

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 5 September 2023, 7.30pm

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor; B Hanley; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers (*part*); Peter Rowland; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

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

- 068/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Alex Campbell, W Hanley, Tim Hill and James Shuttleworth; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; from DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton; and from the police – a brief report was provided by the police.
- 069/23 **Councillor co-option:** noted there had been no communication from Matthew Ramsden. Further noted Mr Ramsden had not attended the July and August meetings nor had he provided signed declarations to formalise his co-option. On this basis it was agreed this means the Council now has a casual vacancy and the Clerk referenced related procedures, and next steps. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm the position with Mr Ramsden; Clerk to initiate procedures to consult with the electorate on the casual vacancy.**
- 070/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 071/23 **Declaration of Members Interests** – none.
- 072/23 **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 Carol Collins spoke to agenda item 11 (minute item 078/23)** – HedgehogsRUs Hedgehogs Highway Project. Ms Collins confirmed she was a member of the local rewilding group and she noted the group was willing to support and to administrate initiatives to promote hedgehog conservation. Ms Collins referenced the longer-established charity, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS). She suggested, before the Council made a decision on signing up to the HedgehogsRUs initiative, the rewilding group investigate further including looking at BHPS initiatives; the Council **agreed** with this suggestion. Ms Collins expanded on the need to ensure the right conservation measures, and messages, are promoted. Cllrs noted support/promotion of hedgehog conservation by other parish councils. Cllrs noted thanks to the rewilding group for their research, to date, and Ms Collins 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:** noted that, between 1 August and 5 September, there was one report of a theft recorded, relating to shoplifting.
- Cllr James Marsden referenced ongoing concerns about cyclists, flagging instances when, at night, cyclists have had no lights on their bikes and no reflective clothing. Queried whether this was a police matter and suggested asking the police to promote safer cycling at night on their communication channels. Suggested a message could also be posted on the HPC website and community Facebook pages (**ACTIONS for the Clerk**).
- DDDC:** Cllr Peter O'Brien referenced the sale of the Hathersage and Eyam YHA hostels and ongoing liaison including a forthcoming meeting of interested parties on 13 September. He referenced liaison with the tourist board with a view to looking to retain one or both hostels; and referenced exploring the possibility of using the buildings for local affordable housing.
- Referenced changes to DDDC waste collections days and some confusion in recent DDDC correspondence.
- 073/23 **Confirmation of Minutes:** minutes of the HPC meeting of 1 August 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.

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074/23

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

- .1 **Affordable Housing in Hathersage: confirmed** a date and time for a meeting between Cllrs and DDDC and PDNPA representatives - Thursday 14 September 2.30pm in the Stannage Hall.
- .2 **DCC Cyber Security Awareness: noted** DCC-facilitated events in October (Cyber Security Awareness Month). ***ACTION: Clerk to ask DCC to expand on the offer and how they intend to organise workshops.***
- .3 **YHA Hathersage (and Eyam) hostels: noted** both hostels are for sale and **noted** DDDC Cllrs Peter O'Brien's summary under minute item 072/23 b).
- .4 **Belly Bin**
 - **update** on concerns raised about the removal of dog waste bins (related to the installation of the Belly Bin) and the Parish Council response. The Chair expanded on the background to installation of a Belly Bin at the Heart of Hathersage. Noted this was on a 12-month trial basis (by DDDC Waste Services) and that the trial included removal of some regular bins from the village centre, and the dog waste bin on Baulk Lane. Acknowledged residents' concerns about the removal of bins, in particular the Baulk Lane dog waste bin. Referenced previous issues where that bin had been overflowing, smelled very bad (particularly in the summer), and potentially posed a health hazard. The Chair reiterated changes were part of the 12-month DDDC Waste Services trial however it was agreed to share feedback with DDDC immediately on concerns flagged by residents, also seeking reinstatement of bins removed (and flagging that, with significant visitor numbers, the additional bins are very much needed). Noting DDDC policy is to remove dog waste bins it was agreed to ask DDDC to site a regular bin on Baulk Lane (where the dog waste bin had been sited) – ***ACTION for Clerk - liaison with DDDC.*** Further agreed to **monitor** management of rubbish in the village centre; dog waste on Baulk Lane; and any further complaints from residents.
DDDC Cllr O'Brien referenced communications with residents on the matter suggesting communications prior to the installation of the Belly Bin – and removal of other bins – could have been handled better (by the Parish Council). Noted the Council will communicate further with residents.
 - **noted** issues with rubbish accumulating in and around the Belly Bin on Bank Holiday Monday, and the DDDC response.
 - **noted** ongoing concerns about the amount of rubbish generated by the fish and chip shop. Noted the fish and chip shop do put a bin out by their door. Agreed to **monitor** the situation and review it in a month's time.

