

# HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Maura Sorensen, *Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, S32 1BB*  
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## Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 21 November 2023, 7.30 pm MINUTES

**Present** Councillors W Hanley (Chair), Alex Campbell (*part*), B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers  
**In Attendance** Chris Cave, Responsible Finance Officer (RFO); Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM)

- 105/23 Apologies for absence – none.  
106/23 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.  
107/23 Declaration of interests – MW staff mem.  
108/23 **Public participation** - 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.  
109/23 **Pool Advisor’s Report.** No report was provided on this occasion. **ACTION - Clerk to contact the Pool Advisor to request if he can assess the Duty Supervisor Role (draft now agreed) against industry standards.**  
110/23 **Minutes of the 10 October 2023 meeting** were **confirmed** and actions arising (*referenced in the Action Log*) from the minutes **noted**.  
111/23 **Pool Manager’s Report** including operational, maintenance and staffing matters  
.1 **Tile repairs – update** on closure dates and progress with other planned repair/maintenance works during closure. Work dates still to be confirmed by Cumberlidge – noted Cumberlidge were awaiting a tile delivery. Anticipated the repairs (and associated planned repairs and maintenance) would not be undertaken until early/Spring 2024.  
The LSM referenced pursuing advice from the Pool Advisor – and/or other industry sources - on safe and compliant disposal of chemicals stored beneath the bandstand. **ACTION - LSM to undertake this as soon as possible, and ahead of the December SPC meeting.**  
.2 **Disabled access ladder** – confirmed the ladder had been installed.  
.3 **Pool vacuum cleaner repair** – confirmed the repair had been made.  
.4 **Pool staff noticeboard** (with staff photos) – confirmed the board had been put up and staff photos were being taken. **ACTION – all staff photos to be posted on the noticeboard ahead of the December SPC meeting.**  
.5 **Solarium floor**
  - **update** on contractor response re supply, fitting and testing compliance with Health and Safety Standards. LSM referenced *verbal* acknowledgement that flooring will pass H&S compliance testing. **ACTION - Cllrs asked for written confirmation on compliance testing.**
  - **consider** a quote (£3,300.00) for removal and replacement of bench supports (in conjunction with fitting of new flooring). Cllrs noted the quote seemed high but acknowledged the amount of work involved. Discussed the pros and cons of removing the bench supports before fitting the new flooring or laying the new flooring around the bench supports. LSM referenced Flex Flooring proposal to fit a mesh layer under the new flooring; suggested this will provide more robust support for the bench supports. Alternatively, suggested moving/siting the heavy benches elsewhere around the pool, and purchasing lighter benches for the veranda.

### **ACTIONS**

- **LSM to seek further quotes, from other providers, for removal and replacement of bench supports.**

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➤ **LSM to liaise with TDP re management of heavy benches on flooring in other settings.**

- .6 **Staffing – lifeguard hours; monthly planning; training; recruitment.** Noted staff currently undergoing training. Noted recruitment was on hold until agreement is reached on any changes to the staffing structure.
- .7 **September pool inspection – update** on follow-up of actions identified at the inspection. A report had been circulated. Noted painting was ongoing, as weather and ongoing contractor commitments allow. SPC Chair suggested applying teak oil to the handrails as a maintenance/preservation measure; suggested rails would need to be sanded first.
- .8 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing.** Rail posters: ***ACTION - Clerk to liaise with Cllr Olle on production of a pool poster for local railway stations; Clerk to generate a purchase order.*** Cllr B Hanley referenced posting an item in Hathersage News about the pool, and the Swim Club swimming gala.
- .9 **Advertising – to consider** a proposal by a local business to post an advertising board at the pool with a one-off payment of £1,200 for posting the board for three years; business owner to commission Peak Advertising to make the advertising board. RFO queried whether the charge included VAT. RFO referenced current annual charges for advertising boards - £450 pa – noting the proposed charges offered a significant discount. SPC Chair suggested accepting the proposal – with VAT to be added – **agreed**. Proposed poster design to be shared with Cllrs before going to print. Noted the LSM would liaise with the printer.
- .10 **Swim Club:** no update.
- .11 **Widening pool access:** consideration of provision for specific user groups e.g. those with health conditions/specific needs and any related funding to support provision. No specific progress to report on this initiative. Suggested pool management aim to consider this in greater depth, early in 2024. In discussion, Cllrs suggested possible measures/lines of pursuit - liaison with local health providers; looking at wider provision e.g. where supermarkets provide quiet/autism friendly times. Also referenced provision of sessions/lessons for adult non-swimmers; for adults who lack confidence in swimming; for older swimmers who are looking to swim at a slower pace. Acknowledged the need to balance this provision with ensuring there is no significant loss of income-generating sessions. Cllr B Hanley to look at producing an article for Hathersage News to gauge the level of interest in sessions/lessons for adult non-swimmers, and for adult non-confident swimmers.
- .12 **Pre-booking pool sessions** – SPC Chair noted careful consideration will need to be given to this ahead of the summer season.
- .13 **Season ticket income** – SPC Chair referenced child/junior season tickets suggesting, for a second child/junior ticket (where at least one associated adult season ticket is purchased), offering it at a reduced price – or free. The RFO flagged a potential associated loss of income of between £6 and £7K. Acknowledged further consideration was needed. Suggested a child/junior attending without a parent would have to pay. Noted the challenges of balancing provision of fun sessions for children/juniors with provision for adults e.g lane swimming. Cllr Hill suggested it would be useful to look at comparative data on pool income over a number of years including reviewing trends in purchasing season tickets.
- .14 **Timetables** – suggested consideration to be given to the summer timetable at the December SPC meeting. ***ACTION – item for December SPC agenda.*** Referencing the Christmas timetable, the LSM confirmed all Christmas and New Year sessions can be booked online; noted season ticket holders do not need to pre-book. Cllr B Hanley reiterated that a timetable needs to be posted outside the pool.
- 112/23 **Finance**
- .1 **Noted** data on pool income/takings in 2022-23 and 2023-24. SPC Chair queried indirect costs in both years. ***ACTION - RFO to produce an audit for the financial and parish council year of all income and expenditure, including indirect costs incurred.*** Referencing the data, the RFO flagged the drop this season in out-of-area season ticket sales. Daily admissions – noted positive income from daily admissions in the high season but, in the low season, admissions were below what they had been in previous years. Confirmed that income was steady, overall, due to the increase in admission prices. The RFO referenced the agreed increase in the national Real Living Wage rate, to £12.00 per

