested. It was noted that these kits do require to be looked after and maintained.
- POS 109 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
All actions had been cleared and complete.
- POS 110 BUDGET MONITORING: INCOME & EXPENDITURE**
Members noted the report. Tree work overspend will be met from ear marked reserves. The bus shelter has been coded to noticeboard, seats and bins, but may need further allocation dependant on the projections for January – March to enable the purchase of bin sleeves.
- POS 111 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**
To be put to the Chief Officer before the 3rd of March 2026.
- POS 112 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**
There were none.
- POS 113 TADPOLE**
There are no further updates, other than the previous update received at Full Council in December 2025 following the Working Party meeting held in December 2025.
- POS 114 CLARY ROAD FIELD**
Members noted the report and raised some queries to report back to the proposer acknowledged this was an impressive proposal. More information is required over the welfare unit, allocated parking spaces and floodlights within the proposal. More discussions will take place but the Committee is happy to enter further negotiations and is in general support of the project.
Proposed: Councillor V Manro **Seconded: Councillor J Ali**
Vote: Unanimous
RESOLVED: Members agreed to take the proposal to Full Council January 2026 to enter in to further discussions about the proposals for Clary Road Field.
- POS 115 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY**
Several snagging matters still outstanding. Chief Officer continues to pursue. The team is very happy and are in a good position, with efficiencies noted to the operational day to day running of the team. New signage going up in due course and the address has now been added to the Royal Mail.

Meeting Closed at: 9.05pm

Signed by Chairman: _____

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