

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 1 August 2023, 7.30pm

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Alex Campbell; Martin Bloor; B Hanley; W Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Matthew Ramsden; Peter Rowland; Heather Rodgers; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

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

- 047/23 There were no apologies for absence from Parish Councillors. Matthew Ramsden (co-opted Cllr; signed declarations of office and pecuniary interests yet to be received) was not present. Apologies noted from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien; late apologies (and provision of a report) noted from the police.
- 048/23 **Co-option of a new Councillor:** Matthew Ramsden was not in attendance.
- 049/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business: none.
- 050/23 **Declaration of Members Interests:** none.
- 051/23 **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.
- DDDC:** Cllr Simon Ripton shared some updates:
- New bin collection dates – DDDC will share information with all residents early in September.
 - Affordable local housing – Cllr Ripton noted frustration at the lack of progress and referenced meetings with DDDC housing Officers. Noted the Parish Council was looking to convene a meeting with DDDC and PDNPA Officers in September.
 - Corporate Plan – Cllr Ripton referenced ongoing focus group meetings with residents and others; Officers will share outcomes.
 - Matlock cinema gateway scheme – noted more tenders were being sought.
- Police:** a report was circulated to Cllrs subsequent to the meeting.
- 052/23 **Confirmation of Minutes**
Minutes of the HPC meeting of 11 July 2023 were **confirmed**; Cllr Hill proposed the agreed minutes be signed, seconded by Cllr James Marsden, and unanimously agreed. Actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 053/23 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **25 July meeting with Cllr Alasdair Sutton:** received notes of the meeting which was focused mainly on transport-related issues; outcomes will be further discussed at the 22 August meeting of the Transport Committee. Referenced DCC Highways bid for capital funding for a vehicle activated sign (VAS) at the A6187 railway bridge.
- .2 **DDDC – invitation to join a Corporate Plan Focus Group:** Cllr Ripton confirmed a proposal to hold a focus group meeting with parish councillors; either Cllr Bridget Hanley or Cllr Jane Marsden to attend **ACTION: Clerk to enquire about meeting date, time and venue.**
- .3 **Affordable Housing in Hathersage:** noted it had not been possible to arrange an August meeting because annual leave for DDDC and PDNPA representatives overlapped. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with DDDC Officer Jeremy Mason on dates for a September meeting.** Cllr W Hanley, elected PDNPA Parishes Member, referenced members strong support for provision of local needs affordable housing. Flagged that the Marquis of Granby application had been rejected because of lack of inclusion of sufficient affordable housing.

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- 054/23 **Donation request: considered** a request from Peak Time Kids Club. Noted the Council required further details – on works to be undertaken, and costs; who owned and was responsible for maintenance of the building - before a decision could be reached on making a donation. Suggested other possible sources of funding for the club including making an approach to the Jumblies; to DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton and to DDDC Cllrs Peter O’Brien and Simon Ripton. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise further with the club.**
- 055/23 **Parish Council Standing Orders:** following amendments flagged at the July meeting the amended version was **approved**.
- 056/23 **Fire Safety Review (risk assessments): noted** copies of risk assessments for the pool café and the Parish Rooms (vet practice) had been provided; RFO had informed the Council’s insurers. Cllr W Hanley had provided a risk assessment for the Heart of Hathersage. The Chair had provided a suitable fire extinguisher at the Heart of Hathersage.
- 057/23 **Financial Matters**
- .1 **Received** the RFO’s Report.
 - .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
 - .3 Accounts for payment totalling £84,764.35, including £4,396.59 VAT, were **approved**.
 - .4 Noted, in his absence, it had not been possible to add Matthew Ramsden to the Unity Trust Bank mandate.
 - .5 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories (Cllrs Bloor and Rodgers) for the coming month, from the agreed schedule, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the September 2023 meeting. Noted Cllr Jane Marsden would stand in for one week while Cllr Rodgers was away.
 - .7 To **consider** and **approve** a Parish Council debit/credit card for payment of regular monthly outgoings and one-off payments for goods/services currently taken from the Clerk’s personal bank account (Clerk reclaims all payments from the Council).
The RFO expanded on credit card options noting a Unity Trust Bank monthly charge for a credit card with a £50.00 set-up fee; no monthly charge on a Barclay Bank credit card. The Clerk flagged that providers (Fasthosts; HP Ink etc) may stipulate that regular payments have to be made via direct debit or via a debit card. **ACTION: Clerk to check with providers whether they will accept credit and/or debit payments.** Cllrs suggested setting up a separate account with limited funds (e.g. up to £1K) sufficient to cover regular monthly and annual outgoings. **Agreed** (subject to confirmation from providers on acceptable payment methods) to set up a debit card with Unity Trust Bank. **ACTION for the RFO.** All regular payments currently debited from the Clerk’s personal account to be transferred to the Council’s account. All future regular, ongoing payments with contractors or providers to be taken directly from Council accounts.
 - .8 **Parish Council Cash Deposits:** to **consider** any advice from DALC and to **agree** an investment option for the funds withdrawn from the Hampshire Trust Bank account. DALC had not been able to provide advice but noted they were investigating with a view to being able to share banking advice with parish councils, in future. Noted both NatWest, and Cambridge and Counties, with both of whom HPC already has accounts, had raised interest rates. **Agreed** to invest funds withdrawn from the Hampshire Trust Bank account in both the NatWest and Cambridge and Counties accounts. **ACTION: RFO to look into opening another account with Cambridge and Counties; to be agreed what amounts to be invested in the NatWest, and Cambridge and Counties, accounts.** Noted Parish Council investments are not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).
- 058/23 **Committees and Working Groups:** to **receive** minutes; **consider** recommendations; **note** actions.
- Swimming Pool Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 18 July 2023. SPC Chair Cllr W Hanley expanded on matters discussed. Thanks noted to Cllr Hill for all his work to date on the pool heating project. The Chair asked Cllrs to share details of any local contractors with knowledge of alternative/renewable heating options. Cllr Hill referenced ongoing discussions with a number of providers.
- .1 **Swimming Pool Committee Terms of Reference:** for information, copies of the SPC Terms of Reference, approved at the July HPC meeting, had been circulated.

