

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the meeting of Hathersage Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 April 2023

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor; Sara Furness; B Hanley; W Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Peter Rowland; Heather Rodgers; Stuart Turner; Nick Williams

In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); Kathryne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien (part)

- 259/22 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllr James Shuttleworth; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; and from the police (a note of crimes recorded over the previous month had been shared).
- 260/22 Any variation in the order of business – HR re Little John's Grave donation request.
- 261/22 **Declaration of Members Interests:** Cllr Rodgers in relation to agenda item 7 (minute item 265/22) – the donation request for an interpretation panel for Little John's Grave.
- 262/22 **Public Participation.**
- a) 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.
- b) If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will be given the opportunity to raise any relevant matter.
- Police: noted** a report from the police on crimes recorded over the previous month – one instance of criminal damage; one instance of domestic violence; one theft; two assaults; one burglary.
- DDDC:** DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien referenced the recent resignation of the DDDC Council Leader. He also referenced discussions (within DDDC and with DCC) about the use of glyphosate weedkiller; noted a proposal for a limited reintroduction will be considered after the local elections. Cllr O'Brien still looking into numbers of social housing units in Hathersage and how many are subject to the Derbyshire clause or national park criteria.
- Hathersage Cllrs referenced the lack of coverage of large swathes of rural areas in the DDDC publication Dales Matters. Suggested it would be useful to know dales population data (suggested Peak Park Parishes Forum might be able to provide this information).
- There were no further questions for Cllr O'Brien – the Chair thanked him for his attendance – Cllr O'Brien left the meeting.*
- Affordable Housing:** the Chair referenced communication with Jeremy Mason (DDDC Rural Housing Enabler) and his request that, to clarify the position in relation to Parish Council support, the Parish Council pass a formal resolution confirming support for the principle of additional affordable housing in Hathersage. HPC had previously discussed the importance of more affordable housing in the village and had made representations to the PDNPA demonstrating this support. Cllrs therefore **unanimously agreed** to pass a resolution, proposed by the Chair, formally supporting more affordable housing in Hathersage.
- 263/22 **Confirmation of Minutes**
- Minutes of the HPC meeting of 7 March 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 264/22 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters; and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **PDNPA Management Plan (and extract for parish councils provided by the Peak Park Parishes Forum): received** and thanks **noted** to PPPF.
- .2 **DCC [consultation](#) on establishing 20mph limits in Buxton and Long Eaton as part of the Green Towns initiative:** no approach had been made by Buxton Town Council for comment or input; agreed no formal Parish Council response was necessary.
- .3 **DDDC – UK Shared Prosperity Funding (Community Resilience Fund): noted** information shared. Cllr W Hanley expressed concern about DDDC employing consultants to administrate the fund, suggesting it should be feasible for DDDC Officers to do so. Cllrs discussed potential local projects requiring funding, which would fit the criteria. Provision of a footbridge over the River Derwent (by

the stepping stones) was flagged but acknowledged the challenges of getting permission from stakeholders including the Environment Agency. Following further discussion, it was **agreed** to pursue funding for the pool heating project.

265/22

Donation request: from a local group (part of Hathersage Parish Church) to develop an interpretation panel for Little John's Grave (estimated project cost £1,500). Following discussion of the Parish Council budget for donation requests a donation of £250 was **agreed**.

266/22

Outseats public footpath 36: noted an incident where a pedestrian sustained an injury due to there being a historic stone arch, with 162cm/5'3" height clearance, over the footpath; the stone structure pre-dated the designation of the path as a public right of way. DCC did not feel there were sufficient grounds to spend public funds on attempting a removal but would consider installing "advance warning notices" at both ends of the footpath, but this could detract from the character of the local area. It was noted that the Parish Council has no legal responsibility for maintenance of footpaths nor for any pedestrian incidents or injuries and would not therefore undertake any remedial work to improve safety, such as lowering the path to increase height clearance. The Chair had spoken to the owners of the adjacent property about the recent accident. **Agreed** to formally write to the landowners with details of the pedestrian incident, the DCC response, and querying what measures they [the landowners] were considering, prior to HPC making representations to DCC regarding their proposal to install warning notices.

267/22

Financial Matters

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. Cllr W Hanley queried costs in relation to the pool hygiene contract; clarified costs referenced were annual, not monthly. Cllr Hanley also noted it had been agreed at SPC to purchase a lawnmower to cut grass around the pool; noted a Jumblies donation towards the costs. Clarified current arrangements for grass cutting at the pool.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 Accounts for payment totalling £32,265.93 including £1,285.05 VAT were **approved** for payment. In response to a Cllr query the RFO clarified the chlorine pump payment noting the payment for new parts were covered under warranty but the Parish Council had to meet the costs of the callout charges.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and approved signatories (Cllrs W Hanley and Nick Williams) from the agreed schedule for the May 2023 meeting, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the May 2023 meeting.
- .5 **VAT on leisure services - new procedures: received** a report. The RFO referenced ongoing queries around reclaiming VAT and addressed Cllr queries. He also noted advice shared at a DALC webinar. The RFO referenced the decision at the March meeting to contract with Ian Spencer and Associates to undertake a review of VAT procedures on behalf of the Parish Council. However, the RFO expressed concern about the lack of a timely response from Ian Spencer. He suggested, to move forward quickly on this matter, appointing the other contractor (BHP) who had provided a quote; noted BHP had previously provided a satisfactory service. The Council **agreed** with this proposal.

