

## 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 6 February 2024, 7.30pm

**Councillors present:** Jane Marsden (Chair); Martin Bloor; Alex Campbell; Steve Dempsey; B Hanley; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; Pete Rowland; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams; Anne Yule

**In attendance:** Chris Cave, RFO; Kathrynne Fraser (Assistant Clerk); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton (part)

- 184/23 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllrs W Hanley and T Hill; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; from DDDC Cllr Peter O'Brien; and from the police (*a report was provided*).  
New Cllr Steven Dempsey was welcomed to the meeting; Cllrs and Officers introduced themselves.
- 185/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 186/23 **Declaration of Members Interests** – none.
- 187/23 **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 Ripton referenced provision of portable monitors to monitor air quality – available to parish councils. Noted this was currently a data-gathering exercise on air pollution levels across Derbyshire Dales; noted responsibility for related actions lay with DCC. Cllrs indicated interest and referenced potential monitoring sites. ***ACTION – Cllr Ripton to liaise with Officers noting HPC interest in accessing a portable monitor.*** Cllr Ripton also referenced exchanges (with residents and Cllrs) about the dog waste bin Baulk Lane. There was consensus that the dog waste bin should be reinstated. ***ACTION – Cllr Ripton to liaise with Officers.***
- Police:** a report including details of crimes recorded over the last month had been shared.
- 188/23 **Confirmation of Minutes**  
Minutes of the HPC meeting of 2 January 2024 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 189/23 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **PDNPA** – Parish Member Cllr W Hanley had circulated a report – **noted**.
- .2 **New PDNPA CEO and informal meetings with Peak Park communities:** a recent newsletter had referenced community engagement and included a proposal to hold a meeting in Hathersage (possibly early April; date TBC), at the pool café; Chair to liaise with café tenants. Suggested holding the meeting early evening (from 5pm) after the café had closed to customers. Alternative venues were proposed. Suggested clarity needed on the nature of the event PDNPA were envisaging; **noted Cllr W Hanley was pursuing this.**
- .3 **Environment Act and meeting biodiversity requirements:** **agreed** to adopt the DALC model policy and action plan. Considered seeking external support around meeting biodiversity requirements however the Chair suggested the Parish Council should be able to address/oversee this. ***ACTION – Chair and Assistant Clerk to meet to consider the policy and action plan in greater depth, and to consider HPC next steps.***
- .4 **Local rewilding group, and Hathersage Horticultural Society:** **noted** a proposal to undertake work on the flower bed opposite the Bund Wall in Jagers Lane. Cllr Olle had met with group members earlier in the day and a number of queries had been raised – agreed to address this at the next LFAC meeting. ***ACTION – 13 February LFAC agenda item.***
- .5 **Flood management:** **noted** some outcomes from the 19 January meeting facilitated by DCC and the Environment Agency – the Chair had attended and shared a verbal update. She referenced

Signed:

Date:

other stakeholders in attendance including Natural England; Severn Trent; DCC Highways. Reference also made to discussions at an autumn 2023 flood-review meeting following the October flooding. The Chair referenced flood management initiatives at other parish councils Baslow; Grindleford – noting they were pro-active in working with other stakeholders (including landowners/managers) to implement management measures upstream. Reference made to where/how similar measures could be undertaken in/around Hathersage and noted the need for ongoing engagement with other stakeholders including the Stanage Forum; English Heritage; PDNPA; National Trust. Reference made to related funding [for flood prevention measures].

Cllr Shuttleworth referenced specific factors contributing to the October 2023 flooding in Hathersage and measures being taken to address this e.g. ensuring culverts (and grilles) are maintained and kept clear. Noted Hathersage residents and businesses included in liaison with DCC and other stakeholders.

- .6 **Meeting with DDDC Officer Steve Capes on preparing funding bids:** noted discussions, and some recommendations in the report was circulated. Next steps for the Parish Council to be considered in due course.