075/23

2023 Remembrance Sunday Parade (Sunday 12 November): noted the Royal British Legion (RBL) offer to organise this event on behalf of the Parish Council (as they have done in previous years); confirmed the event is covered by the Parish Council's insurance; noted arrangements in hand to undertake the appropriate risk assessments. ***ACTION: Clerk to issue a formal request to RBL to organise this event on behalf of the Council and to request a risk assessment be completed and shared with the Council.***

076/23

Christmas lights switch-on, and Christmas parade: noted and agreed the proposed date – Saturday 2 December; noted an appropriate risk assessment would need to be undertaken. ***ACTION: Clerk to issue a formal request to the volunteers who have offered to facilitate this event to organise the event on behalf of the Council, and to request a risk assessment be completed and shared with the Council.*** A request had also been made for a Parish Council donation towards event costs (as has been the case in previous years) - **agreed in principle**; Clerk to liaise with the volunteers about the actual costs/expenditure and share details with Cllrs.

077/23

Hope Cement Works 2042 Consultation: to consider whether to make a Parish Council response. Noted the consultation end-date was not clear ***Clerk to check.***

078/23

Hedgehog Highway Project: to consider participation including expenditure of £150.00 for Hedgehog Highway Surrounds and publicity material. Following discussions under minute item 072/23 a), the proposal from the local rewilding group for the group to further explore both the HedgehogsRUs and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society conservation initiatives was **agreed** and Cllrs requested that the rewilding group share a report, for consideration at the October HPC meeting.

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079/23

Financial Matters:

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. Referenced liaison with Arlingclose on commissioning a report with recommendations on investment of HPC monies. Referencing significant planned pool-related expenditure and other planned spending it was agreed **not** to proceed with commissioning a report from Arlingclose at this time.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 **Accounts for payment** totalling £54,292.10 including £2,581.70 VAT were **approved**.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs Bridget Hanley and Peter Rowland) for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the October 2023 meeting.
- .5 **Parish Council debit/credit card** for payment of regular monthly outgoings and one-off payments for goods/services (for signature). The RFO flagged that the Parish Council already had a NatWest debit card, used to deposit pool takings in the Council's NatWest bank account through the post office. **Agreed** to also use this card for Council expenditure where suppliers would not accept direct debits; noted the Clerk can transfer all regular payments coming out of her personal account, to the NatWest debit card.
- .6 **Parish Council Cash Deposits:** to **confirm** investments of funds withdrawn from the Hampshire Trust Bank account in the Council's NatWest, and Cambridge and Counties, accounts noting how much is to be invested in each account. Of approximately £470K in the Council's Unity Trust Bank account it was **agreed** to deposit £150K in the Cambridge and Counties account and £100K in the NatWest account. Reiterated the Council accounts are not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

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

080/23

Swimming Pool Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 8 August 2023.

- .1 **Pool staff - discounted season tickets – policy:** to **consider** and **approve** a policy recommendation from the SPC and Human Resources Committees. *The Assistant Clerk left the meeting while this item was being discussed noting, as a season ticket holder, a potential conflict of interest.* Noted the policy was intended to cover/apply to all Council staff. Cllrs had shared some comments on and suggested changes to the first draft of the policy but they had not been incorporated. Cllrs noted amendments were needed to ensure clarity. The Council **approved the policy in principle** and agreed policy details – wording; ensuring clarity – be considered at the September SPC – final draft to be formalised by full Council via email. Also referenced communications with pool staff on the policy.
- .2 **Pool heating project funding:** referencing a recent meeting with Derbyshire Dales Community Voluntary Service representatives on exploring funding options, the Chair provided a verbal update. Noted no specific relevant funding had been identified at this time; noted some funding criteria (for alternative energy provision) could be predicated on removal of the gas boiler. Also noted Cllr Hill's liaison with providers of alternative energies, including solar energy, and that he continued to liaise with providers on technical details.

