**HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk – Mr. Steve Wyatt, Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, Derbyshire, S32 1BB

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Minutes of the (online) meeting of Hathersage Parish Council, 7:30pm on Tuesday 2 June 2020

Councillors Present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Bill Hanley, Bridget Hanley, Tim Hill, Kirsty Kirkham, James Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers, Peter Rowland, James Shuttleworth, Stuart Turner

Also In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO), Maura Sorenson (Assistant Clerk) and various members of the public.

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| 253/19 |  | **Apologies for absence**: no apologies were received. |
| 254/19 |  | **To decide any variation in the order of business**: it was agreed to bring forward agenda item 11.2 (consideration of the proposal for the management of verges from Hathersage Rewilding Group) as the first substantial item while members of Hathersage Rewilding Group were present at the meeting. |
| 255/19 |  | **Declaration of Members Interests**: Cllr Bill Hanley noted a claim of approximately £6.00 on expenses in relation to photocopying |
| 256/19 |  | **Public Participation** |
|  | a) | A period of not more than ten minutes will be made available for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matter.  Three members of the Hathersage Rewilding Group (HRG) attended; they had put proposals (agenda item 11.2) to the council in relation to management of grass verges, and tree planting, around Hathersage.  Cllr Kirkham had liaised with HRG on the proposals. Cllrs had seen the HRG proposals and Cllr Kirkham’s recommendations. Cllr Rodgers noted the dandelions on the Bund Wall need cutting before they go to seed. **Cllr Bridget Hanley volunteered to undertake this task**. Cllr Rodgers noted that the majority of verges had recently been mown; it was noted an exception was the verge towards Abney Road. Cllr Kirkham expanded on the HRG proposals and her recommendations. The council agreed:   1. To **support** the pilot verge establishment in principle and ongling liaison with HRG. 2. To **approve** installation notices (HPC to approve wording) and subject to ensuring no underground services are affected by erecting signs. 3. To **publish** an article in the Parish magazine outlining their proposals and explaining the project. 4. **Not** to support tree planting within the HPC burial ground as it is not deemed suitable.   HRG members noted their long-term aim to take over management of all verges from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC).  Cllrs asked about potential areas identified by HRG for tree planting. It was noted that one area proposed may have already been identified by another group, also for tree planting; it was agreed that further investigation was needed. **Cllr Jane Marsden agreed to investigate and provide an update**.Cllrs **supported** the HRG proposals. It was agreed that Cllr Kirkham continue to liaise with HRG; if appropriate a council working group will be convened.  Signed: Dated: |
|  | b) | If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will be given the opportunity to raise any relevant matter - no-one attended. Cllr James Marsden noted that police representatives had not attended meetings for some time. Reference was made to recent incidents in the village and concerns about the police response. It was **agreed** to make contact with police liaison officers, invite them to attend future meetings and, where attendance is not possible, ask that they provide any relevant reports. |
| 257/19 |  | **Minutes of previous meetings and matters arising** |
|  | .1 | **Confirmation of Minutes of HPC meeting of 5 May 2020 and to note any matters arising**: a spelling error in minute 236/19 was highlighted – Assistant Clerk to amend. Otherwise the minutes were **approved** and will be signed by the Chair once face to face meetings resume. |
|  | .2 | **Confirmation of Minutes of Extraordinary HPC meeting of 27 May 2020 and to note any matters arising**: the minutes were reviewed and **approved** and will be signed by the chair once face to face meetings resume. |
| 258/19 |  | **Financial Matters**: RFO’s Reports. |
| 258/19 | .1 | The accounts for the period 1 April to 27 May 2020 had been circulated together with the explanatory notes from the treasurer. These were noted as **received**. |
| 258/19 | .2 | The accounts for payment, as previously circulated, totalling £37,097.96, inclusive of £2,567.95 VAT, were **approved** under the Scheme of Delegation. |
| 258/19 | .3 | **Consideration of the Internal Auditor’s Report for the year ended 31 March 2020**: the RFO presented the report. It was noted that this raised no matters of concern regarding the Council’s finances. The report was **accepted**. |
| 258/19 | .4 | **Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020**: the statement as previously presented at the Council’s May meeting, was considered. Councillors confirmed that all requirements listed on the Statement had been met. The Statement was **approved**. |
| 258/19 | .5 | **Approval of Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020**: the statement, previously presented at the Council’s May meeting, was considered. The Statement was **approved**. |
| 258/19 | .6 | **Approval of Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2021**: it was **agreed** to re-appoint Brian Wood as the Council’s Internal Auditor for 2020/21. |
