

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 13 June 2023, 7.30 pm MINUTES

Present Councillors W Hanley (Chair), B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers

In Attendance George Foy, Pool Operations Manager (POM); Maura Sorensen, Clerk to the Parish Council; Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM)

018/23 Apologies for absence – none.

019/23 **Election of a Vice Chair:** Cllr W Hanley nominated Heather Rodgers, seconded by Cllr Hill and **unanimously agreed.**

020/23 Review of the committee's terms of reference: some minor changes were agreed for recommendation to full Council in July.

021/23 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.

022/23 Declaration of interests – George Foy and Mike Wellington (pool staff members).

023/23 **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 – no members of the public were in attendance.

024/23 **CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING MATTER:** as this item references a named individual it is minuted separately.

025/23 **Minutes of the 16 May 2023 meeting** were **confirmed** and actions arising (*referenced in the Action Log*) from the minutes **noted.**

026/23 **Pool Manager's Report**

- .1 **Operations and maintenance** (*specific operational and maintenance actions and updates also referenced in the Action Log*) **including:**
 - **Showers – noted** new tanks and pumps were to be installed by the end of the week; noted three of the indoor showers were currently operational.
 - **Painting contract – agreed** the additional costs for scaffolding - c£890.00 + VAT – ***ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the contractor.***
 - **Pool edge tiling – confirmed** the work had been completed earlier in the day including replacement of a couple of chipped tiles elsewhere. No definitive cause of the issues with the old tiles breaking/coming loose had been identified however it was suggested they had not been fitted properly in the first instance. Cllrs noted thanks to staff who had been cleaning the pool, including the drainage channels, in very hot weather.

Flagged that tiling in some of the showers was slippery, underfoot – mats to be put down – pool management noted those tiles were *not* coming unstuck.
 - **Etiquette signage – LSM** to share proposed signage with Cllrs, for approval, before posting signage at the pool.
 - **Pool user data – noted** robust data on pool usage; queried whether more accurate data could be provided on income from private hire.
- .2 **Staffing – lifeguard hours; monthly planning; training; recruitment.** LSM referenced lifeguard training renewals/certification.
- .3 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing.** Noted night swims had sold out. Cllr B Hanley referenced comments at the recent meeting with pool staff. Staff had noted that, previously, Hathersage Pool had been innovative around new initiatives and events – with other pools following the Hathersage example. She suggested pool management to give some thought to planning future pool events. The LSM referenced consideration of reintroducing the 24-

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hour swim event. Noted a date TBC, dependent in part on staff availability.

The Chair referenced swimming club sessions and sessions less likely to be used over the school summer holidays. Suggested using the earlier part of the club slot to offer free sessions to Hathersage parents/carers/children and club members. Noted the 'rookie lifeguard' sessions would continue. Agreed that swim club should lead on 'publicising' the free session e.g. via the primary school. Emphasised that normal pool rules would apply including in relation to the ratio of adults to children, in the pool. Swim club to help monitor to ensure only those eligible have access (*noted some children in swim club come from nearby villages*). **ACTION: Chair and LSM to liaise with swim club leaders.**

- .4 **Solarium and bandstand condition report: update** from the working group. Following receipt of the Nashmead report Cllrs Hill and Rodgers had undertaken an inspection on 12 June (report had been circulated). They had found additional items/concerns, flagged with Nashmead; Cllr Hill expanded on the details. A further meeting with Nashmead had been arranged. Reference was made to seeking some further professional advice/input. Noted next steps – to compile a list of related works identifying what could be undertaken by staff and works that need to go to tender. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with pool management to identify list of works and works to be addressed by pool staff or by external contractors.**

027/23 **Pool electronic entry system:** a report was **received**. The POM summarised the report referencing the five contractors approached and his recommendation that Club Manager was the contractor which most closely met our remit. He expanded on the Club Manager offer including provision of training. Suggested, once the Council agreed a recommendation, lead time for installation of a system would be relatively quick. Referenced pool staff concerns expressed at a recent meeting about the impact of an electronic entry system on staff/pool user engagement; affirmed this should not be the case. Queried the approach to replacing cards lost by pool users; suggested one free replacement with a charge being made for any subsequent replacements. **ACTION: the committee recommended contracting with Club Manager for provision of a pool electronic entry system – for consideration/approval at July HPC.** Thanks noted the POM for his work on this initiative.

