

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

This report summarises the key issues dealt with by the Parish Council and its various committees from May 2022 to April 2023. Details of all meetings - including agendas and minutes – are published on the Parish Council website (www.hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Parish Council continued with the same arrangement of committees; some meet on a regular basis and others are convened as business requires. We post news and updates on the Parish Council Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hathersageparishcouncil/>

Changes to Parish Council membership since May 2022: Emily Booth stepped down in May 2022. **2022-23 membership was:** Councillor Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor, Sara Furness, Bridget Hanley, William Hanley, Tim Hill, James Marsden, Rosie Olle, Peter Rowland, Heather Rodgers, James Shuttleworth, Stuart Turner and Nick Williams. All Councillors are thanked for their hard work and unselfish commitment to the community of Hathersage.

Full Parish Council Meetings are regularly attended by Derbyshire Dales District (DDDC) Councillor Peter O'Brien and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor Alasdair Sutton. Both Councillors also regularly support the Parish Council with making representations on our behalf at District and County level.

As well as the committee structure that supports the Parish Council to work efficiently there is regular, committed support from many residents of the village. Residents' support is invaluable and helps many initiatives progress to completion - the Parish Council is very grateful for this support and sincerely thanks all those who help in any capacity.

The Parish Council has responsibility for oversight and management of a number of facilities in the village including the swimming pool, the MUGA, King George's Field, the Heart of Hathersage (and the toilets sited there), and the burial ground – further reference is made in reports from the relevant committees responsible for operational (and strategic) oversight.

Donations

Since May 2022 the Parish Council has made a number of community donations:

- £500 towards the cost of a defibrillator at Hathersage Cricket Club
- £650 towards the cost of repairs to the wall between the churchyard and the burial ground
- £1,000 towards upkeep of St Michael's and All Angels churchyard
- £350 to the Royal British Legion in recognition of costs incurred in facilitating Remembrance Sunday events on behalf of the Parish Council

The Parish Council also supported Christmas celebrations in the village, helping with the purchase of Christmas tree lights and lantern-making materials.

Full Council Meetings and the work of the committees

Full Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at St Michael's School, School Lane. The main committees generally meet at Hathersage Memorial Hall (Sampson Room). The Swimming Pool Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month (7pm start); the joint Recreation and Amenities Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month (7.30pm); the Transport Committee meets, bimonthly, on the fourth Tuesday of the month (7.30pm). Meetings of the Planning Committee are convened as necessary when there are planning applications to consider. It is always best to check the Parish Council website, or the village noticeboards, for meeting details. Ten minutes are allocated at the beginning of every meeting for public participation where attendees can raise relevant matters. The Parish Council cannot comment on any matters not on the agenda but comments from the public can be noted – and items can be put forward for the agenda at the next, or a forthcoming, meeting.

Hathersage Swimming Pool



The Swimming Pool Committee

Chaired by Cllr Stuart Turner, other members are: Cllrs Bridget Hanley, William Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle and Heather Rodgers. The committee meets monthly; other meeting attendees include pool management, the Parish Council's Responsible Finance Officer, the Clerk, the pool advisor. The Swimming Pool Committee (SPC) oversees pool operations and takes an overview of the long-term management and development of this well loved and well used village facility. To keep the pool working well requires ongoing maintenance and a rolling programme of sometimes significant repairs and improvements.

2022-23 saw the publication of the next five-year (2023-2028) pool business improvement and renewal plan.

Throughout 2022-23 there has been a focus on reducing the pool's energy costs, and environmental impact, to which end the Parish Council continues to explore alternative heating options.

There have been significant challenges to pool operations at times with a boiler breakdown early in 2023 leading to lower water temperatures for a number of weeks. The Parish Council continues to look at recouping some of the lost revenue. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the whole pool staff team for all they do – whatever the weather - to make the pool such a success.

