

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 December 2023, 7.30pm

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

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

136/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs Alex Campbell, W Hanley, Peter Rowland and Anne Yule; from DCC Cllr Sutton; and from the police (a report had been shared).

137/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.

138/23 **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Shuttleworth in relation to discussions on the October flood and his interest in Hathersage Business Centre.

139/23 **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 Peter O'Brien referenced progress on designs for an affordable housing scheme noting DDDC and PDNPA Officers would discuss the detail.

Bus services – noted DDDC members were looking to convene a meeting with DCC members, and other stakeholders, about the current poor state of bus services. Cllr O'Brien had shared details of a meeting with a party of children embarking on an educational visit where the timetable bus had simply not shown up. Cllrs discussed other avenues to raise and look to address concerns about bus services including:

- Hope Valley Parishes Forum **Clerk to liaise**;
- Bringing the matter to the attention of the Traffic Commissioner **agreed that Cllr Hill gather evidence of the unreliability of services to make a formal complaint via the official complaints channel**

School Lane; and Jagers Lane (up to junction with Coggers Lane) – fallen leaves making the pavement and road dangerously slippery – Cllr O'Brien to flag with DDDC Officers.

Wall (at Hassop) crumbling, and dangerous – flagged by Cllr Olle – Cllr O'Brien noted this had been reported to DCC and he referenced other walls in a dangerous condition also reported to DCC – noted he would flag, again, with DCC.

Police report

Crime stats for the past month had been shared – four burglaries; one vehicle crime; one criminal damage; one theft.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) Scheme: reported that seven people had attended the 28 November Community Speed Watch (CSW) theory-based training; one person could not stay for the full training but will complete the theory training online. PCSO Boswell is in the process of arranging CSW volunteers roadside training and had queried whether the Parish Council would purchase/pay for the CSW equipment. Suggested the CSW group borrow kit initially (e.g. from local parish councils); if volunteers are committed the Parish Council will consider purchasing the necessary kit. **Clerk to liaise with PCSO Boswell.**

Cyclists: noted the police response to concerns raised at the November meeting about cyclists on the road at night without lights.

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- 140/23 **Confirmation of Minutes**
Minutes of the HPC meeting of 7 November 2023 were **approved** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 141/23 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **PDNPA – oral report/update from Parish Member Cllr W Hanley** – no update for this meeting.
 - .2 **October flooding and future flood management:** the Chair and Cllr Shuttleworth shared an oral report from a recent meeting with MP Sarah Dines. Representatives of other parish councils had attended and shared details of measures they were working on to manage water upstream. Reference made to government funding for landowners to implement measures. **The Chair suggested liaison with PDNPA and other stakeholders on establishing upstream flood prevention/management measures.** Referenced measures on the Chatsworth Estate. Cllr Shuttleworth commented on the current situation in Hathersage suggesting the culverts can manage the water volume but need to be regularly maintained and cleared in order to do so. Noted the owner of Hathersage Hall had referenced a post-flood engineer inspection which indicated the drains on School Lane were the source of the problem, not the culvert; suggested the drains were not being fully cleared and may need some re-engineering. ***ACTION - pursue a response from DCC re arranging an Officer site visit, with Cllrs.***
 - .3 **Breedon – CSS plans and proposals for 2042 legacy: received** a report from a recent meeting facilitated by Hope with Aston Parish Council and attended by HPC Cllrs Rosie Olle and Anne Yule. Cllr Olle expanded referencing the Breedon carbon capture initiative which would involve some major structural building. Timescale – looking for permissions to be agreed by 2027, becoming operational by 2030 – Cllr Olle suggested these timescales were optimistic. The economic benefits (more employment) had been flagged as well as the downsides (local disruption; additional traffic). Referenced the Breedon Liaison Committee on which Cllr Shuttleworth sits – noted an upcoming meeting from which Cllr Shuttleworth will share notes/slides. Noted a further meeting facilitated by Hope with Aston Parish Council would be held in February – Cllrs Olle and Yule plan to attend. The Chair confirmed HPC was happy to be involved with this initiative.
 - .4 **DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton: received** notes from the 14 November meeting between DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton and HPC Cllrs.
- 142/23 **Volunteer Policy:** to **consider** adopting a Parish Council volunteer policy – **agreed to adopt the policy.** ***ACTION – Clerk/Assistant Clerk to adapt/brand the policy for HPC and share with Cllrs via email; adopted policy should be shared with the Council insurer.***
- 143/23 **Safeguarding Policy:** to **consider** the new template Safeguarding Policy produced by DALC and whether the Parish Council wants to adapt and adopt this policy. Also, to **note** staff and Cllrs undertaking DALC safeguarding training in January 2024, and consider whether to hold off on Safeguarding Policy changes until completion of training. ***ACTION – agreed to defer a decision until staff and Cllrs have completed the DALC safeguarding training; DALC policy to be reviewed at the February 2024 HPC meeting.***
- 144/23 **Donation requests**
- .1 **Hathersage Memorial Hall:** to **consider** a request from the management committee for a contribution towards improving insulation and acoustics in the Stanage Hall; costs currently being investigated. Donation (amount) to be agreed only if the project proceeds – ***HPC donation agreed, in principle.***
 - .2 **Churchyard upkeep:** to **consider** a donation towards upkeep of the Churchyard. Chair – up-to-date accounts awaited (inc 2021 accounts). 2022 accounts *had* been provided; ***a donation of £1,200, for 2022, was agreed.*** Donation to be paid into the churchyard account and confirmed with the Secretary, Treasurer and Verger.
Cllr Rodgers spoke about the information board at the Little John grave, in the churchyard, thanking the Council for its donation. Cllr Rodgers also referenced Hathersage Historical Society’s investigation of the whereabouts of Little John’s bow noting it was currently at Cannon Hall, Barnsley. ***ACTION – Cllr Rodgers to draft an item for Hathersage News.***