190/23 **HPC Volunteer Policy:** approved the policy (*template policy adapted for HPC*). The Assistant Clerk expanded on the background to the introduction of the policy and flagged proposed changes to the template. **Approval of the policy formally proposed by Cllr Rodgers; seconded by Cllr Shuttleworth; and unanimously approved.**

191/23 **HPC Disciplinary Policy and Procedures:** agreed an amendment recommended by DALC (*details referenced in the report*). **Approval of the amendment formally proposed by Cllr B Hanley; seconded by Cllr Olle; and unanimously agreed.**

192/23 **Financial Regulations:** approved the list of those who have direct debit authority on the HPC account (*referenced in the Treasurer's report*); direct debits approved will continue.

193/23 **Financial Matters:**

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. The RFO referenced a matter arising since circulation of his report in relation to the HPC payroll provider. Noted the licence (with the current provider, Iris) was due for renewal on 4 March. RFO flagged the payroll programme used by HPC is being retired and the cost quoted for the replacement was £160.50 per month which the RFO had negotiated down to £126.00 per month. He had been investigating alternative payroll providers/programmes but noted he would not want to move the payroll over at short notice; he proposed renewal with Iris for a further year – **unanimously agreed**. Looking elsewhere, the cost of Sage's standard payroll would be £108 per month.

The RFO also reference the long-running Opus Energy dispute. Noted, while Opus Energy appeared to have accepted that HPC does not owe monies for energy use, they are claiming standing charges in respect of a deemed supply. A full report to be made to Councillors when details are received. Cllrs noted some external advice may be needed. **ACTION – RFO to seek advice, in the first instance, from HPC energy brokers.** If pursuing a formal complaint, the Council would approach the Ombudsman.

- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.

.3 **Accounts for payment** totalling £54,978.57 including £2,102.14 VAT were **approved**.

- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories (Cllrs M Bloor and W Hanley) from the agreed schedule for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the March 2024 meeting. In the possible absence of Cllr W Hanley Cllr B Hanley was authorised to approve the wages for week ending 8 February.

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

194/23 **Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee:** received minutes of the meeting of 9 January 2024. No Qs related to the mins.

- .1 **Heart of Hathersage:** approved a quote for a desktop and shelving; noted the possibility of a slight increase in costs dependent on materials used/costs.

- 195/23 **Swimming Pool Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2024. **Received** a written update on the pool heating project.
- 196/23 **Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 11 January 2024.
- 197/23 **HR Committee (CONFIDENTIAL): received** minutes of the meeting of 30 January 2024. *Detail of some the proposals/recommendations below are confidential and are minuted separately.*
- .1 **2024-25 Staff Pay: agreed** HRC recommendations (for implementation from 1 April).
  - .2 **Bhayani Law contract for provision of HR advice and support:** renewal of the contract for a further three years was **approved**.
  - .3 **Duty Supervisor proposals:** while agreeing proposals (below) in principle, in discussion it emerged that further clarity was needed on some elements prior to implementation. It was **agreed** a further meeting of the HR committee be convened ahead of the March full Council meeting. HRC to address the queries raised and clarify elements of the proposals – and implementation – and report further to full Council, at the March meeting.
    - **agreed** HRC recommendations on the role *in principle* - noting HRC to clarify elements of the proposal – and provide a report to full Council at the March meeting, for full Council endorsement and approval.
    - **agreed** HRC recommendations on setting an outline budget for summer and winter Duty Supervisor hours.
  - .4 **Independent Pool Advisor/Consultant:** Cllrs flagged a number of queries and a lack of clarity around elements of the proposal. ***ACTION – HRC to consider further with a view to providing a clear report to full Council e.g. on the parameters, duties etc of the role.***
  - .5 **Safeguarding - DALC Safeguarding Policy - agreed** to adopt the policy – to be adapted for the Parish Council including appropriate links and references e.g. to the Pool Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
  - .6 **Safeguarding - Pool Staff Safeguarding Training – agreed** the HRC recommendation that the Parish Council pay for all pool staff to undertake Swim England (online) safeguarding training and that it will be mandatory for all pool staff complete the training.
  - .7 **Public Sector Equality Duty:** Cllrs **noted** the government's new [non-statutory guidance](#) for public authorities and the equality duties under the 2010 Equality Act (s. 149); Parish Councils are public authorities covered under the Act.
  - .8 **Assistant Clerk recruitment:** an **update** was shared. Cllrs shared some suggestions on publicising the post.
- 198/23 **Transport matters: received** a **report** from Cllr Hill with updates on transport-related matters. The Transport Committee Chair, Cllr Olle, noted she would not be able to attend the next scheduled meeting (27 February) and asked that an alternative date be considered. ***ACTION – Clerk to liaise with Transport Committee members.***
- 199/23 **IT - including the HPC website; social media**  
Noted that the IT (and CCTV) working groups were yet to meet to further consider next steps etc.
- .1 **Cllr email accounts:** noted DALC advice that, while it was previously deemed ‘best practice’ for Cllrs to have dedicated email addresses it would shortly become an audit requirement. Cllrs also flagged the need for a shared file system. ***ACTION – working group to consider next steps.***
  - .2 **CCTV: received** a report following a recent meeting with Mytec; noted there will be follow-up on the report proposals.
- 200/23 **Clerk’s Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the January 2024 meeting including:
  - DCC consultation on division boundaries – will not impact Hathersage.
  - Hope Valley Railway Upgrade - update.
  - HVCA January Newsletter.
  - Police newsletter on securing property/items against burglary.

