

## 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 11 July 2023, 7.30pm

**Councillors present:** Jane Marsden (Chair), Alex Campbell; B Hanley; W Hanley; Tim Hill; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

**In attendance:** Chris Cave (RFO); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton (*part*)

- 023/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Martin Bloor, James Marsden and Peter Rowland; from Assistant Clerk Kathryne Fraser; DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien; DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; from the police (a report was provided); and from Matthew Ramsden (co-opted Cllr).
- 024/23 **Co-option of new Councillors:** co-option of new Councillors – Alex Campbell, Nick Williams, Anne Yule - as approved at the June Parish Council meeting was **formally confirmed**. Noted apologies from Matthew Ramsden; Mr Ramsden's co-option to be confirmed at the August meeting (once the relevant signed forms have been provided). New Councillors attending provided signed copies of their acceptance of office and declarations of business or pecuniary interests.
- 025/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 026/23 **Declaration of Members Interests:** in relation to agenda item 8.5 (minute item 030/23.5), DDDC Cllr Ripton declared an interest noting a family member was an HVCA trustee. For the benefit of the new Cllrs the Chair expanded on instances where Cllrs need to declare an interest.
- 027/23 **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.
- 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:** noted crimes reported between 6 June and 10 July – one instance of assault; one instance of harassment; one instance of criminal damage. Also noted the police response to concerns related to cycling, and safety, raised at the June HPC meeting.
- DDDC - DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton shared updates:**
- Liaison with other parish councils – referencing Stony Middleton, Cllr Ripton noted ongoing highways issues and the parish council's plans to arrange public event with DCC Highways representatives in attendance; suggested HPC may want to consider something similar.
  - Derbyshire Law – Cllr Ripton had recently met with them – he expanded on their offer of free or low cost legal advice particularly to individuals on lower incomes.
  - Manchester Airport Future Airspace Project – phase 3 – there will be public consultation – Cllr Ripton will share the link.
  - Funding resources – Cllr Ripton had shared a list.
  - Reference made to DDDC development work.
  - Affordable housing – Cllr Ripton referenced a meeting with Officers – Cllrs Ripton and O'Brien have asked for formal progress milestones to be set.
  - Referenced the DCC Highways response to the Hathersage crossing proposal.

The Chair commented that, over the years, parish council liaison with Highways has not always been entirely positive.

Cllr Shuttleworth commented on speed reduction measures including previous discussions of proposals for a 20mph limit. Cllr Yule referenced 20mph restrictions successfully implemented in other areas. Cllrs noted the benefits of 20mph limits in side streets. Acknowledged, at busy times, traffic moved through the village at around 20mph or less but noted vehicles travelling at much higher speeds at other times. Cllr Campbell flagged that lack of enforcement meant drivers don't adhere to speed limits and noted very few drivers observing the 30mph limit at Millstone. Cllrs

Signed:

Date:

acknowledged the costs of implementing new speed reduction schemes.

Cllr Shuttleworth commented on the inadequate response from Highways, and the police, to concerns raised about speeding cyclists.

028/23

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the HPC meeting of 6 June 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.

029/23

### **DCC Highways**

- .1 **Proposal for a new crossing: noted** the DCC Highways response. In relation to reasons why the proposal won't be progressed, Cllrs commented on the metrics used including numbers of accidents recorded, querying whether all accidents *are* recorded. Example shared where an individual reported they had been involved in an accident but it had not been formally recorded as such. Suggested, if near misses were also recorded, the figures would be significantly higher. Cllr W Hanley also suggested the response did not take account of the impact on residents' quality of life. Cllr Rodgers noted ongoing concerns about safety at the site noting that, even if a crossing was introduced, compromised sight lines on/around the corner presented risk. Cllr Yule suggested other speed reduction measures e.g. a large banner on the corner. Noted it would need DCC permission (on DCC land). Cllr Campbell queried whether there were alternative measures short of SIDS signage. or a banner.

Cllr W Hanley referenced previous discussions on provision of speed indicator devices (SIDS). Noted the Transport Committee had considered a SIDS funding offer however the administrative process was complex and true costs somewhat opaque. Cllr Hill referenced SIDS in other areas - he had made enquiries – councils had noted the administrative process around installation had not been arduous. Cllrs commented on sites in and around the village where SIDS could be of significant benefit e.g. Castleton Road; Crossland Road. Reference made to the pre-Covid use of a moveable SIDS.

Cllr W Hanley suggested the Parish Council consider purchasing SIDS. The Chair acknowledged residents' ongoing concerns about road safety on the basis of which HPC could justify the expenditure.

