

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 13 December, 7.00 pm MINUTES

Present Councillors Stuart Turner (Chair), B Hanley, W Hanley, Tim Hill, Heather Rodgers
In attendance Chris Cave, RFO; Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM)

- 085/22 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Rosie Olle and Jane Marsden; also from Pool Advisor Ashley Watts who had been planning to join the meeting by Zoom.
- 086/22 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
- 087/22 Declaration of interests – Mike Wellington, LSM (pool employee).
- 088/22 **Public participation** - a period of not more than ten minutes for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matter; there were no members of the public in attendance.
- 089/22 **Pool Advisor's Report:** the Pool Advisor had intended to join the meeting by Zoom but sent late apologies. Noted he was happy to make other arrangements to speak with a Cllr/Cllrs before Christmas. The date of the January 2023 meeting had been shared with him (Zoom meeting invitation to be extended).
- 090/22 **Minutes of the 8 November 2022 meeting were confirmed** and actions arising (*referenced in the Action Log*) **noted**.
- .1 Referencing liaison with HPBC on funding, Cllr W Hanley and the LSM noted queries to be addressed around what provision HPBC are looking for, associated with a funding offer. Noted HPBC emphasis on supporting health and wellbeing for their residents. LSM confirmed he can produce a report detailing health and wellbeing provision at the pool over the last year and share it with HPBC along with the request for continued HPBC funding for 2023/24.
- 091/22 **Pool Manager's Report**
- .1 **Operations and maintenance** (*updates on specific actions referenced in the Action Log*) including:
- Arrangements to repair damaged tiling – LSM referenced liaison with Cumberlidge to assess damage and provide a quote – work to be undertaken in the Spring – pool staff to take steps to address any associated safety concerns (slip/trip hazards) in the interim.
 - Plumbing Contract – noted Percival have undertaken to prioritise any pool repairs; suggested it was not necessary to enter a formal contract at this time. Confirmed that Percival had attended and seen to frozen pipes earlier in the week.
 - Use of the noticeboard outside the pool to post timetables and staff details – now in use.
 - Electrical testing – outcomes of the recent Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) had been shared, the quote for remedial work to be undertaken had been agreed *Clerk to issue a Purchase Order*.
 - Green Flag award – next steps – the Leisure Services Manager had shared a link to the award criteria; he was awaiting a response from a DDDC Officer on advice/input/support on pursuing the award.
 - Electronic booking/information system – LSM to follow up – to compile and share information on systems used at other leisure services which might serve/could be adapted for Hathersage Swimming Pool.

Additional operational matters referenced by Cllrs:

- Changing room mirror damage – potential hazard - needs taping up *LSM to address asap*
- Problems with the boiler serving the showers – advice awaited on work needed

- Cleaning of the surface around the pool – LSM noted the pressure washer used is adequate; a more powerful model might cause damage
 - Use of grit/salt in recent icy weather – Cllrs flagged the associated mess in the changing rooms and that it made the changing room floors more slippery; also queried whether using grit/salt on the surface around the pool may damage the surface, and whether there were alternatives *LSM to query this with the company who supplied the surface materials.*
 - Bike stands – Cllr Peter Rowland to install
- .2 **Staffing (recruitment; training):** DDDC staff member Dave Turvey, an accredited trainer, delivers training, weekly. Cllrs suggested the LSM, and the Pools Operations Manager, could deliver/lead some training including ‘softer skills’ training e.g. customer services training.
- .3 **Annual pool walkaround:** outcomes from the 25 November walkaround noted. Cllrs flagged specific items:
- Skirting board repairs – needed on both the right, and the left side
 - Veranda – seating – queries about whether the veranda can hold the weight of the seats and whether, if they were moved, there would be damage where they had been fixed
 - Painting work – look to ensure re/painting is done to a high standard and is long-lasting – any quotes sought should reflect this

LSM to update the actions, accordingly. Agreed to schedule a follow-up walkaround in June 2023.

- .4 **Swimming lessons: Swimming Club:** no update – suggested updates be provided as/when appropriate and that this no longer needs to be a standing agenda item.
- .5 **Events; Marketing; Fundraising:** there was nothing to update.

092/22

Pool User Group: Cllr W Hanley had circulated a draft letter, to be sent to pool users – a call for expressions of interest, and an outline of the aims/objectives of the group. Cllrs made a couple of comments on the wording – Cllr Hanley to amend accordingly – LSM to circulate the letter to pool users.

