

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the 2023-24 Annual Full Hathersage Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 May 2023

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor; B Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Peter Rowland; Heather Rodgers, James Shuttleworth

In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); Kathryne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); PCSO Anthony Boswell (*part*); PC Shaun Jakins (*part*); member of the public Cheryl Harman (*part*); DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien (*part*); DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton (*part*)

- 001/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllr W Hanley; and from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton.
- 002/23 **Election results 2023:** noted the 4 May 2023 election results for the Parish of Hathersage.
- 003/23 **Election of the Chair:** Cllr Jane Marsden was nominated by Cllr James Shuttleworth; seconded by Cllr Tim Hill and **unanimously elected**.
- 004/23 **Election of the Vice-Chair:** Cllr Heather Rodgers was nominated by Cllr Tim Hill; seconded by Cllr James Shuttleworth and **unanimously elected**.
- 005/23 **Parish Council members declarations**
- .1 **Declarations of Acceptance of Office for Councillors' signature** – Cllrs **signed** declarations of acceptance of office.
 - .2 **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for Councillors' signature** - Cllrs **signed** declarations of disposable pecuniary interest.
 - .3 **Hathersage Parish Council Code of Conduct:** Councillors had read **and agreed to abide by** the Code of Conduct.
- 006/23 **Co-option of Councillors:** Cllrs considered next steps in line with guidance and specified timescales. The Assistant Clerk had researched calls for co-opted Cllrs made by other parish councils **Assistant Clerk to draft and share text calling for expressions of interest in HPC vacancies, for co-opted Cllrs**. Consideration be given to other measures e.g. holding a surgery for potential applicants/candidates.
- 007/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 008/23 **Declaration of Members Interests:** the Chair referenced reimbursement for petrol (HPC business); Cllrs Marsden referenced reimbursement for items purchased for the Parish Council.
- 009/23 **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.
Member of the public Cheryl Harman flagged the very poor condition of the foot access area, including potential trip hazards, approaching the Pharmacy. Cllrs referenced previous discussions re ownership/responsibility for maintenance and repairs. Noted DCC was not responsible and that it was private land for which the premises (the Pharmacy) owner was responsible. Noted the owner lived overseas but a Hathersage resident had contact details. **Agreed** to write to the owner and to include photos of the current poor state of the road.
Cheryl Harman left the meeting.
 - b) If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will have an opportunity to raise any relevant matter.
Police: PCSO Anthony Boswell and Shaun Jakins were in attendance; PC Jakins introduced himself noting he had taken over from the recently retired PC Linda Hancock. PCSO Boswell reported on crimes recorded over the past month (1 x vehicle crime; 1 x theft; 1 x attempted theft; 1 x shop theft; 1 x business burglary).
Cllrs referenced long-term and ongoing concerns about parking in and around the village including at Stanage Edge. PC Jakins noted parking enforcement was the responsibility of DCC. Cllrs also flagged ongoing concerns about speeding cyclists. PC Jakins noted there was no legislation covering speeding on bicycles; he referenced relevant legislation/offences relating to carelessness and

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recklessness. In response to Cllr queries about support for a cycling safety campaign – should the Parish Council choose to launch a campaign – PC Jakins confirmed support.

Cllrs further flagged concerns about motorbikes on bridleways; PC Jakins suggested approaching DCC Highways about provision of/posting ‘no motorbikes’ signs.

Cllrs referenced decaying vegetation on Hurstclough Lane causing vehicles to get stuck; noted this needed to be followed up with DCC Highways.

Cllrs also referenced provision of ANPR cameras in outlying lanes/roads ***PCSO Boswell suggested the Clerk email him and he would flag this with the Officer leading on this initiative.***

Cllrs asked if the police could notify the Parish Council of any burglaries in the village as quickly as possible to enable the Parish Council, and residents, to offer relevant information/support in a timely manner.

Cllrs thanked PCSO Boswell and PC Jakins for their attendance; PCSO Boswell and PC Jakins left the meeting.

DDDC: Cllrs Peter O’Brien and Simon Ripton were in attendance; new to DDDC, Cllr Ripton introduced himself noting he looked forward to working with HPC.