***Agreed to discuss road safety measures, including SIDS, with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton.***

030/23

- .2 **Keep clear road marking proposals: noted** the DCC Highways response.
- PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **PDNPA Parish Members Election: noted** the ballot outcome including the election of Cllr W Hanley.
- .2 **PDNPA Parishes Day, Saturday 7 October: agreed** Parish Council representation – Chair and Clerk. ***Clerk to book places.***
- .3 **DDDC – invitation to join a Corporate Plan Focus Group: considered** representation – Cllrs to consider participation.
- .4 **Affordable Housing in Hathersage: noted** DDDC Officers were leading on convening a further meeting with Cllrs, also including PDNPA representatives. Cllrs expressed dissatisfaction at the length of time taken to arrange a meeting. Suggested HPC lead on this and propose a meeting date; agreed to look to schedule a meeting in the first or last week of August. ***Clerk to formally note, with DDDC and PDNPA Officers, dissatisfaction with the delay in convening a meeting; and seek agreement on a date/time for an August meeting.***
- Cllr Shuttleworth noted the matter was of significant public interest and suggested details be shared publicly at the earliest opportunity.
- Cllrs flagged the need to address the issue of provision of social housing, separate from but alongside affordable housing.
- .5 **Hope Valley Climate Action: considered** a request to use the Heart of Hathersage (HoH) on Sunday 8 October for an event to promote energy efficiency. Cllrs commended the initiative. Flagged the need to be clear on where the van can be parked to ensure HoH flagstones aren't damaged. Cllr W Hanley expressed concerns about making a parking exception. Cllr Rodgers suggested the use of bollards to prevent parking on HoH; noted they may present a trip hazard. Cllrs **agreed** the HVCA request. ***Clerk to liaise with HVCA, clarifying parking restrictions.***

- 031/23 .6 **North Lees Open Day, Sunday 10 September: noted.**  
**Parish Council Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; Policies; Asset Register**
- .1 **Standing Orders review:** RFO flagged that a previous decision that Cllrs should not authorise bank payments over £5k without the RFO providing evidence of the payee's bank details was not referenced. **Clerk to amend the SOs accordingly; amended version to be considered for approval at August HPC.**
- .2 **Agreed** to convene a working group – the Chair, Cllrs Hill, Rodgers and the Clerk - to review the Parish Council financial regulations, policies and asset register and to make any recommendations for changes to full Council.
- 032/23 **Fire Safety Review (risk assessments):** RFO expanded on insurer queries, referencing a lack of fire risk assessment for HoH, and the Parish Rooms. He referenced links to online guidance and resources including 'know your fire safety law' and related risk assessment templates. RFO advised measures need to be in place by the end of July before he responds further to the insurer.  
**Parish Rooms** - agreed to ask the veterinary practice to share their fire risk measures **Clerk to liaise.**  
**HoH** - agreed to purchase a dry powder fire extinguisher for HoH and adhere to the regular inspection and servicing regime **Clerk to action. Cllr B Hanley to draft an HoH fire risk assessment.**  
**Pool café** – agreed to ask the café tenants for a copy of their fire risk assessment **Clerk to action.**
- 033/23 **Financial Matters:**
- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. Leisure services and VAT reclaim – RFO noted conflicting advice with HMRC clarification awaited. RFO confirmed he had submitted VAT claims dating back four years – outcomes awaited. Noted the ongoing benefits of changes to VAT leisure rules.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 Accounts for payment totalling £76,737.80 including £6,810.12 VAT were **approved** for payment. Cllr Hill referenced the Leisure Energy payment of £19,500 (excl VAT) flagging that £10K had been budgeted; acknowledged the amount budgeted had been increased and the budget should have been updated to reflect that.
- .4 **Agreed** to add newly co-opted Councillors to the Unity Trust Bank mandate. Mathew Ramsden to be added once he has submitted his signed declaration forms and been formally co-opted.
- .5 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs William Hanley and James Marsden) for the August 2023 meeting, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the August 2023 meeting.
- .5 **Parish Council Cash Deposits:** investment of funds withdrawn from the Hampshire Trust Bank account - the RFO reiterated challenges in finding banks to take parish council accounts. Queried in which of the HPC accounts the monies could be deposited. RFO to investigate interest rates on HPC accounts and advise further at the August HPC. RFO to seek advice from DALC on other account providers for parish councils.
- .7 **Recharging tenants for electrical work undertaken at the pool cafe: noted** there has been no response from the café tenants or their solicitor querying their responsibilities for meeting costs. **Agreed** to submit charges to the café tenants.
- Committees and Working Groups:** to **receive** minutes; **consider** recommendations; **note** actions.  
**Newly co-opted Cllrs confirmed committee membership:** Cllr Campbell to join SPC and the Human Resources Committee (HRC); Cllr Yule to join the Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee; Cllr Williams to join the Planning Committee and Transport Committee.
- 034/23 **Swimming Pool Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2023. SPC Cllr W Hanley expanded on meeting discussions. The RFO noted the solstice swim had been less profitable than previous solstice swims. Noted factors - Cllrs highlighted the need for better planning and more advance publicity for future events.
- .1 **SPC terms of reference:** the Clerk flagged the minor changes recommended – **approved** – Clerk to circulate the ToR to Cllrs.
- .2 **Pool Electronic Entry System: approved** the SPC recommendation to contract with Club Manager for provision of an electronic entry system.