Note from the pool management team: *the 2022/23 summer and winter season have been a transitional period as we moved out of Covid restrictions and into the "new normal". Overall, we have enjoyed hugely successful summer and winter seasons with over 1,000 season ticket holders and 50,000 visitors over the course of the two seasons, enjoying all the different sessions and events that we organise through the year. It has been great to see old and new customers coming to use this amazing facility, of which we are immensely proud. We look forward to seeing everyone through the 2023 summer and winter seasons and would like to thank everyone for the continued support - thank you, Mike & George, Pool Management Team.*

The Recreation, Amenities and Burial Ground Committees

There are joint monthly meetings of these three committees. **Current membership: Cllrs Jane Marsden (Chair), Heather Rodgers, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle, Sara Furness, Bridget Hanley, Pete Rowland, and James Marsden.** Notable highlights during the year included:

Recreation Committee: significant Parish Council investment in maintaining and developing the King George's Field during the year. New adult exercise equipment and a new toddler activity area were fitted during the year. Grants amounting to £20k were applied for and received by Hathersage Playing Field Association, a local village charity, towards the toddler and adult equipment. This was donated to the Parish Council, leaving the Parish council to pay the balance. The Parish Council committed £60K + to develop the lower activity area and consulted with local schoolchildren to choose the new playground equipment. Delivery and installation was completed by April. Donations were received from King George's Field £1,550 and Derbyshire County Council's local Councillor for our area, Alasdair Sutton, contributed a further £500 from his personal fund.





Amenities Committee: the Parish Council supported the Platinum Jubilee 2022 celebrations and was delighted to be given a commemorative field maple tree, a gift from the Queen's Green Canopy project, which was planted in the King George V Playing Field. A new cycle stand was installed in the Heart of Hathersage. Provision of the village grit/salt bins was reviewed, in consultation with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and the Parish Council joined the snow warden scheme (although little snow fell during the year!)

Burial Ground: much of the Committees work has involved repair and maintenance of the Burial Ground including maintenance of the memorial benches and repair of unstable headstones. Councillors also reviewed the Burial Ground Rules and liaised with several families regarding maintenance and upkeep of the graves.

Transport Committee

Chaired by Cllr Rosie Olle other members are: Cllrs Martin Bloor, William Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Peter Rowland, Heather Rodgers, James Shuttleworth and Nick Williams.

Summary of business considered in 2022-23:

1. **Traffic Regulation Order (TRO):** back in 2020 a number of areas in the village were identified where access and parking issues were a recurring concern and the need for additional access and parking restrictions (including yellow lining) was identified. The Parish Council consulted with residents in those areas and details of proposed lining was agreed with Derbyshire County Council (DCC). The Parish Council has been frustrated and disappointed at the lack of progress on the part of DCC with moving to the next stage of implementing the TRO including public consultation. It had been very much hoped that this would have moved on (and to completion) in 2022. The Parish Council continues to press DCC on this matter, regularly flagging access and parking issues arising as a result of the TRO not having been implemented.

2. **Parking:** the Transport Committee continues to explore the possibilities of provision of additional visitor parking (and related funding options). In 2022-23 there have been ongoing discussions with DCC and with PDNPA about taking a broader, Hope-Valley wide, strategic approach to managing visitor parking. Cllrs have also regularly raised concerns about overnight parking of campervans both at iconic sites such as Stanage Edge, and in Peak Park car parks – asking how the various local authorities, the police and other stakeholders (PDNPA; the National Trust) can tackle this issue.

3. **Public transport:** In 2022 the government's National Bus Strategy required each Local Transport Authority (LTA) to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is working with partners e.g. PDNPA, and partners in the bus industry, to set out measures to reverse the long-term national decline in bus patronage. Although the Parish Council is not formally represented on the BSIP, one of our Cllrs regularly attends online meetings and provides reports and updates.
The Parish Council also met, in 2022, with the PDNPA Transport Officer, and discussed the conclusion of the three-year PDNPA Summer Explorer bus service initiative and potential next steps.
The Parish Council regularly met with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton and discussed concerns about local bus services including safety concerns, and the extent to which cyclists impede buses.
The Parish Council has met – and has regular communications with - Hope Valley Climate Action Group (HVCA) to discuss the HVCA Travelling Light initiative – and other HVCA initiatives which include public transport elements.