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- 145/23 **Financial Regulations:** to **consider** and **approve** amendments to the Parish Council Financial Regulations, recommended by the Finance Committee. Cllr Rodgers sought clarification on 6.6 – evidence of payee’s bank account details for payments of £2,500 or more – the RFO shared an example – an invoice with contractor/supplier’s bank details. The financial regulations were **approved**.
- 146/23 **Financial Matters:**
- .1 **Received** the RFO’s Report. Reference made to the ongoing Opus dispute – RFO expanded noting recent communications with a debt collector – further noting that, following the information he had provided, he was hopeful the matter was coming to a conclusion – noted, if not, HPC may need to seek legal advice/support.
 - .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
 - .3 **Accounts for payment** totalling £48,532.86 including £1,485.96 VAT were **approved**.
 - .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs RO and AY) for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the January 2024 meeting.
 - .5 **2024-25 Revenue Budget and Precept:** to **approve**.
The RFO flagged all anticipated expenditure for the remainder of 2023-24.
Cllrs considered the proposed revenue budget for 2024-25. A number of changes to allocations/ amounts, and some additional allocations, were proposed. **ACTIONS for RFO and Cllrs:**
 - *RFO to redraft the 2024-25 revenue budget (with proposed changes) for approval at the January 2024 meeting;*
 - *2024-25 Precept to be agreed at the January meeting;*
 - *Reserves to be agreed at the January meeting;*
 - *Cllrs to flag any potential additional expenditure with the RFO ahead of the January meeting.*
 - .6 **Investment of Parish Council funds:** to **consider** investment in a Dudley Building Society account (*see bullet point options*) and **agree the amount** for investment:
 - 30-day notice paying 4% variable
 - 90-day notice paying 4.25% variable
 - One-year fixed rate bond paying 4.9%**Agreed** to opt for the one-year fixed rate bond account, investing an amount of £100K (copy of this minute needed to open the account).
 - .7 **NJC agreed pay rises 2023-24:** **noted** the recent national agreement – a £1,925 per annum flat rate increase (for the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, RFO, Caretaker and Pool Management).
 - .8 **Staff Christmas meal:** to **confirm** the Council’s position on making a contribution to the costs of a staff Christmas meal or equivalent payment to those not attending a meal. Agreed, next year, this should be brought to the attention of the Council earlier **ACTION – item for the October 2024 HPC meeting**. **Agreed** a contribution of £30 per head towards the pool staff Christmas meal and an equivalent contribution to other Council staff.
Cllr Hanley flagged concerns about the group email discussion on this matter noting staff had inappropriately been included. Agreed this should not have been the case and noted this would inform development of email protocols for Cllrs. Cllrs were asked to be more aware, in future, in relation to what was shared and with whom, in group emails.
- Committees and Working Groups**
- 147/23 **Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee:** **received** minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2023. The Chair noted there would be amendments to these minutes.
- 148/23 **Swimming Pool Committee:** **received** minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2023.
Cllrs commended pool staff for the beautiful pool Christmas decorations **Clerk to email all pool staff**.
- 149/23 **Planning Committee:** **received** minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2023.

