

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 20 February 2024, 7.30pm MINUTES

Present: Councillors W Hanley (Chair), Alex Campbell, B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers

In attendance: RFO, Chris Cave (*part*); Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington

- 151/23 Apologies for absence – Cllr Steven Dempsey.
- 152/23 To decide any variation in the order of business – finance-related items discussed (*minuted under finance-related items*) first to allow the RFO to contribute and then leave the meeting.
- 153/23 Declaration of interests – Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington (pool staff member).
- 154/23 **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 in attendance.
- 155/23 **Pool Advisor's Report** – no report to this meeting.
- 156/23 **Minutes of the 16 January 2024 meeting were confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes (*and referenced in the Action Log*) **noted**.
- 157/23 **Pool Manager's Report** including operational, maintenance and staffing matters. Reference made to drains issues at the start of the week necessitating a brief closure of the pool, café and adjacent footpaths. LSM expanded on a report from a specialist drains company; suggested the problem originated 'from the pool café side'; flagged that pipes need relining/realigning over approx. a 15M stretch; noted the possibility that the pool may have to close for this work to be done (pool toilets would be out of operation for the duration). LSM responded to some technical queries about the problem and the solution. Noting the drains had now been thoroughly flushed out, queried whether further work was urgent. **Suggested deferring further work to the autumn; situation to be monitored in the interim.**
- .1 **Tile repairs** (*and works planned during period of pool closure*):
 - Still waiting for proposed closure dates, from the contractor.
 - Old chemicals stored beneath the bandstand – partly cleared; awaiting collection (in the period of pool closure for tiling works).
 - noted other works planned or which could be undertaken during the closure period.
 - .2 **Solarium Floor** – **noted** the written confirmation (email) from the contractor on guaranteeing compliance with health and safety regulations and testing. **ACTION - when signing the contract, reference to compliance to be included in the confirmation letter.**
 - .3 **Staffing and weather-related (and other) pool closures:** reaffirmed current HPC practice – where staff can get in, but the pool is closed to the public, staff should work their shifts taking the opportunity to undertake work that is more challenging when the public are there e.g. deep cleaning. Where staff cannot get in because of bad weather – and where official advice is not to travel – staff (on the rota) are paid for shifts. Reaffirmed that at least two members of staff should be at the pool; there should be no lone working.
 - .4 **Pool staff training** – **received** a report on the following:
 - **Attendance at regular weekly training sessions** – **noted** variations in staff attendance; LSM shared some context. Noted minimum NPLQ ongoing training requirements. Agreed to seek input from the DDDC Trainer. **ACTION – LSM to liaise with Pool Trainer Dave Turvey on training attendance and expectations.** Queried reference to training in staff contracts and whether it is sufficiently clear.
 - **Staff member request for HPC to fund Level 1 Swim Teacher Training:** SPC **agreed** to the request however Cllrs referenced current numbers of pool staff with teaching qualifications, aligned to teaching demand at the pool. SPC requested that, in future, pool management ask staff to put their training requests directly to SPC; Cllrs would then liaise with pool management about pool teaching needs before responding to the request. Further suggested setting a pool staff training budget - **agenda item for March SPC.**

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Date:

Page 1 of 4

- **Correlating staff training requests with pool needs** – addressed under the previous bullet point.
- **Safeguarding** –noted approval by full Council to fund Swim England basic (online) safeguarding training for all pool staff and training be **mandatory**. **Confirmed** staff would be paid for training time. ***ACTION – LSM to investigate logistics of booking training, and staff undertaking training; LSM and Pool Operations Manager to undertake the training first to gauge time needed etc. LSM to record staff members completion of training, certificates etc.***

- .5 **Staffing – other - lifeguard hours; monthly planning; recruitment.** Nothing specific to report to this meeting.
- .6 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing:** **noted** a demonstration of synchronised swimming (AlmostSynchro group, Bristol) scheduled for Saturday 20 April, 5pm to 6pm. Cllrs discussed event details including offering free attendance to season ticket holders - attendance to be confirmed in advance – SPC Chair/LSM to draft communications to season ticket holders. Suggested inviting some village groups to spectate or participate – noted there would need to be a cap on numbers of participants. Agreed to give free entry to the AlmostSynchro group on Sunday morning. Also suggested that a Parish Council donation be given to the group after the event. ***ACTION – SPC Chair/LSM to discuss event details etc further.*** **Agreed** to post a (general) pool advertisement in next issue of Dore-to-Door.
- .7 **Swim Club:** **noted** a recent Swim Club donation. LSM confirmed he was liaising with the Club on provision/pool activities.
- .8 **Lifeguard outdoor shelter:** LSM had liaised with the vendor. Missing parts were still awaited; anticipated delivery this week or next week.
- .9 **Widening pool access to users with health and/or mobility issues:** standing agenda item – any suggestions/proposals to be shared - nothing further to share at this stage. Noted publicity in the Peak Advertiser on Freedom Leisure cancer swims.

