

## 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 2 April 2024, 7.30pm

**Councillors present:** Jane Marsden (Chair); Martin Bloor; Alex Campbell Steve Dempsey; W Hanley; Tim Hill; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; Peter Rowland; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams

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

- 228/23 **Received** apologies for absence from Cllr Bridget Hanley; from DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton; and from the police (a report had been provided).  
Noted HPC Cllr Anne Yule was currently on a leave of absence; the Clerk continues to liaise with Cllr Yule.
- 229/23 To **decide** any variation in the order of business – none.
- 230/23 **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Hill referenced a payment to him for expenses incurred. Cllr Shuttleworth declared an interest, as an adjacent landowner, in relation to discussions on purchasing additional land for burials/interment of ashes.
- 231/23 **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:** referencing prior discussions about reinstatement of the Baulk Lane dog litter bin, DDDC Cllr Ripton asked whether the Parish Council had a satisfactory response from DDDC Officers. The Chair noted the Parish Council was still awaiting a definitive response ***Cllr Ripton agreed to pursue this with Officers.***
- Cllrs enquired about progress with explorations of provision of affordable housing in Hathersage. Cllr O’Brien noted the process was frustratingly slow but the initiative was progressing; designs had been completed and shared with landowner (of the site being considered). Next step would be to commission an independent landscape character assessment which could mean some design edits. This would be followed by community consultation prior to submission of a formal planning application.
- Cllr O’Brien noted the commencement of grass-mowing season and asked Cllrs to direct any queries around biodiversity and specific arrangements to mow/not mow with DDDC Officers. The Chair referenced HPC liaison with local volunteers on village rewilding sites, and management.  
*Thanks noted to Cllrs O’Brien and Ripton as they left the meeting.*
- Police: received** a report including crimes reported/recorded over the previous month, and issues with nuisance parking. Cllr James Marsden noted he had flagged a number of concerns via the 101 helpline however they were not referenced in the report. Cllrs commended the greater focus on parking enforcement. Cllrs reiterated ongoing concerns about cyclists particularly those cycling at unsafe speeds or without lighting, after dark.
- DCC** – agreed to look to convene a further meeting with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton as soon as possible.
- 232/23 **Confirmation of Minutes**  
Minutes of the HPC meeting of 5 March 2024 were **confirmed** and actions arising from the minutes **noted**.
- 233/23 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters and related reports from community groups**
- .1 **PDNPA – oral report/update from Parish Member Cllr W Hanley.** Cllr Hanley referenced the March PDNPA board meeting, and forum, including a discussion on managing tourism. Cllr Hanley had advocated a Peak Park tourist management strategy. Cllrs reiterated specific issues discussed

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previously e.g. camper vans and mobile homes and overnight parking and the need for greater parking regulation and enforcement. Acknowledged monitoring and enforcement is a challenge. Query flagged about parking bylaws and lack of clear signage e.g. at Stanage Edge. The Chair noted previous discussions on signage at the Stanage Forum and an objective to minimise intrusive signage **ACTION – Chair to share any relevant information on parking bylaws, and on signage.** Cllrs suggested a few more strategically placed signs would be preferable to unregulated overnight parking. Cllrs also noted greater regulation of parking, across the Peak Park, needed to be linked with improvements to integrated public transport.

In response to a query from Cllr Hill, Cllr Hanley noted he was not aware of PDNPA input into the Derbyshire Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP)

Cllr Hanley noted the issue of affordable housing had also been discussed at the PDNPA March meeting.

234/23

**Financial Matters:**

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report.
- .2 **Received** a statement of accounts.
- .3 **Approved** accounts for payment of £41,590.82 including £3,513.57 VAT.
- .4 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and **approved** signatories from the agreed schedule (Cllrs B Hanley and Nick Williams) for the coming month, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the May 2024 meeting.
- .5 **Noted** the Unity Trust Bank authorising schedule up to November 2024.