- .3 **Pool heating project**
- **received** a verbal report on the meeting with Leisure Energy on Wednesday 14 June; Cllrs noted their overall disappointment with Leisure Energy.
  - **approved** payment of the invoice for Leisure Energy services to date.
  - **noted** the Council had not been successful in applying for funding through the government Low Carbon Skills Fund.
- 035/23 **Recreation Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 20 June 2023.
- .1 **New committee** (Recreation, Amenities and Burial Ground) **structure and name**: the new committee name – Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee – was **approved**. The Chair flagged a reference within the new terms of reference to statues – noted this was redundant – subject to removal of this reference the terms of reference were **agreed**.
- .2 **New play equipment installation and ongoing issues**: the Chair expanded on the issues which had arisen with the installation and confirmed a meeting of a sub-group of Cllrs had been convened to agree next steps and a response to Playdale.
- 036/23 **Amenities Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 20 June 2023.
- .1 **Revised painting quote - toilet doors and Parish Rooms** (external woodwork): **approved**.
- .2 **Memorial Bench Policy**: **noted** approval (at the May committee meeting).
- .3 **Shuttleworth path and fencing**: referenced work needed to fencing by the Shuttleworth path leading up to the churchyard and work needed to the path itself. Noted funding was being sought. There may be an approach to HPC for some top-up funding.
- .4 The Chair referenced DDDC trialling of Big Belly Bins in villages including in Hathersage, at HoH.
- 037/23 **Burial Ground Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 20 June 2023.
- .1 **Burial Ground Rules**: **noted** that, following amendments to the Burial Ground Rules approved by the Council in February, the committee **approved** amendments to the rules governing the ashes section of the burial ground at the May committee meeting.
- 038/23 **CONFIDENTIAL Human Resources Committee (HRC): received** minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2023. HRC Chair Cllr W Hanley expanded on business discussed and actions arising.
- .1 **Assistant Clerk's hours and pay**: it was **agreed** to increase the Assistant Clerk's hours to 11.5 per week (0.31 FTE) and to increase her salary to point 10 on the LC1 substantive range with effect from 1 April 2023 with a corresponding increase in the home working allowance.
- .2 **Clerk grade and pay**: it was **agreed**, with effect from 1 August 2023, the Clerk's salary would be .57 of scale SCP27 (LC2 substantive range).
- .3 **Clerk training**: the Clerk sought approval of costs (£1K plus VAT) of a two-day HR training facilitated by Bhayani (contracted to provide HR advice and guidance to HPC). The Clerk noted training outcomes including resources could be cascaded e.g. shared with pool management. Cllrs declined the request suggesting it was unnecessary as Bhayani were already being paid to provide HR advice and guidance. The Clerk will share details of the Bhayani training provision. For the benefit of the new Cllrs, details of the HPC contract with Bhayani were shared.
- 039/23 **Planning Committee**: no further meeting of the committee had been held since 23 May; next scheduled meeting 17 July 2023.
- 040/23 **Transport Committee**: no further meeting of the committee had been held since 30 May; next scheduled meeting 22 August 2023.
- 041/23 **Website/IT/CCTV**
- .1 **Dedicated Councillor email addresses**: to **consider** costed options. For the benefits of new Cllrs an explanation was shared of the background to this issue including investigating provision of an hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk email address for all Cllrs. It was **unanimously agreed** to go with the Fasthosts 5GB mailbox offer at a cost of £3.25pcm (plus VAT), per user. However, the Clerk flagged that, currently, all Fasthosts payments (and payments to other providers e.g. Microsoft, Zoom, HP printing) have to be associated with a debit or credit card. Currently these payments go directly from the Clerk's personal bank account (and the Clerk reclaims the costs from the Parish Council). Agreed this is unacceptable. Noted the RFO will bring a proposal to August HPC on securing a Parish

Council debit or credit card from which these regular deductions can be made. Agreed to hold fire on pursuing setting up Cllr email addresses until the matter of payment is resolved.

- 042/23 .2 **CCTV review working group:** meeting date/time **Clerk to liaise with members.**
- 043/23 **Clerk's Report/Correspondence:** noted updates/items shared since the June 2023 meeting.  
**Village Matters**
- 044/23 .1 **Litter Pick:** noted a recent letter from MP Sarah Dines about supporting community litter picks.  
.2 **Cycle path and footpath between Hathersage and Bamford:** noted DDC Cllr Peter O'Brien's update on his representations in relation to ongoing issues with maintenance. Cllrs noted the problematic areas are in High Peak and are the responsibility of High Peak Borough Council. **Clerk to inform Cllr O'Brien.** Suggested HPC continue to flag concerns with DCC Highways. **Clerk to action.**
- 045/23 **Memorial Hall:** no minutes from recent meetings of the management committee had been provided. Noted applications for grant funding for toilet refurbishment.
- 046/23 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the June 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk's Correspondence*).  
**Date and time of next meeting – 1 August 2023, St Michael's School.**

*The Clerk left the meeting for discussion of item 038/23.2; the discussion was minuted by the RFO. The meeting closed at 10:00pm. A meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.*