158/23 **Setting up monthly direct debits for season ticket holders:** a report had been shared. The RFO raised some queries in relation to how monthly payments had been managed through post-dated cheques and whether those users would be paying the same amount as users on Direct Debits (DD). Acknowledged this needed further investigation, to clarify. Noted the six-month minimum DD commitment; acknowledged there was some risk individuals might cancel their DD regardless. Noted DDs would automatically be adjusted if charges go up or down; pool users on DDs would be informed in advance, by email. Cllr Marsden advised caution - and clarity - in 'marketing' the DD to pool users. ***ACTION – pool management to share draft message/s to pool users, and draft DD terms and conditions, with Cllrs, for approval.*** **SPC recommended adoption, to full Council, of the proposal, to be implemented from 1 March 2024;** noted the next HPC meeting scheduled for 5 March – Cllrs to be asked to approve the recommendation, in advance of that meeting, by email ***ACTION – Clerk to email all Cllrs re approving the SPC recommendation.***

159/23 **Pool CCTV:** Cllrs **considered** a quote from Mytec. Noted the quote included the option to incorporate CCTV cameras at the bowling club/green into the pool system – **supported** this option – noted there will need to be liaison with the bowling club committee. Noted the potential disruption in relation to installing cables etc; consideration to be given to commissioning this work when the pool is closed e.g. for tiling works. ***ACTION – recommend the Mytec proposal/s and quote to full Council.***

160/23 **Pool timetable and entry charges** (standing agenda item): **noted** some pool user responses to the publication of the Summer 2024 timetable. ***ACTION - Chair/LSM to share draft response to the complainants and an email to all season ticket holders explaining the rationale for the Summer 2024 timetable.***

161/23 **Finance**

- .1 **2024-2025 Budget – received.** RFO expanded. Noted (projected) costs related to the heating project were not included (some monies could come out of reserves). Budget included reference to ongoing/future energy costs. ***ACTION – SPC recommend this budget, for approval, to full Council.***
- .2 **Opus Energy dispute.** RFO expanded. He had shared advice from the HPC energy broker that HPC take the matter to the Ombudsman. RFO suggested he liaise with the debt collector

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Date:

Page 2 of 4

(Opos) first, giving them a short period/opportunity to respond before taking the matter to the Ombudsman – **agreed**.

162/23

Pool Heating Project

RFO had shared Companies House information on Matrix and Sheco referencing significant losses, over the course of a year, at Sheco. **ACTION - RFO to ask SHECO for a copy of their audited accounts.**

- **Funding** – confirmed the DDDC Sport England funding bid (on behalf of Hathersage Swimming Pool) – had not been successful.
- **Cllr Hill update** on liaison with contractors. Cllr Hill had shared reports. He referenced the two viable proposals (Sheco; Matrix) and expanded a little. Noted Matrix were seeking £5K upfront; Sheco had not specified charges. Noted a third quote had been sought but the company had been unresponsive to detailed enquiries. Cllr Hill made brief reference to exploration of heating initiatives at some other pools noting most were at the early stages of planning.

Cllrs discussed moving forward with this project noting funding would have to be secured to implement any significant changes. Cllr Hill suggested the Council needed to agree, at this point, whether or not to move forward highlighting that, in order to do so, further investigatory work was needed as per the Sheco and Matrix proposals. Cllr Marsden referenced criteria/factors HPC needs to consider 1) that the pool continues to be viable; and 2) the extent of the HPC environmental/green commitment e.g. looking to become carbon neutral. Cllr Hill further suggested a clear aim that the pool running costs under alternative energies cost no more – and ideally less - than current gas boiler costs.

Cllrs referenced other considerations e.g. size and noise associated with air source heat pumps – referenced made to the Ashbourne Leisure Centre air heat pump – acknowledged further investigation needed.

Noted the RFO investigation of the finances both at Sheco and Matrix; Cllr Hill also referenced online reviews, of both companies.

Cllr Hill reiterated his recommendation – to commission both companies to take their investigations further as per their proposals. Noted Matrix costs; noted costs to be obtained from Sheco.

ACTION – SPC recommend full Council support commissioning Sheco and Matrix to continue pool heating project investigations as outlined in their proposals.

- **Project Management** – an **update** from the recent sub-group meeting. Cllr Hill noted the group had focused on pool facilities including improving site access (for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues); creation of office space for pool management; creation of an indoor space for pool staff. Referenced initial plans – from some years ago - on redesigning the pool entrance and improving access. Suggested next steps – looking to engage an architect to produce a design – project management working group to consider needs/proposals in greater depth, first.
- **Weather data:** no updates.

163/23

Pool User Group: to **consider** further/future communications with the group. Cllr Rodgers suggested there should be more regular communications with the group. **ACTION – SPC Chair to draft an update for the Pool User group e.g. regarding the summer timetable and proposed direct debit.**

164/23

Engagement with other pool and leisure organisations and services e.g. Future Lidos Project: SPC Chair attended a recent Future Lidos online meeting where the imminent publication of website information including a Lido Toolkit was announced.

165/23

Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence – none.

166/23

Next meeting – **19 March 2024, 7.30pm; noted** items for the March meeting (*referenced in the minutes*).

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Meeting ended at 10pm

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Page **4** of **4**

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