Cllr O’Brien referenced a recent positive meeting with PDNPA representatives, on affordable housing. The Chair noted she had also had some positive messages from PDNPA re affordable housing.

Cllr O’Brien referenced ‘pathfinder’ signage in verges relating to a DCC eco/rewilding initiative endorsed by DDDC. Acknowledged a recent increase in proliferation of the signage reflecting an increase in the number of verges uncut or cut far less frequently. Cllrs noted some negative impacts including looking untidy; and impacting drive sightlines. Cllrs flagged other areas frequently cut which could possibly do with less mowing. Cllrs noted no concerns or references to pathfinder signage had been raised by residents.

Cllr O’Brien referenced a parking concern raised by Hathersage residents where a car had been left in a 40 minutes parking bay for nearly two days without any action being taken.

010/23

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the HPC meeting of 4 April 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.

011/23

PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters; and related reports from community groups

- .1 **PDNPA: received** a report on a meeting with the PDNPA Chair, Chief Executive and Head of Planning about the pool heating project. The Chair and Cllr Hill expanded on the positive messages from PDNPA.
- .2 **Dales Area Parish Members Ballot:** noted this was not an agenda item but consideration needed to be given if any nomination was to be made by 24 May *agreed to consider this at the end of the meeting.*

012/23

Financial Matters:

- .1 **Received** the RFO’s Report. Noted refunds to pool season ticket holders in relation to the pool boiler breakdown/low water temperatures.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 Accounts for payment totalling £68,699.11 including £5,171.88 VAT were **approved** for payment.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and approved signatories (Cllrs T Hill and P Rowland) from the agreed schedule for the June 2023 meeting, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the June 2023 meeting.
- .5 **Parish Council Cash Deposits** – referencing low interest rates on the Hampshire Trust Bank account it was **agreed** to close the Hampshire account (RFO to give the requisite notice) and invest the funds elsewhere – RFO to look at alternatives and share details with Cllrs – decision to be taken at the June meeting. Noted the challenges for parish councils in finding banks/building societies to open/take their accounts.
- .6 **VAT update - noted** (details provided in the RFO’s report). The RFO expanded noting some further clarity was needed. Suggested, when next setting pool ticket prices, account be taken of VAT

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savings. Noted VAT savings related only to provision of leisure services to the public and did not relate to private hire or delivering swimming lessons to schools (pupils).

- .7 **Invoice for electrical work at the pool cafe: agreed** to seek advice from the Parish Council's current solicitors on the extent of responsibility/liability for the Parish Council, and the tenant, in meeting costs for electrical work undertaken.
- .8 **2022-23 Annual Governance Statement: considered and approved unanimously.**
- .9 **2022-23 Accounting Statements: considered and approved unanimously.**
- .10 **Internal Auditor: agreed** to appoint East Midlands Audit Services Ltd as Internal Auditor for 2023-24.
- .11 **Approved** removal of Cllrs Sara Furness and Stuart Turner from the bank mandate.

Committees and Working Groups

013/23

Reviewed and agreed membership of all Parish Council committees and working groups, as follows:

- .1 **Finance Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, Peter Rowland, James Shuttleworth.
- .2 **Human Resources Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, B Hanley, W Hanley.
- .3 **Planning Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, Marin Bloor, Tim Hill, James Marsden, Rosie Olle, James Shuttleworth (substitute member).
- .4 **Joint Recreation, Amenities and Burial Ground Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, B Hanley, Tim Hill, James Marsden, Rosie Olle, Peter Rowland.
- .5 **Swimming Pool Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, B Hanley, W Hanley, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle.
- .6 **Transport Committee:** Cllrs Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers, W Hanley, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle, James Shuttleworth.
- .7 **Website Working Group:** B Hanley, W Hanley, Rosie Olle.

Committee minutes (where committees have met since the April full Parish Council meeting)

014/23

Swimming Pool Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2023. Cllrs had raised queries about two separate plumbing jobs undertaken by Percival - addressed. Flagged ongoing issues with both indoors and outdoors showers not working; noted ongoing discussions with Percival plumbers including addressing the need for additional shower water capacity. Cllr Hill referenced anticipation of receipt of a draft final heating project report from Leisure Energy. Referenced the forthcoming Historic Pools event hosted by the pool at which Cllr B Hanley was going to deliver a presentation on the history of the pool.

