

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 7 November 2023, 7.30pm

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair); Martin Bloor; B Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

In attendance: Chris Cave, RFO (*part*); Kathyne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien (*part*)

115/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Alex Campbell, W Hanley and Peter Rowland; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; from DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton; and from the police (a police report was provided).

116/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business: none.

117/23 **Declaration of Members Interests:** Cllr B Hanley in relation to a payment (reclaiming pool-related expenditure); Cllr James Shuttleworth in relation to the donation (agreed at the October HPC meeting) to the Shuttleworth Estate towards the costs of repairs to the Shuttleworth Footpath.

118/23 **Councillor vacancy: noted** confirmation from DDDC Electoral Services that the requisite number of requests for HPC to proceed to election were not met; and that the Council could now look to co-opt a Councillor (*DALC advice on co-options had been circulated*). **Agreed** to publicise the vacancy and to invite anyone who might be interested to attend and observe the 5 December HPC meeting. Formal expressions of interest to be submitted by Friday 15 December. Appointment of a new Councillor to be confirmed at the 2 January HPC meeting.

119/23 **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 – no members of the public were in attendance.
- 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.

Cllr Peter O'Brien, Derbyshire Dales District Council

Oddfellows Road car park – redesign of layout ahead of installation of electric vehicle chargers (EVCs): Cllr O'Brien noted draft designs would be shared with HPC for comment, and noted it was anticipated the EVCs would be installed by the end of March. The Chair referenced a request from a resident for lighting on the footpath running from the car park, past the back of the fire station, to the Methodist Church drive; Cllrs noted their support. The Chair enquired if DDDC could consider this alongside the car park layout redesign. **ACTION: Cllr O'Brien to flag this with DDDC Officers.**

Bins: Cllr O'Brien noted both he and Cllr Ripton would be willing to support the Council in pursuing a replacement dog bin for Baulk Lane. Noted there were still queries around the DDDC statement that Baulk Lane was a private road and that, if DDDC agreed to service a new bin on Baulk Lane, there would be additional charges (to the landowner). The Chair referenced liaison with DDDC on signage at Baulk Lane directing walkers to the nearest bins. She also referenced the proposal to site a second Belly Bin at the bottom of the Methodist Church drive.

Bus services: Cllr O'Brien referenced widespread dissatisfaction with current services and noted DDDC members were looking to be more proactive in pushing DCC to improve services. Cllrs reiterated factors affecting buses adhering to timetables including sharing roads with significant numbers of cyclists where there was no dedicated cycling lane, and driver issues with issuing tickets (digital and non-digital); Cllr Hill noted he had requested that the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) group discuss these and other factors affecting services, at their next meeting. Cllr Hill referenced his meeting with a representative of the First Group and commented that First Group services were currently operating well but Hulleys were more problematic, and not as reliable. Cllrs acknowledged the issue with large numbers of cyclists – and the related impact on bus services - was more impactful in specific locations across the county, including in the Hope Valley which was very popular with cyclists. The Chair referenced previous Hope Valley traffic flow surveys and suggested a further survey could help highlight the factors affecting bus services. Cllr B Hanley queried how the Parish

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Council could ensure its views on factors impacting bus services – and how to improve services - are heard.

Cyclists: Cllr James Marsden referenced a recent instance of coming across a cyclist riding in the dark without any lights and suggested this be flagged with the police, asking if they can take any action ***ACTION for the Clerk.***

Police

Data on crimes recorded over the last month had been circulated – one instance of criminal damage; one instance of shoplifting; one house burglary; one attempted house burglary. In relation to burglaries, the police noted crime prevention advice had been circulated via Derbyshire Alert, and social media, and communities were asked to report suspicious activity to police when and where possible.

Cllr Shuttleworth referenced a recent meeting (in his role as a Derbyshire Deputy Lieutenant) with the Police Chief Constable, and matters discussed, including outcomes of the most recent rural crime survey. Cllrs discussed the pros and cons of police attendance at HPC meetings, and general communications with the police – noted any Cllrs, or residents, were welcome to flag concerns or issues directly with PCSO Boswell.