**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.

235/23

**Leisure Facilities and Amenities Committee:** **received** minutes of the meeting of 12 March 2024.

- .1 **Biodiversity:** **noted** that (*LFAC minute 237/23*) the amended Biodiversity Policy and Plan were **approved**. In relation to the recommendation for financial support for local groups seeking to improve biodiversity in the village and surrounding areas it was **agreed** to consider an allocation in the 2024-25 budget, and Precept **ACTION – Clerk to add to items for consideration at the next Finance Committee meeting.**
- .2 **Burial Ground:** **noted** the decision to approach local landowners for potential land for burial ground use (*LFAC minute 242/23*); the potential impact on Hathersage residents; the potential financial impact for the Parish Council. Cllr Rodgers noted the adjacent Churchyard have even less space remaining. Noting the general reduction in burials, and increase in cremations, suggested consideration be given to allocating some of the remaining burial spaces for ashes interment **ACTION – for LFAC to consider.**

The Chair referenced the DDDC response 'that DDDC was not providing any more burial grounds ... and that where local grounds were full families would be directed to neighbouring burial grounds with available plots'. In discussion on extending the Hathersage Burial Ground/purchasing additional land Cllr Shuttleworth declared an interest as an owner of land adjacent to the Burial Ground. He further noted some support, in principle, on extending the Burial Ground into the adjacent Kirk field.

Noted there would need to be formal discussion, and proposals, on any expansion of the current Burial Ground/purchase of additional land; and on any changes to demarcations in the Burial Ground of areas for burial/interment of ashes **for discussion by LFAC; to consider convening a sub-group – non-LFAC members welcome to contribute.** The Chair referenced current regulations and restrictions on who can be buried/ashes interred, in the Burial Ground.

The Chair referenced designated Parish Council funding to purchase additional land, for burials. The RFO noted there were some unanswered queries over whether burial fees collected and currently retained by the Parish Council can be kept by the Council.

236/23

**Swimming Pool Committee:** **received** minutes of the meeting of 19 March 2024. SPC Chair expanded on some of the discussions.

- **New artwork** at Hathersage train station in which the pool is included, commended by Cllrs and Hathersage residents.
- **Season ticket charges for non-Hathersage residents** – including High Peak residents - and a proposal to liaise with neighbouring parish councils about some financial support to the pool to enable HPC to reduce season ticket charges. Noted parish councils may want to consider this as a longer-term measure i.e. when drafting their next Precept. ***Cllrs unanimously supported this initiative - Cllr Hanley to take forward with input from the RFO on current numbers of residents in neighbouring parish councils who hold season tickets.***
- **Heating Project:** Cllr Hill flagged PDNPA advice received since the SPC meeting that it should be feasible to pursue the project under permitted development; noted some planning advice will be needed including on other proposed premises alterations. Noted a visit by some Cllrs to Ashbourne Leisure Centre to observe their air source heat pump (which was not fully working at the time). The Chair referenced broader discussions on ‘levelling up’ in relation to pool premises improvements. Cllr Hill noted the original discussion had been around improving pedestrian access e.g. from the station to the village centre noting improvements to pedestrian access formed the basis on which Ashbourne Town Council had received funding. Noted ongoing liaison with Ashbourne Town Council and the potential of some provision of support and advice from an Ashbourne Council representative; advice could be sought on whether pool proposals might fit with levelling-up/related funding. Cllrs Dempsey and Rodgers expressed interest in supporting the development of levelling-up/related initiatives and funding applications.

.1 **Opus Energy dispute:** any **update** from the RFO was included in the Treasurer’s report; RFO noted he was awaiting a phone call from the Ombudsman.

237/23

**HR Committee (CONFIDENTIAL): received** minutes of the meetings of 28 February 2024; and 26 March 2024; minutes of the 26 March meeting were not yet available.

