

Minutes of Haydon Wick Parish Council Annual Assembly held 26 March 2013

In attendance: Councillor Hailstone – Chairman
Councillor Fuller – Vice Chairman
Councillors Martin, Keepin, L Brown, Hall, McVay, Bedwell, Whelan,
Russell, Exell, Gerrard and Hunt

Clerk: Mrs M Meyrick
Assistant Clerk: Mrs C Roberts
Public: 1 Parishioner

1.0 Apologies for absence: Councillor Mills

2.0 Councillor Hailstone welcomed all those present to the meeting.

3.0 Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 27 March 2012 were circulated to all those present.
Amendment: 5.2 Should read Ride signage still on A419
Subject to this amendment, Cllr L Brown proposed and seconded by Cllr L Brown that the minutes were approved as a correct record . Vote for unanimous from those who were present at that meeting.

4.0 The Parish Council's Performance Plan 2012/2013

The Chairman presented the Performance Plan, copies of which were provided for all those present. There were no questions or additions relating to the document.
Some of the main points of the Performance Plan are highlighted below.

Overview of the Parish:

- The Local Government Boundary Commission carried out a review of elector arrangements for Swindon Borough Council in September 2011. The final recommendations for the Parish of Haydon Wick is four Wards, Haydon Wick, Haydon End, Redhouse and Ray Wards and the Parish Council is allowed a total of 18 Councillors. (Haydon Wick Ward – 8 Councillors, Haydon End Ward – 8 Councillors Ray Ward – 1 Councillor and Redhouse 1 Councillor). This will come into effect as from the next Local Elections.

Previous Targets and Achievements:

- **Queen's Jubilee Project:** The Parish Council donated a specimen tree and commemorative plaque to each of the Primary Schools in the Parish.
- **Highways, Footpaths & Rights of Way:** The Parish Council has been in consultation with the Borough Council with regard to footpaths provision and highways matters in the Parish, including changes to the double yellow lines parking restrictions in some areas and Haydon wick School Safety Zone.
- **Flood Alleviation Works – Haydon Wick**
- Environment Agency has been undertaking works necessary in the Parish. The work is due to be completed Summer 2013.
- **Christmas Parcel Scheme:** Members of the Parish Council and the community distributed 95 parcels to elderly residents of the Parish in December 2012. The Council matched the cost of the parcels with a donation to Swindon Foodbank.

➤ **Sponsorship and Grants**

The Parish Council made donations to organisations within the Parish including Young at Heart and Over 60's Club and continues to sponsor Haydon Wick Newsletter and Community Transport Scheme.

➤ **Haydon Wick Youth Council**

Meets regularly and a number of guest speakers have attended meetings. The Youth Council during the past year has visited the Houses of Parliament, Swindon & Cricklade Railway and the Wyvern Theatre.

➤ **Planning Applications**

Comments have been made during the past year on 68 planning applications. The Parish Council has made representation with regard to the proposed developments at Ridgeway Farm and Tadpole Farm.

Council Policy Documents

➤ The parish council has adopted or reviewed a number of Policy Documents and an Employee Code of Conduct.

➤ **Communications**

A Press Release has been issued on the Purton Road/Iffley Road Link. A public survey on Governance Review has been carried out with residents of areas outside the Parish along the Southern boundary and small areas along the boundary with Blunsdon St Andrew Parish.

Future projects

- Adoption of play areas and open spaces
- Improvements to Clary Road Field
- Signage of footpath and cycleway key routes through the Parish
- Provision of outdoor gym equipment
- Continuation of upgrades to the Council web site
- Continuation of support of Youth Provision in the area

5.0 **Local Governance (Parish Boundary) Review Update**

Cllr Hailstone reported the following update:

Swindon Borough Council is due to produce a report on 11 April 2013 recommending that the extensions to the Haydon Wick Parish Boundaries are approved. Cllr Hailstone expressed his thanks to those Parish Councillors who put a lot of effort into lobbying and canvassing residents in the areas of Priory Vale and Haydon Wick Wards. Undoubtedly this contributed in the Parish's favour.

The changes to the Parish Boundary will take effect in May 2014. With the exception of Seven Fields, the Parish and Ward boundaries will be wholly contiguous.

Cllr Hailstone reported that this was the first time the Parish Boundary Review had being carried out by the principal authorities, previously it was the responsibility of the Boundary Commission.

Under the Parish Boundary extension, the Whitworth Road Cemetery will be part of Haydon Wick Parish. It was suggested that the piece of land next to the cemetery (includes 2 fields in Seven Fields) be reviewed in the future.

6.0 **Report on the Government's changes to Council Tax and how this will affect residents of the Parish**

Cllr Hailstone reported that Swindon Borough Council had not followed recommendations of Central Government to pass on a portion of the transitional grant to Parish Councils. A letter received from Brandon Lewis MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to

Rt Hon Eric Pickles for Communities and Local Government MP Secretary of State indicated that expectations from Central Government was that billing authorities would consult parishes about passing the proportion of grant on. SBC's share was £167,000. However, they did not consult with parishes and the parish council had to absorb 4.4% (down on band D equivalent). Some parishes were 9 – 10% down on what they should have received.

Cllr Martin pointed out that the current Government legislation had not been thought through and that there was no mechanism for passing on the transitional grant to parishes. There is not a legal compulsion to pass on.

Discussion/Questions Parish affairs in general

7.0 There were no questions or discussion on this item.

Clerks Retirement

Cllr Hailstone reported that this was Sue Martin's last meeting as Parish Clerk as she is due to retire on the 31 March 2013 after 28 years as Parish Clerk to Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Cllr Hailstone paid tribute to the long service Sue has completed at the Parish Council and said that she had seen many changes over the years.

Sue started off working from home with only an electric typewriter, before moving to the Council premises.

Cllr Hailstone proposed a vote of thanks to Sue for her long and dedicated service to Haydon Wick Parish Council and the community.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.