120/23

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the HPC meeting of 3 October 2023 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.

121/23

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

- .1 **PDNPA** – Parish Member Cllr W Hanley had circulated an update.
- .2 **October flooding and lack of preparedness:** Cllr James Shuttleworth had commented on the factors contributing to the flooding on School Lane and the collapse of a wall suggesting this was in part a consequence of DCC not clearing drains and culverts as they had pledged to do. He had suggested the Parish Council make a very firm case for action by DCC. Cllr Shuttleworth went on to note dissatisfaction with DCC communications on the day of the flood and referenced proposed measures by landowners to prevent future flooding, and related costs. Noted work undertaken by DCC, since the flood. The Clerk flagged MP Sarah Dines proposed meeting with stakeholders on 18 November ***ACTION: Cllrs to flag attendance with the Clerk.***
- .3 **Dales Matters magazine** and lack of coverage of amenities outside Ashbourne and Matlock. Cllr W Hanley had flagged that Hathersage Pool had not been included in the list of swimming and leisure centres in the magazine suggesting the pool *should* be listed. He had also suggested submitting an article about Hathersage Pool, to Dales Matters, ahead of the summer season. DDDC Cllrs Peter O'Brien and Simon Ripton had noted their support for a greater focus on the north of the county. ***ACTION: further consideration at SPC re producing an article on the pool for inclusion in Dales Matters.***
- .4 **Peak Park Parishes Day:** the Chair had shared an update on discussions at the 7 October event.
- .5 **River Derwent stepping stones:** noted a PDNPA response to a member of the public who had highlighted that (some) steps had moved had been shared with HPC (*noted the complainant had mistakenly referenced the River Noe*). PDNPA had suggested pursuing the matter with DCC. The Chair, referencing ongoing dangers with high water levels and rapidly flowing water following the October flood, suggested asking DCC to post a footpath closure notice. ***ACTION: LFAC to further discuss an HPC response and communications with DCC.***
- .6 **Meeting with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton, Tuesday 14 November, 10.30am, at the Heart of Hathersage:** Cllrs were invited to submit topics for discussion, to the Clerk; Clerk to produce a meeting agenda. Cllr Olle flagged the matter of BSIP funding, restrictions on use of the funding, and lack of consultation on bus services with local communities. Cllrs also agreed the need to discuss/address the 20 October flooding, lack of preventative measures by DCC, poor communications on the day, and what measures DCC should now be looking to undertake.

122/23

Slow Ways National Walking Network: any **update**. The Clerk had not had the time to pursue this further. Cllr Hill had investigated further and had shared comments with Cllrs. **Agreed** to respond to SWNWN noting that, as parish and town councils located in national parks generally had a very well-developed network of paths, the Parish Council did not have any specific contribution to make at this time ***ACTION for Clerk.***

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123/23
124/23

A Parish Council Complaints Policy, based on the model DALC policy, was **considered** and **approved**.
Financial Matters:

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. Noted a further £1K of winter season tickets had been sold; winter season ticket sales were now £4K under budget. Referenced the Real Living Wage (RLW), paid to pool lifeguards, and noted the 10.1% increase in the RLW rate from April 2024 from £10.90 to £12.00. Flagged options (in the Treasurer's report) for investing HPC monies. Cllrs indicated they favoured the option of the Dudley Building Society one-year fixed rate bond of 5.1%, however noted investment of funds was not an item for decision on this agenda - **investment of HPC monies to be included in the December agenda, for decision.**
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 **Accounts for payment** totalling £52,171.09 including £3,852.54 VAT were **approved**. Flagged payment of a pro forma invoice and payment in full of the Playdale invoice.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs Jane Marsden and James Shuttleworth) for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the December 2023 meeting. **Noted** the schedule of signatories for the next six months.

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

Noted changes to committee meeting schedules with LFAC now meeting on the second Tuesday of the month and SPC meeting on the third Tuesday of the month.