093/22

Entry/ticket pricing and timetabling for 2023:

Admission charges not having been increased for three years, the pool managers recommended the following prices with effect from 1 April 2023:

- Junior – remain at £4.00
- Adults – increase from £7.00 to £7.50
- Concession – increase from £6.00 to £6.50
- Family – increase from £20.00 to £21.00
- Spectator – remain at £3.00

These prices would result in six monthly season ticket prices (equivalent to 36 admissions)

- Adults - £270.00
- Concession - £234.00

With junior prices remaining at £100.00.

The Treasurer reported that Derbyshire Dales DC had indicated that, whilst they had not yet agreed their 2024/25 spending plans, it was their policy not to withdraw grants without giving a year’s notice and that Parish Council could expect to receive the same grant as in 2023/24. High Peak BC had not yet given any indication of their grant. Assuming that grants remained the same, and the same discounts were applied to the full season ticket rates the new prices would be:

- Hathersage adults - £195.00
- Hathersage concessions - £170.00
- Derbyshire Dales DC adults - £240.00
- Derbyshire Dales DC concessions - £208.00
- High Peak BC adults - £228.00

Signed:

Date:

- High Peak BC concessions - £198.00

With all junior prices remaining at £100.00.

Cllr Hill queried, and expressed concern, about a lack of a pool finance plan informing ticket pricing. The RFO referenced known costs, including energy costs, with the electricity contract fixed until July 2023 and the gas contract until 2024. Clarified that these pricing proposals related to Spring/Summer ticket pricing. Winter 2023/24 ticket pricing will be considered next Spring – any significant increases in pool outgoings (including energy costs) would be taken into account. After further discussion on the need for additional income in view of rising costs, the possible effect on the number of admissions as the result of a price increase, and the current economic situation, the committee **agreed to recommend** the above prices to the full Council subject to:

- Budgets showing various levels of admissions
- Confirmation from High Peak BC of their grant. If no confirmation is received it would be recommended that their residents pay the full season ticket price.

The committee also **agreed to recommend** to the full Council:

- That the hourly private hire rate be increased from £250.00 per hour to £300.00.
- That the aquafit charge be increased from £6.00 to a minimum of the daily admission charge.
- To change the qualification for half price junior season tickets from two adult & one junior full price purchase to one adult & one junior full price purchase.

Consideration to be given to teaching charges at January's meeting following a report from pool managers.

Cllrs discussed widening categories for concessionary tickets e.g. to people in receipt of benefits; acknowledged this would need further consideration in terms of which benefits would be applicable, evidence required of receipt of benefits etc.

Cllrs discussed increased/more focused marketing to ensure consistent pool income. Cllr B Hanley suggested a letter to all Hathersage households with details of the Spring/Summer ticket pricing, also highlighting the preferential rates for Hathersage residents, and the breadth of provision at the pool.

094/22

Pool Heating Project

- .1 **Leisure Energy (LE):** Cllr Hill noted there was no written report for this meeting. Noted he had a scheduled call with LE on 14 December. Cllr Hill referenced the two main heating options – seven months of Summer heating at 28° and five months of Winter heating at 24°. He expanded on technical queries around using photovoltaic panels and flagged the possibility, in the Summer months, of making more energy than needed/used, and not being able to sell energy back to the national grid. Agreed that energy (battery) storage should be investigated. Referencing air and ground source heat pump options, Cllr Hill shared his concerns about ground source heating.
- .2 **Costs analysis of alternative heating project options:** Cllr Hill emphasised greater clarity was needed on costing of all the options, including ensuring all project aspects are fully costed.
- .3 **PDNPA:** noted a pre-application advice form had been submitted. Suggested, if a site visit with a PDNPA Officer is arranged, an LE representative be invited to attend.
- .4 **Funding:** Cllr Hill to circulate a list of funders/funding streams. Flagged that completing and submitting funding applications is 'resource intensive'. Suggested awaiting a further LE report, and the PDNPA response, before pursuing funding.
- .5 **Weather data monitoring:** the LSM noted a further subscription of £50.00 was needed in order to be able to access detailed data. *LSM to liaise with the RFO re payment.*

095/22

Pool Five Year Business Plan: Cllrs had shared comments/flagged amendments, with the LSM, on the latest iteration. Further comments were shared; query raised about whether all the relevant financial information was included *RFO to check*. Once amendments highlighted have been made, LSM to circulate a further iteration, for final approval/agreement. LSM has relevant photographs to add to the Plan, after which it will be sent to print.

096/22

Finance: received a report/update from the RFO. Queries on ticket pricing discussed at item 093/22 ,

097/22

Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence – none.

098/22 Next meeting – **10 January 2023, 7pm**; any additional January meeting items noted in the minutes.

Meeting ended 8.12pm

Signed:

Date: