

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 3 October 2023, 7.30pm

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair); Martin Bloor; B Hanley; W Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Peter Rowland; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO); Kathyne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien (*part*); DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton (*part*); member of the public Carol Collins (*part*)

- 092/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Alex Campbell, Rosie Olle and Heather Rodgers; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; and from the police – a brief report was provided by the police.
- 093/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 094/23 **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Shuttleworth in respect of agenda item 10 (minute item 101/23) (Shuttleworth footpath donation request).
- 096/23 **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:** the Clerk referenced a police report on crimes recorded between 5 September and 3 October: four thefts; one instance of criminal damage; one assault. Also noted, in relation to the Community Speed Watch Scheme, that PCSO Boswell was liaising directly with potential volunteers about setting up a Hathersage scheme and related training. Noted DALC plans to facilitate a virtual police forum on 13 December.
- Hedgehogs:** Carol Collins of the local rewilding group shared the British Society for the Protection of Hedgehogs (BSPH) response to the group's enquiries on implementing conservation measures, and shared the rewilding group's plans to promote conservation measures in the village. Reiterated the preference for this approach over the measures promoted by 'HedgehogsRUs'. Cllrs **agreed** the rewilding group proposals. Councillors noted thanks to the rewilding group and Ms Collins left the meeting.
- DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton:** Cllr Ripton sought feedback on the implementation of recent changes to bin collection; Cllrs flagged some operational issues.
- Cllr Ripton queried the Council's liaison with DDDC waste services on the loss, and provision, of village centre bins. Cllr Marsden referenced a possible solution to the loss of a dog waste bin - moving one of the playing field bins to the top of the field/path – noted there would be more detailed consideration of measures at the October LFAC meeting. Acknowledged the positive impact of the Heart of Hathersage Belly Bin in reducing litter. Noted the DDDC Waste Services proposal for provision of a second Belly Bin – more consideration to be given, at the October LFAC meeting, to an appropriate site.
- Cllr Ripton referenced the Parish Council public meeting on the Bank House licence application. Cllrs acknowledged it had been worthwhile, giving residents an opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns.
- Cllr Ripton referenced the recent meeting on affordable housing between the Parish Council and DDDC and PDNPA Officers. Parish Councillors noted there had been 'a full and frank discussion'. Officers were undertaking further work on options after which there would be formal consultation with the public. The Chair flagged other areas/provision impacted by the lack of affordable housing e.g. recruitment of volunteers to the local fire and rescue service (FRS) – noted FRS volunteers are expected to live within a specific distance of the service with which they volunteer.

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Cllr Ripton referenced progress with DDDC electric vehicle charging (EVC) provision including provision of eight charging points in the Oddfellows Road car park. Cllr Hill referenced the DDDC commitment to redesign the car park when the EVCs are being planned/installed; he suggested there may be minimal loss of parking spaces. Cllr Hill agreed to liaise further with DDDC Officers on the detail of changes to the car park layout.

POB, DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien: Cllr O'Brien referenced a meeting with DDDC Officers to discuss residents' complaints about bus services; he noted some disappointment in the response from Officers. Acknowledged the current challenges in recruiting and retaining bus drivers; noted there was no suggestion of a solution. Cllr O'Brien shared his opinion that some of bus services were not fit for purpose.

Cllr O'Brien also referenced a meeting between DDDC Cllr members, PDNPA members, and PDNPA Officers. DDDC Cllr members had shared their dissatisfaction with the PDNPA stance on housing and economic development. It had been agreed to work more closely to agree a common approach on housing. Cllr O'Brien noted that approximately a third of DDDC residents lived in the Peak Park and referenced the need to keep pace with housing need.

097/23

Confirmation of Minutes

Noted that, for minute item 080/23.1 (HPC staff discounted season ticket and pool entry charges), the Assistant Clerk had left the meeting while the matter was being discussed (because of a potential conflict of interest as a pool season ticket holder). Subject to amending minute 080/23.1 to reflect this, the minutes of the HPC meeting of 5 September 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.

098/23

PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups: agreed a standing agenda item for future meetings – a report from Cllr W Hanley on his attendance/participation as a PDNPA Parish Member.

.1 **Affordable Housing in Hathersage:** **noted** discussions between Cllrs and DDDC and PDNPA representatives at a meeting held on 14 September 2023.

.2 **Belly Bin (and other bins) following discussions with DDDC Officers:**

- **noted** DDDC will **reinstate** the litter bin at Station Road/Main Road (outside the Butchers' shop).
- potential location for a second Belly Bin – noted the proposal that it be sited on Main Road, near the Business Centre – suggested DDDC were checking the extent to which the bin removed from that location had been used. LFAC to further consider alternative locations.
- **noted** DDDC suggestions on measures for Baulk Lane (where a dog waste bin had been removed) including provision of signage directing people to nearby bins, and enforcement action where people drop/do not clear up, dog waste. Flagged the complications of waste services provision on Baulk Lane, as a private road. The Chair suggested liaison with a Baulk Lane landowner on facilitating a bin which the HPC caretaker could empty – to be discussed further at the October LFAC meeting.

099/23

Application by Bank House for a variation on their premises licence: **noted** the public meeting convened on 26 September (referenced in notes of the Planning Committee meeting of that date).

100/23

Slow Ways National Walking Network: **noted** this initiative and **noted** Parish Council support however it was flagged more information was needed on specific, practical support being sought from parish councils. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate further.** Noted parish and town councils located in national parks generally had a very well-developed network of paths in comparison to other locations (both rural and urban).

101/23

Donation request (Shuttleworth Footpath): *having declared an interest, Cllr Shuttleworth left the meeting while this item was being discussed.* Noted it had previously been agreed that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to cover the maintenance costs for this footpath. Noted full costs - £5,119.51 – of recent repairs to the footpath and fencing. The Shuttleworth family had received a grant of £2,679.84 from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) fund. The RFO confirmed funding in the HPC budget for footpaths works. Cllr B Hanley proposed the Parish Council pay the remaining amount (after the FiPL grant had been taken into account) of £2,439.67;

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seconded by Cllr W Hanley and **unanimously agreed. Resolved** to make a donation of £2,439.67 to the Shuttleworth family towards the maintenance costs of the Shuttleworth footpath. The RFO suggested requesting the invoice so that HPC could reclaim the VAT.

102/23 **Donation request – Peak Times Kids Club (PTKC):** a quote for premises repairs had been circulated along with confirmation that PTKC owned the building and was responsible for maintenance. Cllr Hill proposed a £500 donation; seconded by Cllr W Hanley and **unanimously agreed. Resolved** to make a donation of £500 to PTKC. **ACTION: Clerk to ask PTKC to share bank details.**

103/23 **Hedgehog conservation:** noted discussions earlier in the meeting while a member of the local rewilding group was present.

104/23 **Financial Matters:**

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. Confirmed a recent VAT refund from HMRC (to be paid back into a HPC account).
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts. Flagged the pro forma invoice from Steel Line – to be paid prior to provision and installation.
- .3 **Accounts for payment** totalling £50,728.83 including £3,113.15 VAT were **approved**.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories (Cllrs Hill and Williams) from the agreed schedule for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the November 2023 meeting. Noted the current schedule was drawing to a close; RFO to produce and circulate a new schedule.
- .5 **2022-23 Parish Council Audit: received** and **noted** the audit conclusion notice. The RFO referenced a minor error flagged by the auditor however that did not mean the accounts would need to be republished.
- .6 **Disputed invoice: noted** discussions at the Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee about the disputed T C Williams (TCW) invoice related to work, in autumn 2020, on the Heart of Hathersage toilets, and a further summary produced by Cllr Hill on which Cllr Hill expanded. Noted that TCW were prepared to accept payment of 50% of the invoice to resolve the matter. Cllrs acknowledged TCW had been dilatory in their response to and engagement with the Parish Council, from the outset. Cllrs also noted the time expended on pursuing a resolution, and the pros/cons of taking a pragmatic approach to reach a resolution. Cllrs voted on whether or not to pay 50% of the disputed invoice as per the TCW proposal.
Pay the invoice (50%) – **six Cllrs voted yes.**
Do not pay the invoice and query it further – **three Cllrs voted no.**
Resolved to pay 50% of the TCW invoice. **ACTION: Clerk to ask TCW to provide a credit note for 50% of the original invoice.**

Committees and Working Groups: to **receive** minutes *where meetings had been held since the previous month's full Council meeting*; **consider** recommendations; **note** actions.

105/23 **Swimming Pool Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2023.

