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Minutes of the **Parks & Open Spaces Committee** meeting of Haydon Wick Parish Council held on **Tuesday 4th November 2025** at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

POS 070 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor R Ross, P Park and O Munagala (Personal Commitments), Councillor J Ali gave apologies after the meeting had commenced (Work Commitments).

POS 071 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none.

POS 072 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present, who raised issues about parking in White Eagle Road. There is a conflicting boundary so there are constant issues with parking and vehicles being blocked in. The members of public requested that the fence be moved, and additional parking be made available. This will be discussed on the Agenda Item 7.

POS 073 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

POS 074 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members approved the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

Proposed: Councillor S Heyes Seconded: Councillor L Jackson

Vote: Agreed with one (1) Abstention

RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 and they were signed by the Chairman.

POS 075 SEVEN FIELDS

Final cut and hedge trimming on 27th September by Swindon Borough Council (SBC). Communication methods need to be improved with Seven Fields Conservation Group.

POS 076 WHITE EAGLE ROAD – CAR PARKING SUGGESTION

Members noted the report and the request from the residents to ask about moving some fencing and changing the piece of land identified in the report. It was requested to add rubber matting to allow for additional off-road parking. Responsibility was established and HWPC do maintain this on behalf of SBC. HWPC will therefore forward the request to move the fencing on behalf of the residents. *Action Deputy Clerk to advise and update the residents on this matter.*

7.48pm members of the public left the meeting.

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POS 077

CHIEF OFFICER/DEPUTY CLERK & SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

SBC has put up additional poppies in the Parish, which has enhanced the area and complimented the poppies that HWPC has installed in the boundary entrances.

POS 078

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor R Hailstone – Attended the opening of the new outdoor gym. Went to the drop-in session at Lydiard Park regarding Mouldon Hill suggesting a café to be established there with talks of a possible refreshment stand.

Councillor S Heyes – Attended the opening of the new White Eagle outdoor gym.

Councillor L Jackson – New footbridge at Chatsworth, attended the White Eagle gym opening. Attended GMF photoshoot.

Councillor J Jackson – New footbridge at Chatsworth Road is complete and looks good. Might benefit from Environmental Health visiting to look at the height of the stream running under it.

Councillor V Manro – Attended the opening of the new White Eagle outdoor gym its looking great and is good asset.

Councillor L Stevenson – Has had good feedback regarding the White Eagle outdoor gym. Walked the North Swindon Fox Trail which has been organised by SBC, is a 2-mile circular walk around the parish and children are able to obtain badges from GLL Haydon Centre after completing. The postbox topper was donated and installed by Swindon Big Knit, attended to support with Councillors John and Manro. The post box is outside the Parish Council Offices.

Councillor R Worman – On a walk to see the new White Eagle Outdoor Gym, had spoken to residents who were unaware of the new outdoor gym so felt a signpost to the new gym would be useful to make more people aware of it.

POS 079

PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

POS 079A

Members received and noted an update from all areas of the Parks & Opens Spaces Team. It was noted that as staff attendance has levelled out so will be removed from the report. The 2025 Summer Season has seen hugely reduced complaints; this is due to works being allocated with a rigid program allowing team members clarity on daily and weekly work schedules. Councillor R Worman mentioned the number of leaves outside Whitworth Road Cemetery.

Action: POS Operations & Facility Manager to investigate this and report back accordingly.

POS 079B

Members noted the statistics for the reporting system for September and October and praise was shared for the work put into producing this report. Biggest area being reported is the maintenance of hedges and shrubs. There is very good communication with the Office and the Parks and Open Spaces Team working daily on reactive work requests. The most frequently reported platform is currently still staff emails, as residents are used to reporting in to tidyup@haydonwick.gov.uk and telephone calls still come in from residents. Marketing of the Post Reporting platform to be pushed further to widen awareness. It was discussed to take out the category of 'other' because each item should have a category. *Action: Chairman to remove these.*

POS 079C

Members noted the post-season event audits for Grass & Hedge Cutting. Councillor J Jackson advised that the wildflower meadow opposite Catherine Waite School has been cut back please can this remain to be the case as it is very unsightly and does not sell itself to be a wildflower meadow. However, it was discussed that these are in fact 'biodiversity corridors' which need to be kept healthy for wildlife and such like. Members agreed to discuss further at a Wildflower, Bulbs & Tree Planting Working Party.

