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Minutes of the Haydon Wick Parish Council **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 26th May 2026** at 7.30pm held at Parish Council Offices, Thames Avenue, Swindon, SN25 1QQ.

ATTENDANCE MEMBERS: Councillors V Manro (Chairman), S Heyes (Vice), N Bradly, C Chikezie-Morris, I Edwards, R Hailstone, R Heath, A Hughes, J Ireland, J Jackson, L Jackson, A Jimmy, 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
Julie McMorrow, HR & Meetings Administrator

Also in attendance: Mrs Jodie Smart, Smart Public Finance

FC 001 APOLOGIES
There were none.

FC 002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were none.

FC 003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
There were two Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillors and a resident who observed the meeting and gave no representation.

FC 004 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
There were none.

FC 005 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2026. Slight A John was there late
Proposed: Councillor A Seconded: Councillor L Jackson Roupelis
Vote: Agreed with seven (7) Abstentions.
RESOLVED: Members confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 28th April 2026. The Chairman signed the minutes.

FC 006 SWINDON BOROUGH WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Councillor A Hedges (Haydon Wick) – Keen to be here, to observe and to learn what the Parish does.
Councillor J Head (Haydon Wick) – No current updates just here to observe.
Members asked both Ward Councillors what they wish to achieve in their four-year term. Responses were to communicate with residents and improve the state of the Town Centre. Their Party's priorities and policies would be published soon. They were also asked what should be celebrated in Haydon Wick, and their response was it's a great green place to live.
Councillor L Stevenson (Priory Vale) – Proud to have been appointed the Borough's Armed Forces Champion. Also has positions on the Children and Green Committees. Will ensure she remains visible and active in the community.
Councillor A Hughes (Priory Vale) – Pleased to have been given the responsibility for the Mental Health Champion for Swindon. She is learning a lot and taking on

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some SBC cases. Residents are reporting many parking issues, so will be working on that.

Councillor V Manro (Priory Vale) – Pleased to have been given the role of Chair of Adult Health. It is a big task but one which he will embrace. Hope is to achieve continued care in the community, enhancing on what work has been done in the past four (4) years and continue to actively improve services for the residents of Swindon. Cases coming in include lots of inconsiderate parking and pothole issues.

FC 007

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor J Ireland – Attended Prospect Hospice for the donation of the Mobii table. Helped at the Dementia UK Tea fundraiser. Also went along to the family picnic on Monday.

Councillor L Jackson – Attended Prospect Hospice for the donation of the Mobii table and Dementia UK Tea fundraiser.

Councillor L Stevenson – Continues to help promote the Underground Youth Centre. Handed over at Seven Fields with the three new Liaison Officers. Attended an externally-organised Scouts and Beavers event.

Councillor R Heath – Returned some roaming supermarket trollies to the correct shops at Orbital Park District Centre.

Councillor S Nukana - Attended the Dementia UK Tea Fundraiser raising event.

Councillor N Bradley – Attended the Dementia UK Tea Fundraiser and felt it was excellent and very well organised, further commenting that he could see why other parishes are watching the excellent work of Haydon Wick. Walked Seven Fields with Councillor Stevenson. Raised a case about a homeless gentleman in the area. It was noted the SBC has instigated a heat-health alert and all homeless cases should be reported.

Councillor V Manro – Confirmed the disappointing news that five litter bins in the parish were set on fire over the weekend. Replacements were completed at record speed by the team. Comms going out on socials highlighting the cost of replacement and to encourage sharing any CCTV footage with the police. The matter will be reported with an official case number.

Councillor S Heyes – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Jimmy – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Hughes – Nothing to report.

Councillor R Hailstone – Nothing to report.

Councillor C Skinner – Nothing to report.

Councillor J Jackson – Nothing to report.

Councillor A John – Nothing to report.

Councillor B Patrick-Okoh – Nothing to report.

Councillor C Chikezie-Morris – Nothing to report.

Councillor I Edwards – Nothing to report.

Councillor A Roupelis – Nothing to report.

FC 008

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

FC 009

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Noted there were outstanding matters from previous meetings, which were ongoing.

FC 010

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FC 010A

Members approved the income and expenditure report for Month 1, April 2026.