125/23

Swimming Pool Committee: **received** minutes of the meeting of 10 October 2023.

- .1 **Solarium flooring quote:** quote for £7,880 received and **recommended** by SPC. **Formally proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr B Hanley and unanimously approved.**
- .2 **Pool posters to be sited at Hope Valley rail stations:** SPC **recommend** acceptance of a quote of £450 for two posters of existing art deco-style style Pool artwork. **Formally proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Bloor and unanimously approved.**
- .3 **Outdoor shelter for pool staff:** **noted** purchase of a shelter for £1,881.10 (within SPC delegated spending powers).
- .4 **Pool project management:** initial full Council consideration on appointing a Project Manager to take the heating project (and possibly other pool projects) forward - SPC to consider further/in greater depth. The Chair expanded, referencing management measures during the most recent pool refurbishment where the architect acted as the Project Manager. The Chair noted the Council will need to decide whether to include specific arrangements around project management as part of the tender when inviting tenders from alternative heating providers; or whether the Council should independently look to recruit a Project Manager. Cllr Hill referenced previous HPC consideration of project management criteria. He also referenced the [Association of Project Management](#) as a potential source of help and guidance. Cllrs discussed the pros/cons of seeking a Project Manager with specific background and experience in heating engineering. Cllrs **supported further consideration** of the role, and heating project management needs; some Cllrs suggested it was too early to make any firm decisions until the funding/finance position was clarified and the Council had firmly agreed to proceed with the project. In relation to funding, noted the outcome of the DDDC submission for capital funding (for the pool heating project) was awaited.

126/23

Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee: **received** minutes of the meeting of 17 October 2023 including a **confidential minute** on the Bowling Club.

- .1 **Heart of Hathersage usage policy:** to **consider** amendments recommended by LFAC, for approval. Cllr Rodgers further flagged that paragraph 4 referenced that the office space was reserved for the Parish Council to hold meetings and for committees or groups specifically working with or on behalf of the Parish Council, however paragraph 1 referenced use of the space for organisers of all events e.g. local dance groups, groups of local musicians. **Agreed to remove reference in paragraph 1 to use by other groups** (apart from Gala and Christmas events); subject to this amendment the policy was agreed. **Formally proposed by Cllr Rodgers, seconded by Cllr B Hanley and unanimously approved.**
- .2 **Flagpole usage policy:** to **consider** the policy recommended by LFAC, for approval; the policy was agreed. **Formally proposed by Cllr Rodgers, seconded by Cllr Hill and unanimously approved.** Noted

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ongoing investigations of a 'fix' for the flagpole base. Cllr Yule noted the Royal British Legion had referenced 'the new Keith Levick memorial flagpole' in Remembrance Weekend communications; noted this was not correct **ACTION: Cllr Shuttleworth to liaise with RBL**. Reiterated plans to site a plaque close to the new flagpole acknowledging the Levick Family donation of the previous flagpole.

- .3 **Snow Warden Scheme 2023-24:** to **consider** a report and **recommendations** from LFAC on participation in the Scheme. The Assistant Clerk expanded on queries raised around insurance, indemnity and liability and the most recent responses from DCC, and from the Parish Council insurer. DCC had confirmed they offered no indemnity insurance; the Parish Council insurer had confirmed coverage under the Council's insurance. The Assistant Clerk referenced options presented in the report. The Chair flagged a fourth option – that the Council purchase salt for use by residents in and around the village, further suggesting using the remaining store of salt and ordering more if/when needed. The Assistant Clerk advised caution in terms of communications with residents wanting to spread salt on their roads/streets and being clear that residents would not be formally recognised by either the Parish Council or DCC as Snow Warden volunteers. It was **agreed** the Parish Council would **not** participate in the DCC Snow Warden Scheme this year.

Snow Warden volunteers and current expressions of interest: noted only two residents had expressed interest. It was agreed that the Chair and the Assistant Clerk draft a response noting HPC was not participating in the DCC Scheme this year, and noting other measures the Parish Council was looking to put in place.