081/23

Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee: received minutes of the meeting of 15 August 2023.

- .1 **Playdale:** to **considered** and **approve** the proposal to withhold the costs of provision/installation of a woodchip barrier (quote being sought) from the final Playdale settlement. Noted a payment had been made to Playdale with the amount of £5,358.00 (not including VAT) being withheld, to date. Noted the original Playdale quote for provision of bark (£13K); suggested the Council had spent over £6K to date, on bark and related equipment hire. **Agreed** to await a quote for a woodchip barrier then approach Playdale about the amount of a further payment less the cost of the barrier.
- .2 **Bins:** any further bin **updates** (Burial Ground; grit bins). **Snow wardens** - the Chair suggested a call for volunteer snow wardens be issued as soon as possible (via Hathersage News and community social media) – **ACTION for the Clerk**.
- .3 **Permanent flagpole at the Heart of Hathersage:** an **update**. Noted Flagmakers will install the flagpole on 12 September. The Chair referenced communication with the family who had donated the current

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- flagpole. Suggested, when the new flagpole is installed, a small plaque be posted acknowledging the donation of the original flagpole – plaque wording to be agreed with the family.
- .4 **Heart of Hathersage – policy on usage:** to **approve** proposed minor amendments. Some further amendments were suggested including steps to formally approve requests to use the Heart of Hathersage. ***ACTION: any further amendments to be considered and agreed at the next LFAC meeting.***
 082/23 **Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 9 August 2023.
 083/23 **Transport Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 22 August 2023.
- .1 **Proposed vehicle-activated sign (VAS) on the A6187 railway bridge:** **endorsed** the DCC Highways proposal to seek capital funding for this initiative. Referenced discussions on VAS at other village locations.
- .2 **Parking on the B6001 verge and planning permission:** **approved** the proposal to submit a formal planning application.
- .3 **Provision of a Hathersage QR Code with visitor information:** to **consider**. The Chair referenced potential (tourism-related) funding. Suggested liaising with and seeking advice from residents who host or post on social media focused on local places, spaces and provision.
- 084/23 **Hope Valley Rail Capacity Scheme:** any **update** – there were no specific updates.
 085/23 **IT - including the HPC website and social media**
- .1 **Setting up .gov.uk Cllr email addresses:** an **update**. Referencing the discussion under minute item 079/23.5 and the agreement to use the Council’s NatWest debit card for regular ongoing Council expenditure, noted the Clerk can now proceed to ask Fasthosts to set up the Cllr .gov.uk email addresses with monthly payments linked to the HPC NatWest card. Noted an approach would be made to the IT provider supporting pool IT in relation to whether he could support individual Cllrs on setting up and managing their .gov.uk email accounts.
- .2 **CCTV (working group):** any **update**. Noted the meeting scheduled on 6 September with a representative of Gigapeak.
- .3 **HPC Facebook (managing access):** any **update** – noted the Clerk is still to liaise with the Pool Operations Manager re support with managing HPC Facebook users and access.
- 086/23 **Footpaths Officer:** **noted** that Alan Kydd is stepping down from the role and that another volunteer Footpaths Officer was being sought. Noted a potential volunteer had been identified – agreed to explore further, with her, what the role involves. Formal thanks noted to Footpath Officers Alan Kydd and John Wooddisse ***ACTION: Clerk to issue a formal note of thanks.***
- 087/23 **Clerk’s Report/Correspondence:** **noted** updates/items shared since the August 2023 meeting.
 088/23 **Village Matters**
- .1 **Hathersage News** - to **agree** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue:
 - Snow wardens
 - Acknowledgement and thanks to Footpaths Officers Alan Kydd and John Wooddisse
 - Village bins update sharing a link to the DDDC website where residents can lodge complaints
 - Swimming pool update
- 089/23 **Memorial Hall:** **received** minutes of the July meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.
 090/23 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the August 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk’s Correspondence*).
- 091/23 **Date and time of next meeting – 3 October 2023, St Michael’s School.** **Noted** items for the October agenda
 - A report from the local rewilding group with recommendations on hedgehog conservation initiatives
 - A monitoring report on management of litter in the village

Meeting closed at 9.35pm; a meeting of the King George’s Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.

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