| 258/19 | .7 | **Review of Direct Debits given to suppliers**: A list of the direct debits currently in force on the Council’s bank account had been circulated for review. These direct debit authorities were **approved**. Cllr Bill Hanley noted that, because of the pool closure, and lockdown, it was unlikely that any debit card payments had been taken for over six months and whether it might be possible for the council to get a refund on monthly payments made for the use of this facility. The RFO noted he would investigate but thought it unlikely. |
| 258/19 | .8 | **Investment of cash**: the RFO had circulated proposals. The Council considered the placement of their cash balances bearing in mind that the FSCS limit is £85,000 per bank and that the Council should maximise the interest received on its deposits. The treasurer’s report contained details of the current position and interest rates available. It was agreed:   1. To obtain confirmation from King George’s Field of their contribution of up to £50,000 towards the pool refurbishment but not to request payment at this time. 2. To retain £115,000 in Unity Trust Bank to fund the completion of the pool refurbishment, PWLB loan repayment and 6 months general account revenue expenditure. 3. To place an additional £20,000 into the Council’s 90 day notice account with Hampshire Trust Bank. 4. To open a 45 day notice account with Hampshire Trust Bank and deposit £40,000.   Signed: Dated: |
| 258/19 | .9 | **Scrutiny and approval of payments**: Councillors confirmed that payments should continue to be made under the Scheme of Delegation. Cllrs. Hill and James Marsden have scrutinised payments this month. All payments to be approved were **approved** and will need to be authorised by Cllrs. Hill and James Marsden within the next 24 hours. Cllrs. Bridget Hanley and R Olle are approved for payment approval for next month. |
| 258/19 | .10 | **Review and re-approval of the Scheme of Delegation**: as stated in the document the Scheme of Delegation should be reviewed and re-approved each month until restrictions are lifted. Unanimous approval was given. The document will be updated to reflect this. |
|  |  | **Break for KGF Business**. |
|  |  | **Committees and Working Groups** |
| 259/19 |  | **Swimming Pool Committee**: |
| 259/19 | .1 | **Update on plans, preparations and timescale for reopening**: Cllr Turner provided an update sharing (onscreen) photographs of progress and noting next stages including filling the pool and testing the heating system. He noted that a government announcement on 15 June should clarify next steps for reopening recreational facilities including swimming pools. The council will then need to consider details of reopening plans including balancing costs against revenue. Cllr James Marsden asked about coronavirus measures. Cllr Turner noted that chlorine is known to kill the virus. Specific measures will have to be put in place for pool users, to maintain social distancing; it may also be the case that showers and toilets are not in use. Cllrs discussed pool staffing – a consideration in terms of costs and revenue. It was noted that a change to the government’s furlough scheme is being introduced for July and August, allowing part time working and part time furlough; this could help with staffing costs. Cllr Jane Marsden confirmed a donation of £50.00 to the KGF fund for some spares stone from the old swimming pool bin store. |
| 260/19 |  | **Recreation Committee**:Cllrs received the minutes of the meeting of 19/05/20. |
| 260/19 | .1 | Update on plans, preparations and timescale for reopening of recreation facilities including the bowling green. Cllr Jane Marsden confirmed that the bowling green has reopened. The club has undertaken the appropriate risk assessments and undertaken to adhere to government guidance and guidance from the British Crown Green Bowling Association. Work is being undertaken to rebuild the playing field boundary wall. Cllr Rodgers noted that repairs are needed to the gate into the bowling green. It was confirmed that the council is responsible for these repairs; Cllr James Marsden agreed to inspect the gate along with the contractor undertaking the wall repairs. Cllr Jane Marsden suggested consideration needs to be given to access to the bowling club for disabled users both via the playing field, and from the footpath alongside the café. Cllr Hill had investigated the possibility of installing a solar powered gate from the playing field but found it would not be viable. Cllr Jane Marsden has asked the architect overseeing the pool refurbishment to investigate, and cost, installation of a ramp from the café footpath, to the bowling green.  Cllrs noted ongoing repairs to the MUGA fencing. Repairs are partially completed; further materials are on order. Cllr Rodgers noted that, initially, funding had been allocated for one day’s work. The contractor has confirmed a further three days will be needed at a cost of just under £2K (includes labour and materials). The RFO confirmed the money can be allocated from MUGA reserves. The council **agreed** the allocation to complete repairs to the fencing. Cllr Hill noted there had been some damage to the security gates and confirmed repairs have been completed.  The MUGA, playing field and playground remain closed. The government is to make an announcement on 15 June regarding the wider opening of recreation facilities after which the position will be reviewed. It was noted that tennis courts can reopen. The courts are currently out of use while repairs to the car park and area outside the pool are being undertaken.  Signed: Dated: |
