

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Ms Maura Sorensen, Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, Derbyshire, S32 1BB
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Minutes of the online meeting of Hathersage Parish Council, Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 7:30pm

Councillors Present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Bill Hanley, Bridget Hanley (*part*), Tim Hill, James Marsden; Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers, Pete Rowland and James Shuttleworth

Also In attendance: Maura Sorensen (Clerk), Chris Cave (RFO), DDDC Cllr. Peter O'Brien (*part*), Cllr. Judith Twigg (*part*), Emily Abbey (Observer), Martin Bloor (Observer), Sara Furness, Nick Williams (Observer), Catherine Fitzsimons, Steve Wyatt

- 181/20 Opening the meeting, apologies, and welcomes: apologies were received from Cllr Stuart Turner. The Chair welcomed all. Recently retired Clerk, Steve Wyatt, was presented ‘virtually’ with a leaving gift and thanked for all his contributions in his time as Clerk and Assistant Clerk with the Parish Council. Steve thanked the Parish Council for their thoughtful leaving gift, and for all their support through his period of employment. Steve Wyatt left the meeting.
- 182/20 There was no variation in the order of business.
- 183/20 There were no declaration of interests from members.
- 184/20
- a) **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. Catherine Fitzsimons, resident of Higger Lane, spoke about the need for a grit bin on Higger Lane, referencing the steepness of the Lane and consultation with neighbours, many of whom are elderly, with reduced mobility, and unable to get out in bad weather on ungritted pavements and roads. Mrs Fitzsimons noted she and her husband would be willing to take responsibility for grit spreading. The Chair proposed an interim measure – provision of salt in the event of further bad weather in the next month or so. The Chair noted that, longer term, the Parish Council will consider the request for a permanent grit bin on Higger Lane. *Ms Fitzsimons left the meeting*
 - 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. DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien provided an update on the DDDC position on BBQs, confirming DDDC does not plan on introducing a ban under their Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). Noted the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) does support more robust enforcement action. Cllr O'Brien referenced FRS data on attendance at moorland fires, BBQ and camp fires, last year – on the basis of which he has asked DDDC to review their position. Cllrs referenced instances of fires, locally, noting fires burn and cause damage even in bad weather. Cllrs also referenced practice elsewhere – noted the clear and positive approach in Northumberland with appropriate signage etc. The Chair referenced discussions by the Parish Council, last year, on posting appropriate signage about the dangers of BBQs and open fires. It was agreed to review these discussions and look at the practicalities of purchasing and erecting signage.
Cllr W Hanley raised a query with Cllr O'Brien about green bin collections and refunds for missed collections. Cllr O'Brien agreed to pursue this with DDDC.
 - b) 1 Police proposal for an additional CCTV camera on Station Road, on the wall of Holme Barn looking up Station Road, and appeal for help with funding. Cllrs noted disappointment at the lack of a police report to this meeting, particularly in light of instances of recent crimes in the village. In principle, Cllrs supported an approach being made to DCC and DDDC to help with funding an additional camera but proposed the Clerk liaise with PC Boswell in the first instance to clarify the reasons why an additional camera is needed.
- 185/20 Co-option of a new Councillor: the Chair referenced the vacancies for a co-opted Cllr and for three casual vacancies due to resignations. Sara Furness had submitted an application in relation to the co-opted vacancy; Cllrs had considered the application and found it in order. Sara confirmed her wish to join the Parish Council; her appointment was duly confirmed. Noted the three casual vacancies have been publicised, appropriately. There have been three expressions of interest. Any appointments will be confirmed at the April meeting of the Parish Council.
- 186/20 Confirmation of Minutes of HPC meeting of 2nd February 2021: these were reviewed - an amendment to the list of attendees was highlighted; subject to this amendment the minutes were **approved** and will be signed ASAP.

