

Minutes of Haydon Wick Parish Council Annual Assembly held 29th April 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor R Hailstone (Chair), Councillor J Fuller (Vice-Chair) Councillors L Brown, S Exell, J Keepin, P Exell J Martin, R McVay, J Mills, S McDermott, G McKeown, E Gerrard, J Stooke and M Whelan.

WARD COUNCILLOR: Councillor D Renard

CLERK: Terry Powell

Public: There were two (2) Parishioners present

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor D Wakefield

- 2.** Councillor Hailstone welcomed all those present to the meeting and introduced himself as Chairman, Councillor John Fuller as Vice Chairman and Terry Powell as the new Clerk. A summary of the make-up of the Council was given explaining that the Council comprises of 18 Councillors with 17 of these positions filled and with one vacancy which was being currently advertised for co-option. Of the 17 filled positions 11 had been as a result of an election with the remaining 6 being co-opted positions.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held 26th March 2013 were circulated to all those present. An issue was raised in regard to Item 3 in the minutes in regard to the names recorded of the proposer and seconder approving the minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 27th March 2012. The Clerk to check the contemporaneous notes to insert the correct name.

Proposed: Councillor Keepin

Seconded: Councillor Fuller

Vote: Agreed

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as a correct record with one amendment on Item 3 Minutes of The Annual Assembly Meeting held on 27th March 2013 to change the name of seconder from Councillor Brown to Councillor Whelan.

4. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE PLAN 2013/2014

The Chairman presented the updates to the Performance Plan, copies of which were provided for all those present. A number of the achievements were highlighted such as the re-launch of the newsletter & website, continued lobbying for the link road between Purton and Barnfield which is now supported by SBC but will need funding from the Government to proceed, progress on the adoption by HWPC of SBC play areas, a scheme to place signage on the excellent footpath network in the parish the first phrase being the path from Seven Fields to Mouldon Hill and retention of a footbridge over River Ray by replacing the concrete bridge with a wooden footbridge, which will

require co-operation from the landowner, the ownership being transferred from SBC with associated funding for the work to HWPC.

Information was given in regard to the Meet the People Events which had commenced on 12th April 2014 in the library and had been a success with parishioners giving feedback on the work undertaken by the Council and suggesting a number of ideas for the future. There are other events arranged throughout the year.

A question was raised over the progress of the litter project. The meeting was informed that the recent article in the Newsletter had resulted in 13 volunteers coming forward and it was intended to contact all who responded to arrange meeting to discuss availability. It was intended to have the project in place by the summer.

5. PROPOSED PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR 2014/2015

A list of proposed projects for the draft Performance Plan for 2014/2015 was provided to the meeting. This list will also provide be developed into a three year corporate strategy for 2015 to 2018

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

There was a brief discussion on possible future projects to be included in three year strategy. The Meet the People events will continue to seek comments from parishioners on this list.

A number of the projects will continue from the present year into the 2014/15 plan and onto the three year strategy. An example of this is the re-launch of the Youth Council which had unfortunately stalled due to participants moving onto secondary education. It is intended to revamp the scheme to make it more open, friendly, diverse and open to all abilities & genders. The new Youth Council will be in place by the end of the school summer term covering the age range of 11 to 18years old. The objectives will be to integrate the younger members with the older ones and for the young people to have more involvement in the community.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question was raised over the proposal by Swindon Borough Council to lease the Haydon Centre to a private operator and how this would impact on access and parking for the Bowling Club. In response the Chairman acknowledged that the car park serves many needs in addition to parking for the Bowls Club. There is a right of access across the car park which will need to be protected. The Council is currently undertaking research into the background of the creation of the Haydon Centre and how it was intended for it to be operated. The Bowls Club had agreed to open up their records to the Parish Council to assist in the research. The Centre was built as an enhanced sports facility following negotiations with Safeway (now Morrisons) which resulted in an exchange of land so that land originally earmarked for a football pitch was used to build the Centre.

Borough Councillor D Renard advised the meeting that bids were being received from possible partners to run all the leisure facilities in Swindon. These will be put to the

cabinet to held in June for a decision. The bids were still being evaluated by officers. Any lease will need to accommodate the access issues to all involved including the bowls club.

A follow-on question was raised in regard to the rumours that were circulating that any lease would only require a guarantee that the Centre would operate for three years and if closed the land would be developed for housing. Councillor Renard stated that SBC were seeking a partners wishing to encourage leisure interests, which would also promote the use of the Bowls Club, so SBC would not allow the Haydon Centre to close and for the area to be redeveloped. The Parish Council require reassurance that this restriction on the land would be incorporated in the lease with a legal requirement to maintain the leisure facility. The Parish Council would wish to view the lease before any agreement to ensure that the leisure facility and its uses were fully protected Councillor Renard saw no issue with this and stated that the subsidy on the Haydon centre would be relatively low so any new operator should not encounter any issues in making the facility financially viable.

Concerns were raised over the use of Thames Avenue as a 'rat run' despite the traffic calming measures in place. However, it was also recognized that some of the measures in place while slowing traffic have created additional hazards. The pinch points between Morrisons and the Haydon Centre car park have a tendency to prevent traffic from flowing freely resulting in congestion on Westfield Way and preventing residents in Furlong Close from entering or leaving their homes at certain times of the day. The situation is further complicated by the location of the bus stop by the entrance/exit to Morrisons with delays caused by passengers alighting/boarding. The design of the pinch points indicate to pedestrians that these are recognized crossing points which is further encouraged by the markings on the footway. There had been consultation in the past with Halcrow Fox in 2006/07 which resulted in a crossing being installed farther back on Thames Avenue. At the time of the consultation the issue of a crossing on the pinch point was not raised. Although this has now been notified to Borough Officers over the last two to three years little progress has been made due to the lack of available resources.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.