4. **Cycling:** in 2022 the Parish Council provided cycle parking facilities both at the Heart for Hathersage and at the swimming pool.

5. **Climate Action:** the Parish Council continues to welcome the positive work undertaken by the Hope Valley Climate Action Group (HVCA) in relation to transport (and some of the other HVCA climate-related activities) and continues to foster a working relationship with HVCA.

The Planning Committee

Current membership: Jane Marsden (Chair), Heather Rodgers, Tim Hill, Martin Bloor, Nick Williams, James Shuttleworth and James Marsden. The

Parish Council fulfils a vital role in local planning matters. Although decisions are made by the Peak District National Park Authority (Peak Park), the Parish Council is invited to consider and comment on planning applications affecting Hathersage.

A dedicated group of 7 Councillors are members of the Planning Committee and meet regularly in response to planning applications being submitted. During 2022/23, the Committee met six times, responded to 32 planning applications, and noted 25 planning decisions of the Peak Park.

The Human Resources (HR) Committee

Chaired by Cllr William Hanley, other members are: Cllrs Bridget Hanley, Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers and Stuart Turner. The committee is responsible for ensuring due process is followed in recruitment and management for all staff

(including swimming pool staff) employed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council employs a number of part-time staff - Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Village Caretaker. At the pool, the Council employs two full time managers and approximately 20 part-time lifeguard staff (lifeguard numbers vary, seasonally). The HR Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly but additional meetings are scheduled as and when necessary.

The Finance Committee

Current membership - Cllrs Jane Marsden (Chair), Heather Rodgers, Peter Rowland and James Shuttleworth. The Responsible Finance Officer, Chris Cave, attends all Finance Committee meetings. The Finance Committee's prime functions are to prepare a detailed income and expenditure budget on which the Council sets the annual precept. Actual income and expenditure is monitored by the full Council against this budget on a monthly basis.

The Council's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. Its financial transactions are audited by an Internal Auditor appointed by the Council and by an independently appointed External Auditor. Accounting Statements, the Annual Governance Statement and the External Auditor's Report are published in accordance with the legislative requirements. The Council's precept for 2022-23 - the amount collected through residents' rate bills - was £60,000. During 2022-23 the Council's expenditure has been within the budget on which the precept was based. The Council continues its policy of building up reserves to meet future large-scale expenditure such as the renewal of playing field equipment and resurfacing the MUGA - as to precept for the expenditure in full, in the year it was incurred, would result in a huge increase in the precept in that year. In budgeting for 2023-24, the Parish Council have managed to keep the precept at the 2022-23 rate of £60,000.

Website Working Group

Current membership - Cllrs William Hanley and Rosie Olle. The website – and the Parish Council Facebook page - is the place to go for information about the village. The Parish Council is exploring the provision of dedicated Cllr email addresses and a shared electronic file system.

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is run by a Management Committee which is separate from Hathersage Parish Council. The Parish Council acknowledges the work of the Memorial Hall Management Committee for their efficient running of the Hall.

Other 2022-23 events, considerations and discussions

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: the Parish Council supported representatives of village groups and societies with planning and coordination of events for the long weekend, Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

Affordable Housing: the Parish Council continues to liaise with the District Council and PDNPA about provision of affordable housing in and around the village.

Subsequent to the Jubilee celebrations, the Parish Council planted a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Tree (provided through of the Queen's Canopy Green Scheme) - on Sunday 5 March 2023, Councillor James Shuttleworth, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, planted a field maple tree in the playing fields.



2022-23 Staff changes: in August 2021 the Parish Council said goodbye to **Suzanne (Sue) Cass**, Assistant Clerk and, later in the year, welcomed **Kathryne Fraser** as the new Assistant Clerk.

Maura Sorensen (Clerk for Hathersage Parish Council).
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