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187/20	DDDC consultations / other DDDC matters
.1	Consultation on the DDDC Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Policy; response deadline 30 March. Agreed that Cllrs Jane Marsden and Heather Rodgers will review the consultation and draft a response, if appropriate.
.2	Consultation on ward boundaries; response deadline 12 April. Discussions at the February meeting were referenced; Cllrs had raised issues about the proposal to move Abney and Abney Grange parish councils out of the Hathersage ward. Noted ongoing discussions within the Abney and Abney Grange parish councils, with their residents, on the proposal. Agreed that the Clerk liaise with the Abney and Abney Grange Clerks on the outcomes. Further agreed to include this item on the April meeting agenda; taking into account feedback from Abney residents, Cllrs can agree a consultation response.
.3	Disposable BBQs and the DDDC position; noted this had been referenced in minute 184/20 b). Cllrs noted a prosecution for arson, in relation to the Dales Quarry fire last year, will be heard at the Crown Court, shortly.
188/20	Financial Matters – RFO's report - noted as received. There has been little activity with the pool being closed. The RFO highlighted the main items, relating to staff pay and furlough costs; he also provided an update on opening a new bank account.
.1	To receive a statement of accounts – noted as received.
.2	To approve accounts for payment - scrutinised and approved for payment.
.3	To note account scrutiny arrangements and approve signatories for 6 th April meeting from the agreed schedule, to approve and pay wages, and any urgent items, between this meeting and the 6 th April meeting. Cllrs Rodgers and Hill were approved .
.4	Referencing the co-option of new Cllr Sara Furness earlier in the meeting, it was agreed to add her to the Unity Bank mandate; all HPC Cllrs are signatories to the account.
.5	To agree furlough arrangements for pool staff for the period 9 th and 28 th March on the basis that the pool will reopen from 29 March. The RFO noted arrangements, including topping up staff pay to 80% of their usual pay, had been agreed up to 8 March. It was agreed to continue with the same arrangements between 9-28 March.
.6	To agree furlough arrangements for another pool staff member for the period 15 th February to 28 th March. The RFO noted the staff member would have expected to start working – delivering training for pool staff -from mid-February. Confirmed the cost to the Council would come to £34.00 per week, for six weeks. It was agreed to include this staff member in furlough arrangements for the period 15 th February to 28 th March.
.7	DALC training package – it was agreed to purchase the enhanced training package subscription.
.8	Insurance Cover - review. The RFO referenced the obligation to review insurance arrangements and cover ahead of producing the annual governance statement and asked Cllrs to confirm they were satisfied with arrangements. Noted playing field equipment is not insured; the RFO confirmed insurance cover for up to £50K could be taken out for an annual sum of £241.00. Cllrs considered the merits of insuring play equipment, much of which is a number of years old with significant wear and tear. Noted that whether the insurance would cover the actual cost of equipment replacement is to be confirmed – RFO to investigate and advise Cllrs – an update to be provided at the 16 March meeting of the Recreation Committee after which a recommendation will be made on whether or not to take out insurance cover for playing field equipment.
.9	Risk Assessment – review. The RFO referenced the obligation to review risk assessments and any related actions ahead of producing the annual governance statement and asked Cllrs to confirm they were satisfied with arrangements. Noted that where any risk was identified it is obligatory to identify how it is to be addressed. Cllrs asked about references to playing field inspections; noted it is unlikely that, as stated in the risk assessment, daily inspections are undertaken. Agreed to liaise with the Leisure Facilities Manager and ask him to advise on the recommended frequency of inspections, in line with a review of the playing field risk assessment. Noted that the policy can then be amended accordingly. Cllr Rodgers agreed to liaise with the Leisure Facilities Manager.
.10	To consider a request from the Pool Café tenants for financial compensation for the period of the pool refurbishment. The Chair expanded on the background to the request. Cllrs noted there were a number of queries arising including whether it would be within the rights of the Parish Council to provide compensation. Reference was made to the specific circumstances and whether assumptions about anticipated income, and loss, were reasonable. A number of Cllrs noted they would not support the claim nor would they support engaging a solicitor to investigate further. It was agreed that the Clerk and the RFO review the lease to determine whether any terms related to compensation for loss of income, and to respond to the café owner.
.11	Review and re-approval of the Scheme of Delegation. This was reapproved . Break for King George's Field business.
	Committees and Working Groups
189/20	Swimming Pool Committee. Minutes of the meetings of 9 th and 18 th February 2021 were received. Cllr W Hanley, Vice Chair of the committee, expanded on discussions on ticketing, pricing and timetabling, referencing recommendations for agreement/approval, below.

