

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the meeting of the Swimming Pool Committee of Hathersage Parish Council held at Hathersage Memorial Hall on Tuesday 8 June 2021, 7pm

Present: Councillors Stuart Turner (Chair), W Hanley, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers;
Mike Wellington (Leisure Services Manager)
In attendance: CF Cave (Treasurer), Maura Sorensen (Clerk), member of the public Michael Desmond

- 020/21 Apologies for absence – Cllrs B Hanley and Tim Hill; George Foy (Swimming Pool Manager).
021/22 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
023/21 Declaration of interests – Mike Wellington (pool staff).
024/21 **Public participation:** Michael Desmond raised a number of queries and concerns about pool operations and timetable changes.
Pool operations – Mr Desmond referenced the move to a pre-booking system suggesting this disadvantaged users who want the option to turn up and pay, particularly over the summer holidays; and those who pre-book but don't want to swim in poor weather. Cllrs and the Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington, noted that, pre-Covid, changes to bookings and admissions were already being considered. Reopening under Covid restrictions had necessitated those changes and the changes have proved beneficial. Noted pre-booking means avoiding lengthy queues and disappointment when users are turned away because a session is full. Also noted that many – if not the majority – of providers (of swimming pool and other leisure services) have moved to a pre-booking system.
Timetable changes – Mr Desmond queried the loss of a mid-day members only session, in the new timetable. Mike Wellington referenced data noting this members session was under used. A change to a mid-day lane session has increased numbers – including members who choose to join this session. The Chair noted pool management includes ensuring optimum use across the timetable. He also noted that, once all Covid restrictions are lifted, and with an extended timetable, pool capacity will be greater than in previous years.
Consultation with pool users: the Chair referenced plans to undertake consultation in the autumn.
Pool staff and employment terms: Mr Desmond queried terms of contracts, and pay, for all pool staff. Cllrs noted this was already under consideration by the Parish Council HR Committee.
Swimming/spectating: Mr Desmond had some queries re remaining on the pool premises as a spectator after a swimming session to which Mike Wellington responded. Noted the restriction on spectator numbers under Covid restrictions.
Mr Desmond reiterated his concerns about pool operation changes and the process by which those changes are considered and approved. The Chair noted the forthcoming consultation with pool users would be a forum in which to share and address those concerns.
025/21 **Marketing/Advertising/Fundraising/Events** – update from Mike Wellington. Noted the first Friday night monthly music event had gone well and plans are underway for events from June onwards. Noted liaison with the pool café proprietors re the café remaining open a little later on those evenings. Noted date for the night swim event to be confirmed – possibly on/around 25 July to coincide with the pool birthday/anniversary. The RFO noted only three companies/services had agreed to renew payment for poolside advertising boards. Suggested the other boards be removed ***MW to liaise and give seven days' notice of removal***
026/21 Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting of 11 May 2021 – **confirmed**.
027/21 **Charitable/Trust status for the pool:** a report/update. The RFO noted the aim – and the benefits – of separating pool finances from HPC finances through this initiative. He summarised a report from the External Advisor appointed by HPC to investigate the pros and cons, and the process, of pursuing charitable status. Noted HPC has agreed that the External Advisor seek appropriate legal advice being re the pool premises and ownership; it's anticipated the Advisor will provide a further report to the July HPC meeting. The RFO confirmed moving to a

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trust/charitable status would have no impact on staff employment terms and conditions. The RFO noted inclusion of the MUGA and the playing field in the separate trust/charity could be considered but that he wouldn't recommend this noting there would be no financial benefits. The Chair referenced other models e.g. forming a community interest company (CIC); noted another open air pool has followed this model.

028/21 **Admissions and timetable:** noted changes to pool operations and timetable were approved by full Council on 1 June. Further noted that implementation relates to the full lifting of Covid measures; Mike Wellington noted plans for the current system to remain in place at least to 1 July. With reference to pool users, suggested, for clarification, using the term season pass and season pass holder rather than member.