**Noted** HRC recommendations from the 27 March meeting.

.1 **Duty Supervisor proposals:** **noting** HRC agreement on the job description and on seasonal budgeting of Duty Supervisor hours the Parish Council **endorsed** the HRC recommendations. Queries were raised about a related matter which had been agreed by the majority of HRC members. *As there was no HRC-endorsed recommendation, and it was not on the HPC agenda for decision or discussion, this discussion, and outcomes, are minuted separately and confidentially.*

.2 **Assistant Clerk recruitment:** **noted** HRC recommendations on adjustments and issuing a further recruitment call.

.3 **Recruitment of a new cleaner (for the Heart of Hathersage toilets):** **noted** the current cleaner had submitted her resignation (last day 31 May). **Noted** HRC recommendation to approach local cleaning companies for quotes ***action for the Clerk***. In recognition of her work and commitment the Council also agreed the HRC recommendation to allocate a small amount of S137 funding for a ‘thank you’ gift.

.4 **Clerk grade/pay review:** **approved** the HRC recommendation to increase Clerk pay to SCP28 from 1 April 2024 – to be reviewed in December - and to offer the Clerk an additional two hours per week until an Assistant Clerk is appointed and for three months after the appointment (to enable the Clerk to support the Assistant Clerk).

238/23

**Pool staff concerns and investigation by Cllrs Martin Bloor and Nick Williams:** **noted** Cllrs Bloor and Williams will share a report within the next couple of weeks; outcomes to be discussed at the May HPC meeting.

239/23

**Transport Committee:** **received** draft minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2024. Transport Committee Chair referenced discussions of frustrations with the TRO lack of TRO progress; poor bus services; and ongoing parking issues.

Cllr Williams referenced the Hope Valley Rail Route upgrade noting the overtaking loop is now in use.

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- 240/23  
241/23
- .1 **SatNav misdirection (Carr Head):** Council **supported** the recommendation to look to provision of signage (noted previous signage removed/missing) warning drivers not to follow inappropriate SatNav directions to Carr Head (*TC minute 064/23*) - including funding new signage, as appropriate. Liaison to be undertaken with the relevant authorities.  
**Planning Committee: received** minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2024.  
**IT - including the HPC website; social media**  
The Clerk suggested, given provision of hathersage.gov.uk email addresses for all Cllrs, Cllrs should look to adopt these email accounts as soon as possible. The Clerk cited previous reporting on this being best practice and that it will become an audit requirement. A couple of Cllrs flagged technical queries and/or reluctance to adopt a new email account. Cllrs also asked about shared cloud access to relevant files and folders. ***ACTION - Clerk to produce a further report referencing current and forthcoming requirements for Cllrs to adopt dedicated email addresses; also looking to address technical queries; and queries about a shared file system.***
- 242/23
- Cllr printing (and other) expenses:** Cllrs noted current practice on reclaiming expenses and alternative approaches ***ACTION – for consideration at the May meeting.***  
**Clerk’s Report/Correspondence: noted** updates/items shared since the March 2024 meeting including:
- Forthcoming elections and guidance on pre-election publicity in relation to elections in Derbyshire for the new Mayor, and for the Police and Crime Commissioner, DALC have shared [LGA guidance](#).
  - Daily progress (‘blockade’) updates on the Hope Valley Rail Route Upgrade.
  - Update from the Breedon (Hope Cement Works) Liaison Group.
  - DCC-facilitated Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum, 16 April
- 243/23
- Village Matters**
- .1 **Hathersage News:** to **agree** HPC news/items for inclusion in the next issue.
- Publicise the April meeting with the PDNPA Chair at the pool café *details also to be shared on community social media.*
  - Hope Valley Rail Route upgrade - noting the overtaking loop is now in use.
- 244/23
- Memorial Hall:** Cllr Rodgers referenced the recent AGM noting the committee is still looking to elect a Chair and a Secretary.
- 245/23
- Note DALC newsletters (and other circulars)** shared since the March 2024 meeting.
- 246/23
- Date and time of next meeting – 7 May 2024, St Michael’s School – preceded by the annual meeting (7pm start).**

*The meeting ended at 9.40pm and was followed by a meeting of the King George’s Field Charity.*