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hour, which will be paid to all pool lifeguards from April 2024. SPC Chair noted that the National minimum wage (for those 21 years plus) would increase to £11.44, from April.

**Pool Heating Project – the next stage:**

- .1 **Funding** – outcome from the DDDC Sport England funding bid (for £147K) awaited. Clarified the bid did not include costs for structures *supporting* solar panels; suggested funding may be needed from HPC reserves for this purpose. Cllr Hill referenced notional costs cited by one provider, suggesting more precise costs/a quote could only be shared once the provider had undertaken an investigative survey - for which the Council should expect to pay. Cllr Hill expanded on the knowns and unknowns in relation to a detailed survey, and the technical nature of the survey. He suggested the survey cost could be in the region of £10-15K. He further suggested there could be no more significant progress with the project until the Council had secured a detailed assessment and costs survey. Cllr Hill noted he was seeking endorsement to enquire further with Matrix about survey costs. He further noted he was liaising with a second provider and that he would try to source (and seek a quote from) a third provider.

Cllr Hill also referenced exploring the use of the Memorial Hall roof to install pool solar panels – noted this would need to be discussed with, and by, the Memorial Hall management committee. Suggested PDNPA would look more favourably on an application for solar panels on an existing structure, such as the Memorial Hall roof. **ACTION – Cllr Hill and the Clerk to liaise on an approach to the Memorial Hall Management Committee.**

Cllrs referenced other heating alternatives discussed previously including heat pumps. Excessive noise had been flagged as a possible issue; suggested undertaking a site visit to a facility with a heat pump in situ to gauge whether excessive noise was a concern. Cllr Rodgers suggested liaison with other DDDC pools/leisure services e.g at Ashbourne, Buxton, Wirksworth for information on providers with whom they contracted, for alternative energy sources.

**The Chair summarised agreed actions:**

- **Cllr Hill to liaise with other providers – looking to get at least notional costs from two providers.**
- **Cllr Hill to liaise with Matrix about actual costs for a detailed survey.**
- **LSM to liaise with DDDC pools/leisure services for information on providers with whom they contracted for alternative energy sources.**

- .2 **Project Management** – to **consider a report**. Cllr Hill referenced a previous report by the SPC Chair, and a previous Cllr (Stuart Turner), suggesting this should be the basis for further consideration of the pros/cons of employing a Project Manager. Cllr Hill suggested convening a sub-group to consider the matter further – **agreed** – sub-group to comprise Cllrs W Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden and Heather Rodgers.

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**2023-2028 Pool Business Improvement and Renewal Plan:** to **note** updates reflecting planned works, and new initiatives; Cllrs to **comment and feedback** on any further iterations of the plan. **Noted** the SPC Chair and LSM would discuss this at a forthcoming meeting.

**Flagged some items for addition/inclusion in the Plan:**

- **Bandstand** – the inside of the roof needs surveying – scaffolding will be needed.
- **Path widening** (path in front of the changing rooms) – LSM referenced a rough estimate which had seemed high) **ACTION - LSM to seek quotes.**
- **Pedestrian walkway** in the pool car park – suggested any alterations be considered in association with the heating project; suggested work needed on the grass mound between the car park and the MUGA – one suggestion was to put in a retaining wall.

**Other items referenced:**

- Weather shelter – to be delivered next week.
- Historical boards and an information board – SPC Chair to discuss with LSM re content, and positioning, of boards Suggested board costs would be in the region of £120-150 per board; design spec would be as per the advertising boards.

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- 115/23 **Engagement with other pool and leisure organisations and services including the Future Lidos Project:** SPC Chair suggested looking at a quality assurance (QA) scheme for the pool – if necessary, the Council to design a tailored QA scheme. ***ACTION - SPC Chair to discuss with Future Lidos Project.***
- 116/23 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence** – none.
- 117/23 Next meeting – **19 December 2023, 7.30pm**; and to **note** any items for the December meeting.

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