POS 079D

Members noted the upcoming plans for autumn/winter works and the progress of the Tree Survey 2025-2030. Assessments will continue throughout the winter to continue to establish any areas requiring works to add to the teams schedule.

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POS 080 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Members discussed the key highlights from the Grounds Maintenance Working Party which took place on the 17th October. The mower leases are expiring at the end of 2025, it was suggested to replace or only hire them during the season which would ease storage during the winter. Main recommendation is to sell the mower which has an approx. value of £10k, options will be put forward at the next Working Party meeting, and a decision will need to be made, for an order to be placed by January 2026 in time for the new season.

POS 081 PARKS & PROJECTS TEAM UPDATE

POS 081A

Members received and noted a report from the Parks and Projects Team with the recommendation for additional tooling and future to improve the layout in the GMF building with tools on walls and the workshop area set up for future repairs of benches, bins or play area equipment. After discussion, Members agreed to the purchase of a new kit.

Proposed: Councillor V Manro

Seconded: Councillor R Worman

Vote: Agreed Unanimously

Resolved: Members approved the purchase a DeWalt kit at a cost of £1,454.55 incl VAT to be met from 4305/302.

POS 081B

Members received and noted the report. A meeting took place on site to look at the dog exercise park as public comments have suggested that its rather small, it was established the fencing could be modified without more cost and would enlarge the area. Its currently marked out to fit within budget. Therefore, it was agreed to proceed to revise the costs will, but it is hoped it will be a similar amount of fencing by using the natural boundary edges and with the secured sponsorship, the project was less than the budgeted amount meaning there was contingency available.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor V Manro

Vote: Agreed Unanimously

Resolved: To modify the fencing accordingly and have the area marked out to enlarge the area to fit within budget.

POS 082

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

SBC were successful with gaining a Public Space Protection Order to curb Car Meets throughout all of the Borough and as such parish councils were asked to submit their areas of concern that mostly are near to HWPC Boundary Signs. Councillors were asked at the last Full Council meeting in October 2025 to submit locations that are in obvious and clear positions. This is a three-year Public Protection Order. After discussion it was agreed to submit the list of areas to SBC, confirming that there was no enthusiasm to have these signs but an interest in what other parish councils wanted to do.

POS 083

ANNUAL PLOT HOLDERS MEETING

Members received and noted the report of the annual plot holders meeting.

POS 084

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Parks and Open Spaces Team has almost moved in and is very happy with the facility. A toolbox talk is taking place there on Friday for Councillors to attend and see how the facility works operationally. The Chairman still awaits an answer from EDF on the ongoing meter issues. Snagging list is almost complete with a final invoice imminent. The two windows that need works have a lead time of six (6) weeks for completion.

POS 085

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were none.

POS 086 BUDGET ASPIRATIONS

Ideas are being put together and after Working Parties aspirations will be put together for consideration in 26/27. It was recommended to ask Park & Projects Team to recommend an aspiration to replace any damaged Play Areas and parks that need replacing. Councillors suggested improved floral displays and to reintroduce budget for bulb planting. An aspiration for an inclusive children's play and improved floral displays around the Parish. The Chief Officer shared other aspirations, machinery, pressure washer, clocking in system, funds for replacement tools, tree management plans as well as GMF running costs and maintenance. Working Parties are required to discuss this further to bring to the next Committee meeting.

POS 087 BUDGET MONITORING: INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Members received and noted the report.

POS 088 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Next meeting will be in January, and the agenda will be sent out Christmas Eve so please send in your items for the next agenda prior to that.

POS 089 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: *Contractual*.

POS 090 TADPOLE

Members received an update following the Tadpole Working Party meeting which was held on 3rd November 2025. A draft lease has now been produced, and another meeting will take place within the next working week to discuss costs and possibly peppercorn rent. This will be organised, and Committee will be updated accordingly. There are some questions remaining around planning which need resolving so further investigation will be required around planning costs.

Meeting Closed at: 21.25pm Signed by Chairman: _____

Initials _____