Committees and Working Groups

268/22

Swimming Pool Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2023. Cllr Turner, SPC Chair, expanded. Confirmed the pool boilers were now in full working order. Noted publication of the 2023-2028 Pool Business Improvement and Renewal Plan (*electronic copies to be shared with all Cllrs*); suggested consideration be given to project management of elements of the plan. Noted ongoing investigation of electronic booking systems. Noted ongoing work on the pool heating project; and related monitoring of weather monitoring data.

Also noted a positive recent meeting with pool supervising staff.

Cllr W Hanley referenced an online meeting of the Future Lidos Group (pool staff also attended) – noted it was a useful networking/information-sharing opportunity.

Cllrs reflected on the extent to which the pool had 'grown' in recent years and the attendant demands on the Parish Council. The Chair noted thanks to all SPC members for all their work and support for the pool.

- .1 **Winter season ticketholders refund: noted** refund requests received and **considered** an appropriate refund offer. Cllr W Hanley suggested a flat rate refund. A couple of amounts were proposed and it was **unanimously agreed** to offer a £50 rebate to all who had submitted a refund request by the stated deadline. Further agreed to ask users to share their bank details (*by the end of April*) so refunds could be paid by BACS. Cllrs suggested a claim could then be made to the boiler provider, Vaillant, to recover the cost of refunds paid to users. Noted there was a strong likelihood a claim to Vaillant would not be successful due to the contract terms and it was noted that the RFO is pursuing a claim with the insurance company for loss of income.
- 269/22 **Recreation Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2023. Noted installation of new playing field equipment through the week. Further noted the equipment would not be available/open in time for the Easter weekend (noted the need for removal of the old bark, laying of new bark, and a post-installation inspection of the equipment). Suggested appropriate signage needs to be posted informing residents and their children that the equipment is not yet open/available. Noted the RFO needs to be informed when the new equipment is formally handed over; equipment to be added to Council insurance cover.
- Cllr Furness referenced the footpath from Oddfellows car park to the Methodist Drive and the proposal to do some planting for Coronation Monday as a volunteering activity. Also referenced ongoing maintenance noting the Parish Council could not necessarily commit to ongoing maintenance however it was suggested it might be added to the Redwood Landscapes contract.
- 270/22 **Amenities Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2023. **Agreed** the quote for levelling the area under the grit bin at Church Bank. Referenced defibrillator and bleed kit training – agreed that the Parish Council will organise.
- .1 **Provision of a permanent flagpole at the Heart of Hathersage: noted** discussions with Hathersage British Legion. The Chair expanded and referenced two potential sites - in the flowerbed in front of the rear wall between the two curved wooden seats; or fixed to the face of the stone upright (gate stoop) between the square and the Parish Rooms. Noted a quote in the region of £500 for provision of a fibreglass flagpole. Noted it was hoped the flagpole could be in place in time for the King's Coronation however it was also noted advice was to be sought from PDNPA on whether planning permission was necessary; should that be the case it was unlikely the matter could be resolved prior to the Coronation. Cllrs took a vote on the preferred site for a permanent flagpole:
- Between the curved seats – supported by five Cllrs.
 - Fixed to the face of the stone upright (gate stoop) between the square and the Parish Rooms (where the bin is currently sited) – supported by five Cllrs.
- Also noted advice from the flagpole companies may determine the location.
- 271/22 **Burial Ground Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2023.
- 272/22 **Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2023.
- 273/22 **Transport Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 28 March 2023. Cllr Olle, Transport Committee Chair, expanded. Also flagged – a meeting on Wednesday 5 April at the Memorial Hall on the Hope Valley Rail Capacity Scheme, facilitated by Network Rail.
- 274/22 **HR Committee:** no further meeting had been held since 14 February 2023; noted the next scheduled meeting was 25 April 2023.
- .1 **Clerk hours and home working allowance: agreed** the date – 1 April 2023 - from which the Clerk is to be paid for additional hours (moving from 18.5 to 21 hours per week) and that the Clerk would now be on .57 of an FTE contract; and **approved** a related, proportionate increase in the Clerk's home working allowance.
- 275/22 **Website/IT:** any **updates** – there was no update.
- 276/22 **Clerk's Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the March 2023 meeting.
- 277/22 **Village Matters**
- .1 **King's Coronation event planning:** the Chair expanded. Flagged the need for support with some events e.g. setting up tables for bingo; and that a dance band was still being sought *Cllr Olle to make enquiries.*

- 278/22 **Memorial Hall:** Cllr Rodgers shared an update from the recent Memorial Hall Management Committee AGM. Noted a new Chair, and additional committee members, were being sought. Cllr Rodgers referenced premises plans – renovations - and seeking related grant funding.
- 279/22 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the March 2023 meeting (*noted under Clerk's Correspondence*).
- 280/22 **Date and time of next meeting – 9 May 2023, St Michael's School.** Noted this will be the first meeting after the local elections. The Chair noted that some Cllrs had not submitted nominations for a further term of office. She notes thanks to all Cllrs who had served over the last term.
- 281/22 No specific items were flagged for the May agenda.

Meeting closed at 21:30pm; a meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.

Signed:

Date: