

# HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Maura Sorensen, *Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, S32 1BB*

Mob: 07766629419 Email: [clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Minutes of the online meeting of the Swimming Pool Committee of Hathersage Parish Council 20 April 2021, 7pm

Present: Councillors Stuart Turner (Chair), B Hanley, W Hanley, T Hill, R Olle, H Rodgers; George Foy (Pool Manager), Mike Wellington (Leisure Facilities Manager),  
In attendance: CF Cave (Treasurer), Maura Sorensen (Clerk); Members of the public Shirley Chapman (*part*) and Kirsty Rogerson (*part*)

- 135/20 Apologies for absence: Cllr Jane Marsden.
- 136/20 There was no variation in the order of business.
- 137/20 Declaration of interests: – pool staff George Foy and Mike Wellington.
- 138/20 **Public participation:** Shirley Chapman and Kirsty Rogerson. Both voiced concerns about access for Hathersage residents in relation both to purchasing monthly memberships and booking onto public swimming sessions. While welcoming the initiative to provide greater access for residents to public sessions, both noted this was limited to daytime sessions precluding those with work or other daytime commitments. Both also noted they felt that, in current provision, the pool was not adequately serving village residents. Cllrs and pool management acknowledged the points raised. Noted that the impact of Covid measures easing over the next few months, increasing pool capacity – along with the lifting of other restrictions – should significantly ease demand. Pool management will consider whether any further interim measures can be implemented to increase pool access for residents.
- 139/20 **Marketing/Advertising/Fundraising/Events**
- .1 Pool management are planning to resume monthly music events, from May - first event Friday 21 May. Liaison will be undertaken with local residents. **MW/GF/MS to action.**
  - .2 Hilly Triathlon 2021: MW to prompt the organisers for a response re arrangements, particularly in relation to car parking.
- 140/20 The minutes of the previous meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were **approved**.
- 141/20 Action points from the 9<sup>th</sup> March meeting were reviewed. 103/20.7 – noted ongoing liaison with Keebles about sponsorship of a pool-related project – referenced the pool alternative heating initiative; and improving pool accessibility.
- 142/20 Booking swimming sessions/admissions – update on current arrangements: GF noted booking/admissions for May as per arrangements for April. Re the pool initiative to hold back some tickets for public swimming sessions for Hathersage residents, noted how/where this had been publicised. Also noted some wariness about publicising it too widely, in terms of managing expectations. Currently fewer than 10 tickets per day were being sold. Agreed to publicise the initiative more widely, locally; **suggested posting details on the HPC website**. Also noted messaging – and overall communication - needs to be clearer and more concise. Reiterated that points raised by Hathersage residents, about the challenges of booking a session, had been noted.
- 143/20 **Plant room upgrade project**
- .1 Updates on works completed and any outstanding items: noted an update will be sought from the architect re completion of fireboarding in the plant room. Noted the Memorial Hall Committee had highlighted stones/rubble left behind the plant room, obstructing access to the garden. Arrangements are being made for delivery of a skip; Memorial Hall volunteers will fill it. Details of who will meet the costs to be confirmed.
  - .2 **Pool Boiler:** members were aware of the background to the failure of the boiler. Re provision of a new boiler, MW referenced contact with six companies only one of which – GP Harrison – had responded. They had undertaken a site visit and provided a quote

for £10,731.60 (including VAT). Noted the flues also need replacing – not necessarily immediately – at an additional cost of approximately £2K. Noted the quote was less than the costs incurred when the current boiler had been installed. Noted the standing orders require three written quotes where possible with full Council considering the detail and either approving one or calling for further details/other quotes. Reiterated six firms had been approached to provide a quote. Cllrs noted any further delay in undertaking the work e.g. to seek further quotes could lead to financial loss, in pool takings – unlikely to be balanced by savings on the boiler. The urgency of the situation – the need to replace the pool boilers as quickly as possible in order to limit the impact on service users - was emphasised. There was some discussion around the reasons for the failure of the boilers including whether conditions of housing, in the plant room, were a factor; agreed to enquire further and, if necessary, make appropriate changes once new boilers are fitted. The need to deal with the provision of a new boiler, as a matter of urgency, was reiterated. ***It was agreed to liaise with GP Harrison about a timescale for undertaking the work. It was further agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting of the parish council on Monday 26 April to approve all arrangements.*** All Cllrs to be updated on the situation prior to the meeting.

144/20

**Plant/Machinery/Operational issues; and Manager's Report**

- .1 Pool Manager's report: MW referenced the recent problem with rats. A pest control company had attended and provided an initial treatment – further visit/treatment to follow. The need for an annual contract for pest control was highlighted; noted this had been considered by HPC previously. Suggested pool management should be able to undertake/administrate this contract, rather than HPC. Noted pool management would need to liaise with the proprietors of the pool café as any problem was also likely to affect them; suggested the cafe proprietors be asked to share costs of an annual contract. Noted the Memorial Hall Committee had declined to share costs. The RFO noted no insurance claim could be made on any damage related to vermin. Noted two staff members had opted not to return following the pool reopening. Noted the appointment of a Level 2 swimming instructor. Cllrs highlighted that recruitment procedures had not been followed. Noted there are further openings for swimming instructors; these will be advertised in line with HPC recruitment procedures.
- .2 Pool Advisor's report: noted a report had not been received.
- .3 Provision of an accessible path across the grass: noted MW will pursue when current Covid circumstances are less demanding of staff time and resource.
- .4 Report on scoping proposals for sourcing alternative heating for the pool's water heating system: Cllr Hill spoke to this item. He confirmed the five consultants being approached. He also noted he may approach some regional universities where there is some level of expertise in this area, asking them if they have any interest in contributing to the project. ***Agreed that Cllr Hill proceed with this initiative.***
- .5 Pool staffing: departures/appointments already noted.
- .6 Medium to longer term projects: noted these will be pursued when current Covid circumstances are less demanding of time and resource. In relation to refurbishment of the pool frontage/entrance it was suggested a working party be convened to agree requirements before progressing to a design brief.

145/20

Swimming Club: noted the start date had been deferred pending provision of the new boiler and the pool being heated again. Cllrs suggested better promotion of the club e.g. via local Facebook groups and the pool website, emphasising that it is an asset for the local community. Cllrs also discussed provision of an adult swimming club. Noted there had been adult club swimming sessions previously but they had been aimed at very experienced swimmers; suggested this was off putting to those wanting a more casual experience. Pool management agreed to look at further adult swim club provision. Management also referenced weekend group swimming lessons for adults noting good take-up; provision may be expanded.

- 146/20 Swimming lessons: update already noted.
- 147/20 Finance: a summary of takings to Sunday 18 April had been circulated. The RFO highlighted that a formal response was needed to the HPBC Officer re the annual HPBC funding allocation. ***MW/MS to liaise and action.***
- 148/20 Clerk's report/correspondence: the Clerk had nothing specific to update. Cllrs formally noted thanks and appreciation to George Foy and Mike Wellington for all their hard work and in particular for meeting the challenges of the past couple of months.
- 149/20 Items for the next meeting: no specific items were raised.
- 150/20 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7pm.

SPC meeting ended 8.30pm