Initials _____

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- Proposed: Councillor N Bradley Seconded: Councillor A John**
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED: Members approved the income and expenditure for April 2026.
- FC 010B** Members received and noted the Bank Statements for April 2026.
Proposed: Councillor R Heath Seconded: Councillor C Skinner
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
Members approved and noted the Bank Statements for April 2026.
- FC 010C** Members received and approved expenditure under Purchase Daybook References 5007 – 5188 and Cashbook reference 480. The total payment is £149,747.99 for April and May 2026.
Proposed: Councillor A Jimmy Seconded: Councillor C Skinner
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED: To approve expenditure under Purchase Daybook References 5007 – 5188 and Cashbook reference 480. The total payment is £149,747.99 for April and May 2026.
- FC 010D** Members resolved to retrospectively approve the payments made using the credit card for payment made in April 2026. The total payment was £1,625.59.
Proposed: Councillor C Morris Seconded: Councillor B Patrick-Okoh
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED: To retrospectively approve the payments made using the credit card for payment made in May 2026. The total payment was £1,625.59
- FC 010E** Members received and noted the contract with Southern Communications Group for broadband at the Grounds Maintenance Facility. They also noted a direct debit mandate of £89.99 for 36 months from May 2026 to May 2029. Councillors requested further information and received an explanation as to why this particular package had been selected.
- FC 011 Public Works Loan Repayment**
Members received and noted the Public Works Loan half yearly repayment of £25,887.91 is due on the 11th June 2026, with the interest being charged at 5.66%.
- Chairman welcomed the Council's Consultant Accountant, Jodie Smart from Smart Public Finances to the meeting. The Accountant delivered a presentation covering the end of year Accounting Statements and Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 2025/26.*
- FC 012 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**
Members went through the report. The Accountant explained the figures for the Year End Statement, the income and year-on-year expenses, as well as the end of year General and Ear Marked Reserves. Explanations about the expenditure were. It was noted there are no capital commitments or contingent liabilities.
Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson Seconded: Councillor A Roupelis
Vote: Agreed Unanimously.
RESOLVED: To approve the Accounting Statements for 2025/26.
- FC 013 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2025/26:**
FC 013A ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT.
The Accountant provided a comprehensive overview of the annual return process. Explanations were given about the annual statement, the annual governance statement, the Internal Auditor's role in the completion process. After further clarification from the Chief Officer, Members were able to approve that the Annual Governance Statement assertions in line with the Internal Auditor

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recommendations, noting that the Council is unable to tick 'yes' in the Assertion 10. The reason given because the full data audit, whilst underway, was not completed during the financial year. This is due in part to the late notification/guidance on this new assertion. The Annual Return was signed during the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor N Bradley

Seconded: Councillor R Hailstone

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To agree to approve the Assertions in the Annual Governance Statement for the AGAR 2025/26 – except for Assertion 10 “we have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review”. The reason given because the full data audit, whilst underway, was not completed during the financial year. This is due to the late notification/guidance on this new assertion.

FC 013B

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2025/26: ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Members reviewed the Annual Statement and duly approved the figures noting the precept income, borrowings, staff costs (excluding Councillor Allowances) and all other expenditure. Members agreed and duly approved the Annual Statement. The Annual Statement was signed during the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor L Jackson

Seconded: Councillor A John

Vote: Agreed Unanimously.

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Statement in the AGAR 2025/26.

FC 014

2025/2026 BUDGET ANALYSIS AND RESERVES LEVELS

FC 014A

Budget Analysis: members noted the 2025/26 budget analysis report.

FC 014B

Reserves: members noted that the 2025/26 budget was originally set with an agreed £23,553 use of Reserves. The financial year ending 31st March 2026 has now been finalised with an underspend on budgeted amounts of £66,033 combined with the unused reserves, has resulted in a total underspend of £89,586.

FC 015

INTERNAL AUDIT 2025/26

The Internal Auditor's final report (visits 3 and 4 of 4) was received and discussed. Members noted that some of the Auditor's findings and risk ratings could be open to debate but acknowledged that it is the Auditor's role to identify and highlight issues. The Chief Officer has discussed the findings with the Accountant and Finance Assistant, and a more detailed action plan will be considered by the Internal Audit Working Party. It was also noted that the Accountant is introducing month-end audits against the payment schedule to support ongoing improvements. It was acknowledged the report will be used as a benchmark to help address the findings identified.

