

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 14 March 2023, 7.00 pm MINUTES

Present Councillors Stuart Turner (Chair), Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers

In Attendance Chris Cave, Responsible Finance Officer (RFO); Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM)

120/22 Apologies for absence – Cllrs B Hanley and W Hanley; George Foy (Pool Operations Manager); Ashley Watts (Pool Advisor).

121/22 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.

122/22 Declaration of interests – Mike Wellington, pool staff (LSM).

123/22 **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.

124/22 **Pool Advisor** – the Pool Advisor had sent apologies; he will be invited to join the April meeting.

125/22 **Minutes of the 14 February 2023 meeting** were **confirmed** and actions arising **noted** (*referenced in the Action Log*).

126/22 **Pool Manager's Report**

.1 **Operations and maintenance** (*specific operational and maintenance actions and updates also referenced in the Action Log*) **including:**

- **Main pool boiler** – resolved – new boiler installed and operational – noted ongoing enquires about possible recompense for loss of income related to low water temperatures when the previous boiler failed.
- **Shower boiler update** – three quotes had been provided – two had been shared – LSM to share the third. One quote was for a like-for-like replacement; one for a small combi boiler. LSM expressed doubts that the combi boiler would be sufficiently robust. Suggested the quotes shared were higher than anticipated. Re the failed boiler, noted ongoing liaison with the manufacturer about the warranty and provision of a new boiler; agreed to wait for a definitive response before proceeding/considering a firm recommendation - if a new boiler is to be purchased. Lead-in times for provision and installation of a new boiler not known but suggested there would be no significant delay once an order was placed.
- **Provision of quotes for cleaning/maintenance of woodwork, and painting** – noted the one quote, for painting, of £17.5K - received earlier in the day - LSM to circulate. Noted, although there was a significant amount of work involved, the quote was significantly higher than anticipated. *Two more quotes to be sought (LSM)*.
- **Green Flag award** – noted applications will open again in 2024. LSM referenced support from DDDC Officers with preparing the application; Cllrs suggested asking the Officer meet with the LSM to undertake a 'mock assessment as soon as possible, to inform drawing up a management plan.
- **Five-year pool business plan** – the LSM shared print copies with all meeting attendees. Confirmed a PDF copy will be posted on the pool website.
- **Pool user group** – noted a 'thank you' message, and update, provided to members following the response to the initial consultation.

.2 **Pool electronic booking system:** noted a report would be provided at the April meeting. LSM shared some detail of discussions the Pool Operations Manager had been having with providers including on card and/or fob options. Noted one provider was asking for a monthly fee of £275.00.

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Noted the Pool Operations Manager was seeking quotes from other providers. Suggested liaising with other pools – individually or via group Facebook pages or websites – re their systems.

- .3 **Staffing – lifeguard hours; monthly planning; training; recruitment** – nothing specific was flagged; noted no planned recruitment, currently.
- .4 **Events / Marketing / Fundraising** – noted the monthly night swim restarting on Friday 17 March; a notice had been delivered to residents. LSM expanded on planned night swim events for the coming months.

Cllr Olle provided an update on promoting the pool in Hope Valley line rail stations, referencing liaison with the individual producing the posters – image only; no text. Cllr Olle also confirmed she had secured funding for the posters from Northern Rail. *LSM asked to have sight of the poster prior to posting them at stations.* Cllrs commended and thanked Cllr Olle for her efforts. Cllr Olle noted she was also working with the Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership (HVCPR) on promotional posters for rail stations.

LSM confirmed the pool will host an Historic Pools of Britain event, in June.

127/22 **Pool boiler – low pool temperatures in January and February – related refunds to season ticket holders: noted** measures agreed at the 7 February Parish Council meeting, and next steps. Referenced ongoing enquires about possible recompense, from Vaillant, for the related loss of income – due to the decline in attendance; and the amount of user refunds made (once they have been agreed). The RFO reiterated advice from the HPC insurer that redress should be sought from Vaillant.

128/22 **Meeting with pool staff: noted** the meeting with supervising staff scheduled for Wednesday 22 March, and discussed agenda items. Clerk to prompt supervising staff, again, re specific issues they would like to discuss.

129/22 **Local authorities pool funding**

- .1 **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):** noted a firm response was awaited on 2023-24 funding. Noted that, if no response was received by 16 March, pool management would liaise with High Peak users about summer season tickets confirming that, without HPBC funding, the cost of their tickets would not be subsidised and that they would be charged as per other out-of-area users. Confirmed that HPBC 2022-23 funding had been received.

130/22 **Pool Heating Project**

- .1 **Leisure Energy: received** a report. Cllr Hill expanded, flagging concerns/issues around communications with LE. He shared technical details around what information and data LE had – and had not – provided. He noted his concerns about the most recent LE report which indicated radically reduced potential energy savings from those previously indicated. Cllr Hill noted that, to address concerns and queries, he had sought to arrange a meeting at the pool with an LE representative – tentatively scheduled on 31 March but firm confirmation awaited from LE. Cllr Hill expressed doubts about whether LE would be able to fulfil the project obligations. Agreed by all it was imperative to have an in-person meeting with an LE representative to agree a way forward. Cllr Hill to share, with the Clerk, all relevant communications with LE.

Cllr Hill suggested undertaking further investigation of a hybrid (gas/heat pump) model. He referenced data that could be gathered from existing sources (including weather data monitoring equipment at the pool) without the need for external consultation. He also noted his ongoing investigations of additional power supply needs in relation to heating options.

Referencing a link to a news story about a pool in Exmouth, heated via a data centre, agreed this merited further investigation.

- .2 **PDNPA:** Cllr Hill referenced the further agreed HPC response – to PDNPA pre-planning advice – shared with the Planning Officer. The Clerk will continue to try to convene a meeting with the PDNPA Chief Executive and a Planning Officer, at the pool.
- .3 **Funding: any update** – no update.
- .4 **Weather data monitoring: any update** – noted Cllr Hill's earlier reference to gathering data to inform consideration of a hybrid gas/heat pump option.

131/22 **Finance**

- .1 **Received** a report. The RFO referenced a previous HPC agreement that only debit cards – and not credit cards - could be used to make pool ticket payments – because of the increased costs to HPC associated with credit card payments. He noted the numbers of credit card payments taken recently. Cllrs acknowledged that people want the option, and may prefer to make payments on a credit card. It was **agreed** that both debit and credit card payments can be taken and that HPC policy and regulations should be amended accordingly.

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The RFO reported that, under a recent ruling which HMRC have confirmed they will not contest, "leisure services" provided by Councils are classified as exempt supplies. The Treasurer will be attending a DALC webinar on the changes and will also discuss them as part of the review of the Council's VAT procedures agreed at the March Council meeting. A report on the new position will be provided to the April Council meeting.

132/22

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

133/22

Next meeting – **11 April 2023, 7pm**; **items** for the April meeting – nothing specific was flagged.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

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