| 261/9 |  | **Planning Committee:** it was noted that the committee had considered and commented, via email, on planning applications (with comments posted on PDNP planning portal) and that planning decisions have been circulated. |
| 262/19 |  | **Amenities Committee:** no formal meeting had been convened since the last HPC meeting; there were no minutes to receive. |
| 262/19 | .1 | **To note any updates on amenities**: Cllr Jane Marsden noted that there had been no recent communication from the joiner or stonemason on works to the covered seating. It was **agreed** that the Assistant Clerk contact them. Cllr Marsden also noted some damage to the seating. It was **agreed** that the Assistant Clerk get in touch with the contractor. Ongoing issues with the Heart of Hathersage (HoH) toilets were highlighted; it was noted a long-term solution is needed. Cllrs noted that the ‘NHS tree’ erected at the HoH has been taken down and moved to Moorland House. |
| 263/19 |  | **Transport Committee:** Cllrs had received draft minutes of the meeting of 26/05/2020. |
| 263/19 | .1 | **Heathers Edge and TRO - an update**: Cllr Olle reported on the response from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to the Council’s request for a TRO to deal with the issue of the (unwanted) yellow lines at Heathers Edge. As per the DCC suggestion, the council is willing to undertake a consultation with Heathers Edge residents but is seeking clarification from DCC on the terms of the consultation and is also asking for sight of the outcomes of the DCC consultation with Hathersage residents undertaken in 2018, to inform further consultation with residents of Heathers Edge. |
| 264/19 |  | **HR Committee**: Cllr Bill Hanley confirmed that weekly meetings had been taking place – joining the HR and swimming pool committees – to consider business related to the furloughing of swimming pool staff, and the village caretaker. He noted that formal approval will be sought from full council on unfurloughing swimming pool staff. |
| 265/19 |  | **Website**: Cllr Bill Hanley provided an oral report from a recent meeting of the Website Working Group. |
| 266/19 |  | **Burial Ground Committee:** no meeting had been held since the last HPC meeting. |
| 267/19 |  | **Recognition and thanks to the Carers in Hathersage group for their contributions to the community during lockdown**: Cllr Jane Marsden expanded on the contributions of this group of volunteers, in particular their support for those residents shielding during lockdown. She proposed the council formally thanks and acknowledges their contributions with a printed card and buttonhole for each group member. The council **approved** this proposal. Cllr Shuttlesworth noted that the Derbyshire Lieutenancy Office intend to acknowledge and thank the group organisers. It was noted that Hathersage residents had appreciated the VE day celebrations with the delivery of individual afternoon tea by the Carers group. |
| 268/19 |  | **Clerk’s Report/Correspondence**: the Assistant Clerk referred to an email from DDDC Cllr Peter O’Brien on government funding to support the safe reopening of high streets. He had noted his disappointment that DDDC had not considered Hathersage as a beneficiary and had asked DDDC to reconsider.  Signed: Dated: |
| 269/19 |  | **Village Matters**: to note any updates. Cllr Bill Hanley noted the upsurge in barbecues across the Peak District following the easing of lockdown measures and the recent good weather. He also referred to the significant increase in motorbikes coming through the village, at speed. Reference was made to Peak District National Park (PDNP) requests to retailers across the Peak District to voluntarily remove disposable barbecues from sale; Cllrs voiced support. Cllrs noted the significant danger of moorland fires and what measures the council could take. Some cllrs noted a lack of initiative or timely response from PDNP, and from the police. Reference was made to putting up signage and that this could perhaps be undertaken jointly with other Hope Valley parishes. Reference was made to signage used by PDNP, the National Trust, and Severn Trent Water. Cllrs noted any signage would need to be clear and direct. Reference was made to examples at Fairholmes, and on the PDNP website. Cllr Turner suggested liaison with PDNP. It was **agreed** to allocate up to £200.00 to produce appropriate signage to be posted at appropriate points around the village. |
| 269/19 | .1 | **Update on Heart of Hathersage**: reference was made to issues with litter with the recent easing of lockdown, fine weather, and an influx of visitors. Cllr Jane Marsden noted she would check on the frequency of rubbish collection by DCC and Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC). It was suggested that those outlets currently providing a takeaway service, including Bank House and the fish and chip shop, should take some responsibility for clearing up litter outside their premises. |
| 270/19 |  | **Memorial Hall**: there were no updates. |
| 271/19 |  | To note any DALC circulars and other items circulated – noted. |
| 272/19 |  | **Next meeting** – it was confirmed that the next HPC meeting will be at 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 July 2020. It was suggested consideration be given to holding the meeting in the main room at the Memorial Hall, adhering to social distancing measures. |
| 273/19 |  | To note items for the 7 July 2020 agenda – no specific items were highlighted. |
|  |  | Signed: Dated: |