029/21 **Plant room upgrade project**

- .1 Update - works completed and any outstanding items and plans to resolve them. Noted fireboarding of the plant room still to be completed. ***MW to liaise with Tom Crooks and Malcolm Hall.***

Mike Wellington noted a recent incident – a bonfire in a garden adjacent to the pool – the fire brigade had attended and put it out. Parts of the wooden structure at the pool were potentially at risk. Mike noted this and highlighted the need to have a cascading contacts list for pool staff (and Cllrs) in the event of any further similar incident. He also noted that he is compiling a list of relevant details to be shared with the fire service e.g. details of chemicals stored at the pool.

030/21 **Plant/Machinery/Operational issues; and Manager's Report**

- .1 **Pool Manager's report** – previously circulated. Cllr Hanley referenced the impact of 1-1 lessons on pool capacity, taking whole lanes out of use. Mike Wellington acknowledged this; noted consideration being given to moving away from 1-1 lessons, to group lessons; noted the success of group lessons. Noted group lessons may be organised/streamed according to ability. Cllr Rodgers suggested making the change from next season.

Pool hoover: Mike noted the pool hoover had stopped working; a new model had been costed - £2,400.00 – Cllrs **approved** the expenditure.

Picnic tables and benches: Mike noted the age and significant wear and tear on pool furniture. Noted he had looked at costs of new furniture. **Agreed** Mike get quotes from three providers for all furniture to be replaced. The Chair highlighted taking accessibility and the needs of disabled users, including wheelchair users, into account. In response to a query about maintenance of the new (blue) surfacing Mike noted it was very easy to clean and maintain.

- .2 **Pool Advisor's report** – noted Mike had not met with the pool advisor since the last SPC meeting. ***Cllr Hanley to liaise with the pool advisor.***
- .3 **Alternative heating initiative and Expressions of Interest:** a report/update from Cllr Hill had been circulated. **Agreed** Cllr Hill should proceed with actions proposed in his report. Noted Cllr Hill will liaise with pool management about arranging site visits for those who have submitted an expression of interest. The RFO referenced a 16% increase in gas use, from April to May; suggested this is in relation to the very poor and cold weather in May. **Agreed** to continue to monitor gas usage.

.4 **Pool staffing**

- staff leavers, and recruitment – Mike Wellington referenced recruitment of additional casual staff (***job advert to be shared with HR committee***) and to building up a bank of casual staff.
- staff training – nothing specific to report/update.

- .5 **Medium to longer term projects:** the report from the 14 May meeting of the working group had been circulated. Noted priorities including installation of the pathway across the grass area – ***MW to liaise with Tom Crooks re obtaining three quotes*** – looking to get this done after the summer holidays. The Chair noted further consideration to be given to taking other proposals forward.

031/21 **Swimming Club** – Mike Wellington noted this was going well with some positive feedback from users.

032/21 **Swimming lessons** – already addressed under the pool management report.

033/21 **Finance:** the RFO noted the pool is operating within budget and referenced positive takings.

- .1 **Utilities:** the RFO noted both gas and electricity contracts had been agreed and signed.

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- 034/21 **Clerk's report and any additional matters:** Cllr Marsden asked about arrangements for the July Hilly Triathlon including car parking arrangements – noted terms of use of HPC facilities included triathlon organisers making appropriate parking arrangements so residents were not adversely impacted. Reference was made to triathlon organisers making arrangements with a local farmer for use of a field, on the day, for parking. Cllrs noted HPC charges to the organisers – for use of the pool and the MUGA – were very reasonable – suggested that the organisers be asked to consider also making a charitable donation, to a local charity. ***MW to liaise with triathlon organisers and to query car parking arrangements.***
- 035/21 Items for the next meeting – no specific items were raised.
- 036/21 Next meeting – Tuesday 13 July 2021, 7pm.

Meeting ended 8.15pm

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