028/23 **Engagement with other pool and leisure organisations and services**

- .1 **Historic Pools of Britain:** a report on the recent event hosted by Hathersage Swimming Pool had been circulated.
- .2 **Future Lidos Project (FLP): received a paper** and a verbal update on a recent meeting. Noted FLP were looking to Hathersage Swimming Pool as a 'case study' and that FLP were seeking to liaise with some Hathersage pool users (small fee to be paid) re their experiences. **ACTION: Chair to discuss liaison with pool users, with pool management.**

029/23 **Meeting with pool staff – noted** outcomes of the 7 June meeting. The Chair flagged some of the main issues raised/discussed including:

- **Lane swimming** and raising maximum numbers of lane swimmers from 12-15. Staff had flagged concerns about users having a poorer quality experience and about user safety and user behaviour. **ACTION: consult on this with the pool user group.**
- **Free flow evening sessions.** Pool staff had suggested the free flow approach 'was not working well', suggesting reverting to pre-booking these sessions. Staff also flagging the disparity in numbers swimming in the first hour and second hour. Pool managers disagreed noting the free flow sessions gave non-season ticket holders an opportunity they would not otherwise have to access the pool. Noted some users come only for 30 minutes or so and that management do let users know the second hour is quieter.
- **Non-attendance at pre-booked sessions:** queried how to encourage users to cancel bookings in good time so other users can book a slot, and how to challenge users who fail to attend multiple bookings. Acknowledged more data is needed around this – which should be accessible once the electronic entry system is in place.

- **Merchandise** - staff had shared a number of ideas about generating revenue through merchandise – and had also suggested having a display cabinet for merchandise. **ACTION: July SPC agenda item for further detailed consideration.**
- **Future pool events** - **ACTION: consult with the pool user group/ask for suggestions.**
- **Pool staff uniform** - **ACTION: pool management to source logoed red sweatshirts/similar items as required by pool staff.**
- **Pool photography policy** – staff had queried whether there could be any change to the strict ‘no photography’ policy. Clerk shared Bhayani advice about checking the local authority and local leisure providers current stance. Suggested also asking other open-air pools about their photography policy (and related safeguarding considerations). **ACTION: July SPC agenda item for further detailed consideration.**

Cllr Rodgers referenced queries from some pool user group members about having an in-person meeting – suggested convening a meeting – a ‘cheese and wine event’ – in the autumn. **ACTION: July SPC agenda item – to agree a date and time.**

030/23 **Showers: considered** a user complaint. Noted updates shared with pool users subsequent to receipt of the complaint. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the user including an update on the current status re the showers.** User to be directed to take up any further issues with the SPC Chair.

031/23 **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):** queries raised by the Parish Council about future funding – there had been no further response or update from HPBC.

032/23 **2023-2028 Pool Business Improvement and Renewal Plan:** consideration of project management of elements of the plan. The LSM had shared an outline timeline for elements of the plan/works. Noted next steps ‘fleshing it out’ and identifying specific works/actions, who would lead on them etc. Cllr Hill referenced the need to take steps to robustly anticipate and mitigate recurring problems e.g. with the showers including ensuring any contractors have adequate knowledge/experience to deal with professional/non-domestic facilities. Suggested liaising with Wallgate re shower provision and an outline quote,

033/23 **Pool Heating Project**

- .1 **Received** a report from **Leisure Energy** on which Cllr Hill expanded.
- .2 **Noted** the scheduled meeting with representatives of Leisure Energy on Wednesday 14 June, 2pm (to which all HPC Cllrs had been invited) after which Cllrs would consider outcomes and initial thoughts and/or recommendations. Noted matters to be considered/addressed at the meeting including Cllr agreement that LE had met the project remit and that payment of the LE invoice (c20K + VAT) could be recommended to full Council. Cllr Hill referenced queries he intended to raise about next steps and itemised costings and about data and calculations in relation to base summer and winter temperatures.
- .3 **PDNPA and planning:** there was no further update on PDNPA liaison.
- .4 **Funding:** there was no funding update.
- .5 **Weather data monitoring:** there was no update.

034/23 **Finance**

- .1 No report had been provided.

035/23 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence - none.**

The Chair referenced a recent newspaper article and pool photos **ACTION: POM to purchase a copy of the photograph to post at the pool.**

036/23 Next meeting – **18 July 2023, 7.30pm** noted date change to accommodate Gala; items for the July meeting **noted.**

Meeting ended at 21.36pm

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