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- .2 **Agreed** a recommendation of a 5% increase on the costs of a winter adult season ticket. RFO referenced the relationship between the winter season increase and increased winter pool energy costs. Noted the cost of summer 2024 season tickets will be considered at the appropriate time. The RFO flagged increased income related to VAT changes.
- 059/23 **Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee: noted** the first meeting of the Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee – formerly the joint Recreation, Amenities and Burial Ground Committees – was held on 25 July 2023.
- .1 **Received** minutes of the 25 July meeting. The Chair expanded on discussion with Oddfellows Terrace residents on overgrowth at the bottom of the playing field and children using the area as a toilet. Noted it had been agreed the Council will make arrangements to clear some of the overgrown vegetation. Further consideration to be given to posting signage directing people to the Heart of Hathersage toilets.
- .2 **Provision of a permanent flagpole at the Heart of Hathersage:** the Clerk noted costs cited in LFAC minutes for provision of a permanent flagpole were incorrect. The committee had recommended contracting with Flagmakers. The detailed quote (shared after circulation of the HPC agenda) was over £900 more than costs cited in the minutes and was in excess of the delegated spending powers of the committee. Flagged that this had not been noted on the agenda as expenditure for approval. The RFO noted it was a sizeable expenditure, not in the budget, but that there were sufficient reserves to cover it. On this basis Cllrs **approved** the expenditure.
- .3 **New play equipment installation and ongoing issues:** noted the background, ongoing Council concerns about the installation, and ongoing communications with Playdale. Further investigation to be undertaken into communications about the swing nest and critical fall height **ACTION for the Assistant Clerk**. Noted quotes were being sought for a barrier to retain the bark in situ.
- .4 **Belly Bin:** noted DDDC had recently installed a Belly Bin at the Heart of Hathersage. Unfortunately, it had been sited where the permanent flagpole is to be installed. The Clerk has liaised with DDDC and they have agreed to re-site the bin.
- .5 **Bund wall:** Cllr Olle referenced a recent meeting with members of the rewilding group and noted the group had already cut back overhanging tree branches. Noted arrangements were in place for a member of the group to meet with Redwood Landscapes to sensitively manage trimming back of overgrowth.
- 060/23 **Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2023. The Chair expanded on proposals in the application for a change of use and alterations to the former RBS Bank on Main Road. Noted a forthcoming Planning Committee meeting on 9 August. A number of Cllrs had declared an interest in an application; noted the meeting would still be quorate.
- .1 **Planning Committee Terms of Reference** were **approved**.
- 061/23 **Transport Committee:** no further meeting of the committee has been held since 30 May; next scheduled meeting 22 August 2023.
- 062/23 **IT - including the HPC website and social media**
- .1 **Facebook:** concerns had been flagged about advertising on the Parish Council Facebook page. The Clerk noted the Council's Facebook page had been set up prior to her joining the Council and she had limited knowledge on how to implement rules/regulations prohibiting users. Noted support was needed. Suggested the Clerk liaise with the Pool Operations Manager (manages the Pool Facebook page); and with Steve Burley (Hathersage resident with admin oversight of a community Facebook page). **ACTION for the Clerk**.
- .2 **Dedicated Cllr email addresses:** noted this will involve regular monthly payments (over £50) and set-up was delayed until the matter of regular payments being debited directly from the Council account/debit card, was resolved. Cllr W Hanley noted some frustration at the further delay and emphasised the need for all Cllrs to have a .gov.uk email address as soon as possible. The Chair emphasised that some Cllrs will need support, and training, before they are able to comfortably and confidently move to a new email account. Cllr B Hanley agreed to liaise with a local IT contractor about provision of support.

Noted, once Cllrs have .gov.uk email accounts, the next step will be to investigate a shared file system.

063/23

Clerk's Report/Correspondence: noted updates/items shared since the July 2023 meeting.

064/23

Village Matters

- .1 **Litter in the village centre:** Cllr W Hanley had flagged concerns about litter generated by the fish and chip shop suggesting the proprietor does not currently take sufficient responsibility for the rubbish generated. Noted the recent installation of a Belly Bin should make a significant difference; agreed to monitor litter management in the village centre in the coming weeks/months. Cllr Hill flagged rubbish collecting under the seats and by the door at the Heart of Hathersage; Cllr Rodgers noted she had arranged to meet with the Caretaker and would flag this with him.
- .2 **Hathersage News** and how the Council can best provide regular meaningful content. The Clerk expanded on issues with timings in terms of providing a monthly briefing from HPC meetings and identifying items of note. Suggested agreeing, at each monthly HPC meeting, content for the following issue of Hathersage News. Agreed content for the next issue (**ACTION for the Clerk**):
 - Flagpole
 - Big Belly
 - New drinking water supply at the Heart of Hathersage
 - Pool winter season ticket cost increase
- .3 **New drinking water supply at the Heart of Hathersage:** noted the recent installation; consideration to be given to appropriate signage.

065/23

Memorial Hall: received minutes of the May meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

066/23

Noted DALC circulars and other items circulated since the July 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk's Correspondence*).

067/23

Date and time of next meeting – 5 September 2023, St Michael's School. Noted items for the September agenda:

- Progress on setting up .gov.uk email addresses;
- HR training for the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm; a meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.

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