HPC Volunteer Policy: the Assistant Clerk flagged that correspondence with DCC and with the Council's insurer had highlighted the need for the Parish Council to adopt a Volunteer Policy, and related training etc, to cover *all* instances where volunteers are involved in Parish-facilitated events/provision. **ACTION: to consider a Volunteer Policy and bring recommendations to the December HPC meeting, or the January HPC meeting.**

- .4 **Burial Ground expansion:** the Chair referenced previous consideration and discussions on extending the Burial Ground. Noted there were approximately 35 plots left on the current site. Cllrs **supported** pursuing the matter of Burial Ground expansion including liaison with DDDC. **ACTION: LFAC to discuss further.**

127/23 **CONFIDENTIAL Human Resources Committee (HRC): received** minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2023.

- .1 **Training:** the Clerk referenced free Bhayani HR Essentials Training (29 and 30 November) in which she had registered interest.

128/23 **Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 25 October 2023.

- .1 Cllrs noted Bank House were, once again, erecting a teepee outside their premises. Cllr Olle noted PDNPA Planning were investigating the matter. Agreed HPC should also formally report the erection of the teepee to PDNPA **ACTION for the Clerk.**

129/23 **Transport - received a report/update** from Cllr Hill on the following transport-related matters:

- .1 **Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP);** earlier in the meeting Cllr Hill had referenced raising matters for discussion at the next BSIP meeting.
.2 **Meeting with First Bus Group;** Cllr Hill had referenced this earlier in the meeting.
.3 **Hope Valley Bus Services problems;** referenced in discussions, with DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien, earlier in the meeting.
.4 **HVCA Transport Survey outcomes;** Cllr Hill noted a more detailed report, and interrogation of the data, at the November Transport Committee meeting.
.5 **Electrical Vehicle Chargers (EVCs);** referenced in discussion, with DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien, earlier in the meeting.

130/23 **IT - including the HPC website and social media**

- .1 **Cllr email accounts:** an **update**. The Clerk noted mailbox accounts had been created by Fasthosts but issues had arisen with setting individual email accounts up on Cllrs' devices - noted this highlighted the need for in-person HPC IT support.
.2 **Parish Council IT support:** to **consider** options. The Clerk had shared details of two providers, and their charges, and shared details of a third provider at the meeting. Cllr Hill referenced the need to be clear about provider charges for in-person visits, and for remote support. He also flagged that the Council

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would need to be confident any provider had the right credentials, training and experience. **Agreed to approach Carter Knowle Computing for support with setting up Cllr emails.** Longer-term, noted the Council need to draft an IT plan and draw up provider criteria.

131/23

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

132/23

Village Matters

.1 **Hathersage News - agreed** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue – publicising the Councillor vacancy.

.2 **Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service:** **noted** arrangements. The Chair referenced provision of a minibus noting volunteers were still being sought to support attendees.

133/23

Memorial Hall: to **receive** minutes of recent meetings of the Memorial Hall Management Committee and any related reports. The last set of minutes shared by the Clerk were the July minutes. Cllr Rodgers referenced the proposed increase in room hire charges. She also referenced the proposed toilet refurbishment.

134/23

Noted DALC circulars and other items circulated since the October 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk's Correspondence*). DALC training and updates flagged to Cllrs included:

- **training opportunities** (Clerk and Cllr W Hanley to attend HR Appraisals training; Cllr W Hanley, Clerk and Leisure Services Manager to attend January safeguarding training);
- the new **Safeguarding Policy** – to be considered either by full Council, or by HRC with recommendations to full Council;
- DALC Clerk and Cllrs online forum Weds 22 Nov 2pm – focused on the 2021 Environment Act and compliance with legislation.

135/23

Date and time of next meeting – 5 December 2023, St Michael's School; and **noted** items for the December agenda:

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- **Safeguarding Policy** (*TBC whether to consider this at December HPC or January HRC*)
- **Volunteer Policy** (*TBC whether to consider this at December or January HPC*)

The meeting closed at 21:33pm. A meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.

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