- 201/23 **Village Matters**
- .1 **Hathersage News:** to **agree** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue. Suggestions arising from discussions at this meeting included an update on discussions about the Baulk Lane dog waste bin; village CCTY system update; flood management; biodiversity actions and initiatives; appointment of a new Councillor (Cllr Dempsey).
- 202/23 **Memorial Hall: received** minutes of the November 2023 meeting of the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Referenced ongoing liaison between HPC and the Memorial Hall Management Committee about siting solar panels on the Memorial Hall roof (in relation to the pool heating project).
- 203/23 **DALC newsletters (and other circulars)** shared since the January 2024 meeting; **January and February DALC newsletters had been shared with Cllrs; the Clerk had highlighted a number of items:**
- **S137 limit raised to £10.81 per elector for 2024-25.**
  - **Procurement thresholds increase:** from 1 January 2024 the thresholds for public procurement have increased. New thresholds for public contracts with an estimated value, including VAT, are: Goods & Services - over £214,904 (previously 213,477); Public works (construction) - over £5,372,609 (previously £5,336, 937).
  - **Switching to .gov.uk:** DALC reference support and funding for parish councils – presumably only for those councils who do not currently have a hosted website/email accounts (HPC already has a .gov.uk website and email accounts).
  - **Pre-election publicity on parish council noticeboards:** DALC advise caution on posting publicity e.g. from MPs and the Police and Crime Commissioner – detailed advice available at <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/short-guide-publicity-during-pre-election-period>
  - **Making connections across the UK: [National Networks](#)** for Councils, Cllrs and common interest groups e.g. on the climate emergency; LGBT+ Cllrs, women Cllrs; young Cllrs.
  - **Civility and Respect Pledge** see further [details](#) and a [newsletter](#).
  - **Green light to Derbys-Notts Devolution Deal:** devolution for the region approved by DCC, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council; once finalised by Parliament the necessary legislation could see the EMCCA come into existence by March 2024 triggering up to £4 billion of funding and investment plus devolved powers for transport, skills, adult education, housing, environment and economic development.
  - **New Model Contract of Employment for Clerks** *DALC note current contracts do not need to be immediately replaced with the new contract.*
- 204/23 **Date and time of next meeting – 5 March 2024, St Michael’s School; noted** items flagged in the minutes, for the March agenda.