- .1 **Parish Council staff pool access and entry policy:** to **consider** and **approve** a revised policy. SPC Chair Cllr W Hanley expanded on the reasons for introducing the policy. Flagged two small amendments to be made. Noted account had been taken of staff feedback and advice had been sought from the Council's HR consultants. Subject to incorporating the amendments flagged, the policy was **unanimously approved. ACTION: Clerk to publish the policy and circulate it to all staff.**
- .2 **Payment to pool staff for attendance at training sessions:** to **consider** and **approve** a recommendation that pool staff be paid for an hour and a half for attendance at the weekly hour-long training sessions. **Unanimously agreed - to come into effect from 1 October 2023.** Noted this would not impact pool management as attendance at training was covered in their salaries.
- .3 **Improving access into the pool for disabled users (disabled access pool ladder):** to **consider** and **agree** the recommendation to accept the quote of £2,883.00 (supply, delivery and installation), plus VAT, from Steel Line. **Approved.**
- .4 **Pool supervisors – review of the role, responsibilities and pay:** to **consider** (ahead of the 24 October meeting of the Human Resources Committee) commissioning an external evaluation from a

service/provider with the appropriate expertise – **agreed**. **ACTION: Clerk to seek advice from the Pool Advisor on commissioning an external evaluation.**

- .5 **Pool heating project and funding – update on DDDC Sport England funding bid.** Cllr Hill expanded on liaison with DDDC and with alternative energy contractors. Noted DDDC had suggested it may be possible to secure up to £250K for the project. Cllr Hill noted this was in part dependent on securing notional estimates (from providers of solar energy panels) ahead of the funding deadline.
- .6 **Trial suspension of pool pre-bookings:** SPC Chair Cllr W Hanley referenced the background to the trial including looking to address the issue of unattended pre-booked sessions. Flagged that pre-booking both for season ticket holders and non-season ticket users had been suspended however it was suggested this had had a disproportionate impact on non-season ticket users and it was **agreed** pre-booking for non-season ticket users be reinstated immediately. **ACTION: Cllr W Hanley to liaise with pool management.** Noted data shared by pool staff on unattended pre-booked sessions.
- 106/23 **Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 19 September 2023.
- .1 **Playing Field – provision and installation of a bark retaining barrier:** noted the quote - £1,450.00 plus VAT – was (without the VAT) within the delegated spending powers of the committee. Noted the work had been completed. Further consideration to be given to the addition of a rail.
- .2 **Playdale invoice: resolved** that the cost of the bark retaining barrier (£1,450.00 plus VAT) be withheld from the final payment to Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Playdale; if Playdale agree, HPC to ask Playdale for a credit note for the amount agreed.**
- .3 **Snow Warden Scheme 2023-24: noted** clarification was being sought regarding insurance indemnity – further consideration to be given at the October meeting of the Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee.
- .4 **Permanent flagpole at the Heart of Hathersage: noted** the recent installation and **noted** instructions for flagpole use (to be shared as appropriate when a flag is being raised/lowered). The Chair referenced acknowledging the donation by a village family of the ‘pop-up’ flagpole that had been used at the Heart of Hathersage to date, and agreement (with the family) on the wording of a plaque acknowledging the donation. The RFO referenced inclusion of the permanent flagpole in the Council’s insurance. Noted consideration was being given to handing the pop-up flagpole to another village group or society.
- 107/23 **Planning Committee: received** draft minutes of the meeting of 26 September 2023. The Chair expanded on items discussed.
- 108/23 **Footpaths: received** and **noted** a report from the Footpaths Officer. Noted progress on appointing a new volunteer Footpaths Officer.
- 109/23 **IT - including the HPC website and social media:** the Clerk noted planned liaison with Fasthosts on 11 October on setting up the .gov.uk Cllr email addresses. Noted the matter of controlling access to the HPC Facebook page was still to be resolved.
- 110/23 **Clerk’s Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the September 2023 meeting.
- 111/23 **Village Matters**
- .1 **Hathersage News - agreed** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue
- Repeat the call for snow wardens
 - Note DDDC Cllr representations on residents’ concerns on bus services
- 112/23 **Memorial Hall: to receive** minutes of recent meetings of the Memorial Hall Management Committee and any related reports; noted minutes of the July meeting had been circulated at the September HPC meeting; no minutes of meetings held since July had been shared. Cllr Rowland referenced a noise complaint related to a late-night event.
- 113/23 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the September 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk’s Correspondence*).
- 114/23 **Date and time of next meeting – 7 November 2023, St Michael’s School;** and **noted** items for the November agenda: Transport matters – Cllr Hill will share a report / update

Meeting closed at 10pm; a meeting of the King George’s Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting

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HPC_OCTOBER2023_ Mnotes