20.57 – Jodie Smart, Smart Public Finance left the meeting.

FC 016

WATER SAFETY AT MOULDON HILL

The response from the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Director of Operations was noted. The works completed by SBC were as follows:

- 23 January – Temporary secondary barriers were installed, and the area was made safe.
- 16 February – A repeat visit was carried out to ensure the temporary fence remained in place and to check the water level.

Initials _____

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- 19 March – A further visit confirmed that the water level was suitable for the grate to be replaced.
- End of March – A new grate was fitted, and a monthly inspection and clearance check was added to the Park Warden's work schedule.
- Monthly visit reports are shared with the Flooding Team for review and challenge.
- Maintenance of the outlet rests with SBC's Park Warden team.

Members noted that this work followed the tragic loss of animals and pet dogs, which had been deeply felt across the community. Now that the works are complete, the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

FC 017

NESTING SEASON – HEDGE CUTTING

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of this concern following enquiries from residents. Members noted that the issue related to hedge cutting during bird nesting season and were advised that the Parks & Open Spaces Team monitors this carefully and does not cut hedges during the nesting period. The Council remains confident in its approach to protecting wildlife, the Team carries out risk assessments, with more substantial cutting undertaken only in the winter months. It was also noted that some residents had approached Parks and Open Spaces staff and subjected them to verbal abuse over this matter, which Members agreed was unacceptable. Members suggested that Council proactively communicates when and where grounds maintenance activities are paused or adjusted due to nesting birds, to improve transparency and encourage public awareness and reporting. The Chairman will write to the Parks & Open Spaces Manager to offer the Council's full support for the team and its approach to this issue.

Actions: Deputy Clerk to instigate proactive comms on the website/social media channels, as to when and where grounds maintenance activities are paused or adjusted due to nesting birds. Chairman to draft an email to go to the POS Team.

FC 018

COUNCIL'S CHARITY 2026-2027

At the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026, the following charities were suggested and a report prepared by the Deputy Clerk for this evening's meeting:

- Kelly Foundation
- Prospect
- Wiltshire Tree House
- Dementia UK
- Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)

The Deputy Clerk presented her report which detailed the suggested charities and the advantages and disadvantages of each. While all were considered worthy causes, Members favoured supporting a single charity and agreed not to set fundraising targets. One Councillor explained that he had been aware of Wiltshire Tree House since the age of 13 and asked Members to consider supporting the charity. Members noted that Wiltshire Tree House offers advice, support and creative programmes for bereaved children and young people up to the age of 18, and for young adults with SEN up to the age of 25. Whilst CALM is a national charity focused on preventing suicide and supporting mental health and wellbeing. Its work remains highly relevant across workplaces and communities.

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Following discussion, Members agreed that they did not wish to dilute their fundraising efforts by supporting more than one charity and considered that concentrating on a single charity would maximise the impact of their fundraising activities during the year. Councillors acknowledged that they were in a difficult position in having to choose between two worthwhile charities.

For the purposes of the minutes and voting protocol, Members requested that it be recorded that their decision should not be interpreted as being against either charity. Councillors expressed their support for both organisations; however, as they stated only one charity should be selected for the year, Members based their vote on what charity they considered to be the most aligned with the Parish.

Two proposals were subsequently received for Wiltshire Tree House and CALM and the vote is below. Members agreed that CALM would be the Council's chosen charity for 2026/27.

Wiltshire Tree House

Proposer: Councillor C Skinner

Seconded: Councillor J Ireland

8 For

9 Against

1 Abstention

Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)

Proposer: Councillor L Stevenson

Seconded: Councillor S Nukana

9 For

8 Against

1 Abstention

After the voting took place, Members stated that careful messaging and safeguarding is needed in the communication of the chosen charity, given the sensitive nature of the subject.

Proposed: Councillor L Stevenson

Seconded: Councillor S Nukana

Vote: Agreed with 9 For and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED: To appoint CALM is the Council's chosen charity for 2026/27.

The meeting closed at: 9.35 pm

Chairman _____

Initials _____