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- .1 To agree staff wage rates – the recommendation that staff wage rates are increased in line with the national minimum wage was **agreed**.
 - .2 To agree recommendations on pricing of monthly season tickets as per the minutes of the 18th February meeting. Cllrs and the RFO expanded on the reasons for moving to a monthly membership scheme and on operational details. The recommendations from the Swimming Pool Committee on pricing of monthly membership differentiated for residents of Hathersage, of HPBC, of DDDC, and users outside these areas were **agreed**.
 - .3 To agree the 2021-22 pool budget. The RFO outlined options and referenced discussions at the Swimming Pool Committee. The difficulties of accurately predicting revenue, particularly in Covid circumstances, and producing an accurate budget, were noted. The RFO highlighted the obligation to confirm a budget. Budget Option 1 was **agreed**. Noted the budget will be kept under review and may be revised, in due course.
 - .4 To agree to contract Flex Flooring to undertake further work on the pool floor. Noted some urgency in getting this work completed before the reopening of the pool. Suggested some clarification needed on Flex Flooring undertaking a slip test and providing a certificate. It was **agreed** to contract Flex Flooring to undertake this piece of work prior to the pool reopening on 29 March.
 - .5 To approve a quote to fit a new shower boiler prior to the reopening of the pool. Noted pool management had approached three contractors, for quotes; two had responded. Noted that HF Brown had previously undertaken a similar job at the pool, satisfactorily. It was **agreed** to contract HF Brown to fit a new shower boiler prior to the pool reopening on 29 March.
- 190/20 **Recreation Committee.** Minutes of the meeting of 16th February 2021 were received.
- .1 Confidential item - Bowling Green access. Noted there was no progress to report.
 - .2 To approve Cllrs Bridget Hanley and Heather Rodgers pursuing funding from Awards for All for provision of adult exercise equipment in the playing field. The Chair outlined the background noting discussions on adult exercise equipment had started more than a year ago, at the request of Hathersage residents. Cllrs had begun undertaking some research including looking at examples at Bakewell and Youlgreave. With Covid, plans had been temporarily suspended. At the 16 February meeting reference had been made to the possibility of funding this project from Awards for All. A Facebook survey is being undertaken with residents. It was agreed to await survey outcomes before proceeding further.
- 191/20 **Planning Committee.** Minutes of the meeting of 5th February were received. The Chair referenced discussions on the National Trust Greenwood Farm holiday cottage application. Noted the Council's objections to the plan; details were shared. Instances were referenced of objections to National Trust developments/planning applications, nationally, where those applications did not concur with NT policy.
- 192/20 **Amenities Committee.** Minutes of the meeting 16th February 2021 were received. Noted the top tier of the planter at HoH has now been removed, as requested, and is ready to be planted.
- .1 Parish Land at Hathersage Booths – lease renewal. The RFO clarified the proposal for division of the lease between two lessees with a one third and two thirds division – Clerk to liaise with the solicitor.
 - .2 Butcher's car park - lease renewal. The RFO referenced details of the current lessee. Agreed that the Clerk and the RFO liaise and agree a clear instruction to the solicitor.
 - .3 To approve the addition of a memorial bench to Jagers Lane – costs of purchasing and fitting the bench to be met by the applicant. The Chair referenced previous approval for a replacement bench on Jagers Lane. To accommodate the request for the memorial bench to be sited there, the Chair proposed moving the bench recently purchased to Birley Lane. Cllrs **approved** the proposal. Cllr Rodgers recommended a concrete base should be provided at the Birley Lane site; this was **agreed**.
 - .4 Pavement gritting and snow warden agreement – to review how best to communicate arrangements with residents. The Chair referenced the recent spell of snow and ice and the lack of gritting undertaken, across the village. She proposed including an item on the Snow Warden scheme in the forthcoming annual report, to encourage residents' participation; the RFO noted gritting is covered by the Parish Council insurance.
 - .5 To consider a request for a grit bin on Higger Lane. Noted this had been referenced under minute 184/20.
- 193/20 **Transport Committee:** noted there had been no meeting since February full Council; there were no minutes to share.
- .1 Traffic survey/questionnaire – proposed survey of Hathersage residents and visitors – for approval. Cllrs W Hanley and T Hill had drafted the survey, shared early drafts with Cllrs and presented a final draft for approval. Cllr Olle suggested some clarification in the survey introduction to manage expectations - to make residents aware that the Parish Council would not be in a position to introduce measures related to survey outcomes. The Chair suggested making reference to the fact that the survey will provide evidence of need in Hathersage to the relevant authorities e.g. PDNPA and DCC; and enable the Parish Council to negotiate with them about future provision. Cllr Hill agreed to amend the survey accordingly. Noted that, following a recent meeting with a DDDC Officer, some questions related to electric vehicle charging had been included. Referencing survey circulation, noted that hard copies of the survey will be delivered to village households but people will be