- .1 **New Pool Electricity Contract** - to **consider** options and **agree** a new contract. A report had been shared outlining one, two and three-year contract options. Acknowledged uncertainties over whether energy prices will go up, down or remain relatively static; acknowledged related risks in opting for a three-year contract. The RFO confirmed the contract ends on 9 August but notice needs to be given earlier. **Agreed to defer making a decision on a new electricity contract to the June HPC meeting.**
- .2 **Contract for repainting** - to **consider** quotes and a recommendation. Noted two contractors had quoted. The second contractor had since addressed queries about the paint to be used and provision of a guarantee however it was flagged that there were still outstanding queries over the terms of the guarantee and on whether a scaffolding tower or platform should be used (rather than ladders); referenced the Parish Council liability should there be an accident or mishap. Agreed these queries needed to be addressed before a final decision can be made on awarding the contract *Cllr Hill to discuss with pool management, with a view to pool management liaising further with the contractor.*

015/23

Recreation Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2023.

- .1 **New play equipment installation:** noted installation had been fully completed in time for the Coronation weekend. Cllrs thanked the Chair and Cllrs B Hanley and Rodgers for all their work in researching and consulting on the new play equipment and on installation and addressing snagging issues. Noted final payment to Playdale had been held back pending snagging issues being addressed; **agreed** payment (approx. £30K) could be made before the June HPC meeting. Also **agreed** payment to Champion Hire could be made before the June HPC meeting in respect of plant hire relating to the installation of the play equipment.

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Referencing donations towards play equipment from the Hathersage Playing Field Association (HPFA), which included National Lottery funding secured by HPFA, queried whether the funding needed to be formally acknowledged in signage etc *Cllr B Hanley to check.*

Noted the swings and slides need repainting; **agreed to seek quotes from contractors** (*item for the May RABG agenda*).

- 016/23 **Amenities Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2023. Noted the Gardener approached about taking on maintenance of the garden area by the pool, and planting at the Heart of Hathersage, was no longer in a position to take this work on. **Agreed** to ask Redwood Landscapes if they would be willing to take this on.
- 017/23 Cllr Rodgers referenced the playing field gate needing rehangng (*item for the May RABG agenda*).
- 017/23 **Burial Ground Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2023.
- 018/23 **HR Committee: received confidential** minutes of the meeting of 25 April 2023.
- 019/23 **Website/IT:** the Clerk referenced setting up dedicated Cllr email addresses as soon as possible.
- 020/23 **Footpaths Report: received** the most recent report. Cllrs referenced problems with the Shuttleworth Memorial Path, and with broken fencing *Cllr B Hanley to take photographs.*
- 021/23 **Clerk's Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the April 2023 meeting.
- 022/23 **Village Matters**
- .1 **Coronation Celebrations** – the Chair provided an oral report on a well-organised and run series of weekend events including a successful fireworks display. *Cllr Rodgers to draft a piece for Hathersage News including thanks to individuals who had contributed to organising/events.*
- 023/23 **Memorial Hall:** Cllr Rodgers referenced a recent meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Noted a permanent Chair had not yet been appointed however a new Treasurer had been appointed.
- 024/23 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the April 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk's Correspondence*).
- 025/23 **Date and time of next meeting – 6 June 2023, St Michael's School.**
Items for the June meeting: noted a number of items which the newly formed Council should review – the Parish Council's Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; Policies; Asset Register. Acknowledged it would be onerous to undertake a review of all of all of these in a single meeting and **agreed** to take and review one item at each meeting over the coming months with the Standing Orders to be reviewed at the June HPC.
- 026/23 **Dates and times of 2023-24 meetings:** July meeting dates to be moved forward a week to accommodate Gala. SPC - queried whether to continue with a 7pm start time or move to 7.30pm; *Clerk to liaise with pool management.*
- 027/23 **Dales Area Parish Members Ballot** (referenced at minute number 011/23.2): Cllr Shuttleworth expressed interest in the nomination/standing. Noted Cllr W Hanley may also be interested. **Agreed to add this item to the 16 May SPC agenda, to confirm a nomination.**

Meeting ended at 21.35pm. A meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.