- 150/23 **Transport** - minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2023 - yet to be approved by the Transport Committee Chair – will be circulated in due course.
- 156/23 **IT - including the HPC website and social media**
 Cllrs **received** a report covering all three items, below.
- .1 **Cllr email accounts: an update.** Chair flagged concerns about rollout of Cllr .gov.uk email accounts without reassurance for Cllrs on the need for dedicated Cllr email addresses. Noted some Cllrs would prefer to stick with personal email accounts, while others had specifically requested a .gov.uk account – noted this would create a two-tier system. Further consideration needed including seeking input/advice from an IT specialist. Flagged that Cllrs with mobile devices – who want a .gov.uk email account – could meet with Rob Edwards of Carter Knowle Computing on the morning of Tuesday 12 December (at the Heart of Hathersage) to set up accounts on their devices.
 - .2 **Cllr email protocols: to consider.** Noted points flagged in discussion about a staff Christmas meal contribution; further consideration to be given to producing a formal set of protocols.
 - .3 **CCTV: to receive and consider** a report/update. A quote had been shared after the agenda circulation for Cllrs to give some initial consideration – quote approval was not being sought. The Chair suggested an audit of all system cameras before proceeding further.
- 157/23 **Clerk's Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the November 2023 meeting.
- 158/23 **Village Matters**
- .1 **Hathersage News: to agree** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue. Cllr B Hanley to share, with the Clerk, a draft article needing some police input (*Clerk to liaise with PCSO Boswell*). Cllr Hill to draft an item on accessing real-time bus timetables on phones and apps. Cllr Rodgers to draft an item on a recently retired long-serving postman. Cllr Rodgers also to draft an article about Little John's grave and the Little John bow.
 - .2 **Remembrance Sunday:** a couple of attendees had shared their disappointment that some poppies were branded with business sponsorship. Noted it was national RBL policy to allow poppy sponsorship and that it raised money for RBL initiatives. Agreed to feed this back, via Cllr Anne Yule, to those who had raised concerns.
 - .3 **New Union Jack Flag (for Heart of Hathersage flagpole): to consider** purchasing a new flag. Cllr Shuttleworth suggested purchasing a sewn flag (rather than a printed flag) – **agreed. ACTION – actual flag costs to be approved at the January meeting; Cllr Shuttleworth to order the new flag.**
 - .4 **Coronation Flag: to consider** whether the Parish Council should retain the flag or offer it to Hathersage Historical Society for their archives – Cllr Rodgers agreed to ask the Historical Society to consider it.
 - .5 **Shuttleworth Lamp:** flagged that the lamp was not currently working. **ACTION – Clerk to ask local electrician to look into it.**
 - .6 **Heart of Hathersage Christmas tree – lights:** noted the lights were not currently working and may need to be replaced.
- 159/23 **Memorial Hall: received** minutes of the September and October meetings of the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Noted the Committee had declined taking up the offer for a portrait of King Charles to be hung in the Hall.
- 160/23 **Noted** DALC circulars and other items circulated since the November 2023 meeting (*also referenced under Clerk's Correspondence*). DALC training, updates and other matters flagged to Cllrs included:
- **Environment Act 2021, biodiversity targets, and local councils.** DALC had shared examples of biodiversity initiatives in other local councils. Links to guidance [on complying with biodiversity duties] had also been shared. Query raised with DALC whether compliance and associated initiatives were being led by County/District, or whether (and the extent to which) parish councils were obliged to produce a biodiversity plan. Noted DALC were in the process of gathering further information with the aim of producing guidance and model policies early in 2024. **Agenda item for the January HPC meeting.**
 - **Training – Civility and Respect; Memorial Management and Inspection** – noted details of this (and other training offers) in the newsletter **ACTION – Clerk to seek further details on**

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the bespoke Civility and Respect training. Noted DALC were also seeking input on other training Councils would find useful/beneficial.

- **Online forum meeting with Supt Becky Webster on Weds 13 December 1.30pm – noted** (meeting link and joining details in the newsletter).

161/23

Date and time of next meeting – 2 January 2024, St Michael’s School; items for the January agenda already **noted** in the course of the meeting.

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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