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- encouraged to complete the survey digitally, where possible – either/and via the Parish Council website, and SurveyMonkey. Subject to the amendments minuted the survey was **approved**.
- .2 To note that Northern Rail are lifting car park charges at Hathersage station for the time being, and with immediate effect; Northern Rail to review further in due course. Cllrs agreed this was a positive step. Noted no signage had been posted at the station, yet – Clerk to enquire about the timescale. Cllr Olle referenced an issue raised by a resident about the inadequacy of the shortened passing place by the station. It had been suggested this be included in the TRO. Noted there had been no update from DCC for some time on progress with the TRO; agreed that a DCC Highways representative be invited to the next meeting of the Transport Committee; and any further items for TRO inclusion to be raised.
- 194/20 **HR Committee**. Minutes of recent meetings of 9th and 18th February 2021 were received.
- 195/20 **Website Update**. There had been no recent meetings, or reports to be received, from the Website Working Group.
- 196/20 **Burial Ground Committee**. There had been no recent meetings. Noted there had been some liaison with families of those where maintenance on graves was needed. Agreed that a meeting of the burial ground committee – including a visit/walkaround at the burial ground – will be undertaken as soon as Covid measures allow.
- 197/20 **Clerk's Report/Correspondence**
- .1 Defibrillators: noted confirmation of arrangements for weekly checks and recording of checks (prompted by an issue reported by another parish council).
 - .2 Tree works at Booths Edge – noted Western Power need to undertake this work as a safety measure. Noted leaseholders had been made aware.
 - .3 Future meeting arrangements from May 2021 onwards: noted the Headteacher of St Michael's school had indicated she was happy for full Council to resume meeting at the school. Noted that, in line with Covid measures, the earliest full Council in-person meeting is likely to be July. Agreed that the Clerk formally liaise with the Headteacher about booking the school from July onwards.
- 198/20 **Village Matters**: Cllr W Hanley referenced Parish Council updates in the monthly Parish Magazine. The Chair suggested including an article on the new bus stop – and to look to address some of the concerns being raised by residents. Cllr Olle referenced concerns about the loss of the gritstone kerb, including concern raised by PDNPA. Cllrs noted that the current gritstone kerb would not be compatible with new accessibility measures. Agreed that Cllr Olle and the Clerk liaise on an article for the Parish Magazine. The Chair referenced a very recent request to mark a remembrance – at HoH - for victims of Covid, on 23 March. Cllrs supported the proposal in principle. Noted some further details of the format would be sought.
- 199/20 **Memorial Hall**: there had been no recent meetings of the management committee. Noted plans to use the hall as a vaccination centre.
- 200/20 DALC circulars and other items circulated were noted.
- 201/20 Noted that the next HPC online meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6th April 2021. Suggested that the Annual Meeting be held in conjunction with the May HPC meeting (Tuesday 4 May).
- 202/20 Items for the 6th April 2021 agenda – no specific items were highlighted.
- 203/20 Any other business
- .1 Cllrs noted organisers of the annual Hathersage Gala are looking to put some events on this year, in line with Covid measures. Cllrs noted their support for the gala, noting the gala committee continue to consider events, and planning. Agreed that Cllr Shuttlesworth convey the Parish Council's support to the gala committee.
 - .2 The RFO referenced Covid business grants including grants already received in relation to the HoH toilets, and the swimming pool. There was some discussion around eligibility for further funding. It was agreed that the RFO should contact Karen Henricksen of Derbyshire Dales DC for confirmation that the Council are entitled to the grant received in respect of the toilets and to ask about any grants available to the swimming pool, the Council not being the swimming pool's rate payer.
- 205/20 **HR confidential item**: this relates directly to a staff member; this item is minuted separately and confidentially.

Meeting ended 10.20pm

Signed:

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