

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 10 January 2023, 7.00 pm MINUTES

Present Councillors W Hanley (Meeting Chair), B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers

In Attendance Chris Cave, Responsible Finance Officer (RFO); Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Ashley Watts, Pool Advisor (*part, via Zoom*); Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM)

085/22 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Rosie Olle and Stuart Turner.

086/22 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.

087/22 Declaration of interests – Mike Wellington (pool staff member).

088/22 **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 present.

089/22 **Pool Advisor's Report:** the Pool Advisor joined the meeting by Zoom. He referenced the Green Flag (GF) award and supporting the LSM with an application. Noted the remit of the GF – around provision of/in free public spaces. Flagged the GF environmental foci including sustainable planting; and evidencing community involvement. Noted the award would not focus directly on pool provision, though that could be referenced in relation to overall provision on the MUGA, in the playing field and at the bowling green. Cllrs noted the Hathersage Playing Field Association (HPFA) was evidence of community involvement. Suggested, if a GF application were to be made, criteria/standards to be met could still be applicable to the pool.

The Pool Advisor shared some suggestions re issues/questions to pose to the pool user group and referenced examples of 'etiquette signage' at other pools.

Cllrs thanked the Advisor for his attendance and he left the meeting.

090/22 **Minutes of the 13 December 2022 meeting were confirmed** and actions arising (*referenced in the Action Log*) **noted**. Cllrs commented/flagged additional points on actions:

- Pool staff working hours – LSM and RFO to flag excessive hours worked weekly by staff member/s; LSM to advise why additional hours were worked
- Noted a donation of £200 from Jumblies
- Damaged tiling and response from Tom Crooks re TC Williams responsibilities – to be queried, further
- December Cllrs' pool walkaround/inspection – noted actions are ongoing – **date for next inspection to be agreed at February SPC**

091/22 **Pool Manager's Report**

.1 **Operations and maintenance** (*specific actions and updates also referenced in the Action Log*). Noted new pool covers to be installed Tuesday 17 January (pool to be closed for a couple of hours).

The RFO queried two invoices from Sterling Hydrotech (SH) relating to work on the boiler pump – querying charges for spare parts and whether some monies should be reclaimed from the manufacturer where parts under warranty had failed. *LSM to query with SH*. LSM had queried, with SH, whether the pump was fit for purpose. SH had flagged a possible electrical fault – arrangements were being made for an electrical engineer to visit.

Weather data – full data reports now downloadable – monthly reports are being produced.

Issues with the boiler for the showers – Cllr Hill queried the report including a reference to the impact of hard water (not the case in Hathersage). LSM referenced a quote for a replacement boiler from the same provider/manufacturer and flagged attendant restrictions on using approved engineers. Noted a cheaper option would be an immersion heater/s and tank however there was insufficient space for both. LSM to seek advice from local plumbing firm. Cllrs queried the pros/cons of taking out a service contract.

Cllr B Hanley commended the use of mats in the showers, mitigating slipperiness.

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The LSM referenced a recent incident – a pool user fell – staff used towels etc to keep her warm - suggested getting a stock of blankets to use if anyone falls, or falls ill, in cold weather.

.2 **Staffing (recruitment; training).** Nothing to report.

.3 **Events; Marketing; Fundraising.** Noted the success of the new year day swim sessions – sold out. Noted a complaint about a recent pool music event – resolved.

092/22 **Meetings with pool staff:** agreed to hold biannual meetings (of Cllrs with pool staff) with the first meeting of 2023 scheduled for Wednesday 15 February, 5-6pm, at the pool; items for discussion to include a reflection on the winter season; planning for the summer season; Green Flag award update; sustainable energy update.

093/22 **Local authorities pool funding 2023/24**

.1 **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):** Cllr W Hanley expanded noting disappointment, echoed by Cllrs, with the HPBC withdrawal of funding. The RFO noted, although it was presumed the HPBC response referenced 2023-24 funding, clarification was needed to confirm whether this also meant no funding would be provided for 2022-23. Suggested HPBC had unrealistic expectations regarding the capacity of pool staff to undertake outreach work. Cllr W Hanley to respond further to HPBC and to raise the matter with one of the Hope Valley HPBC Cllrs. It had already agreed by the Parish Council that, without HPBC funding, High Peak residents would pay the out-of-area cost for a season ticket. LSM to inform High Peak pool users, flagging the HPBC response with them. Referencing the HPBC emphasis on supporting residents' health and wellbeing, suggested asking High Peak users to flag whether they had illnesses/conditions mitigated by pool use – outcomes to be shared with HPBC. *Cllr W Hanley/LSM to liaise further including on facilitating anonymised responses for High Peak pool users.* In further discussion the RFO referenced the origin of HPBC funding – to subsidise pool entrance for High Peak residents in the Hope Valley. Cllrs flagged that High Peak residents in/around the Hope Valley would have to travel much further to access pools in other HPBC areas. Cllr Hill referenced reduced provision in Freedom Leisure pools. Cllr B Hanley queried the extent to which subsidies influence attendance – suggested looking at this in greater depth when admission costs are next being considered.

Cllrs discussed wider pool publicity – Cllr Hill suggested advertising in rail stations *Cllr Hill to make further enquiries.*

.2 **Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC):** noted a recent response from a DDDC Officer on 2022-23 funding and reserve funding brought forward from 2021-22. The Officer had also noted the DDDC budget for 2023-24 had not yet been agreed however, as DDDC aimed to give a year's notice of any funding cuts, it was more than likely pool funding would be agreed for 2023-24 at the same level as 2022-23 (£18,225)

094/22 **Pool User Group:** Cllr W Hanley referenced the bigger than anticipated response – approximately 40 pool users. All applicants to be included in the group. Next step – email to all group members welcoming them, and asking for comments/response on a couple of issues – extending weekend evening opening hours in the core summer season months; and thoughts on pool etiquette. Noted the plan to correspond with the group three to six times annually, by email, looking to seek a response on specific issues each time. Noted, re extended summer weekend evening opening, the issue of private bookings (timings; income generation) would have to be considered.

Cllr W Hanley referenced plans to engage with families and children; suggested liaison with local schools *Cllr B Hanley to take the lead on this.*

Cllr W Hanley commented that some pool user group members have particular expertise/skills which may prove useful, in time.

095/22 **Pool admission costs 2023:** noted SPC proposals were **approved** at the January HPC meeting; also noted that the withdrawal of HPBC funding meant High Peak residents purchasing season tickets will no longer be subsidised.

096/22 **Pool budget 2023-24:** the RFO flagged queries to be addressed in agreeing the pool budget including anticipating admissions, and related income. Cllrs discussed the significant increase in pool usage post Covid lockdown at the same time that travel restrictions were still in place and/or people were cautious about travel; and the probability of a drop in numbers in summer 2023. Also noted the impact of holiday makers on summer season income. For draft budget purposes agreed to estimate a 15% drop in summer walk-in users; a 5% drop for winter walk in users; and a 15% drop in High Peak resident season ticket purchases. Cllrs referenced wider pool marketing, including targeting students, and others *February agenda item.*

The RFO suggested budgeting a 10% increase in overheads costs.
Noted electricity costs were known/fixed until July; and gas prices known/fixed until 2024.
Staff wages – suggested lifeguards to receive the Real Living Wage of £10.90 per hour, an increase of 10.1% and other roles to receive an increase of 6.6% as per last year – details to be discussed and any changes to be agreed at the next meeting of the Human Resources Committee.

- .1 Charging for aquafit sessions - **increase agreed** – new charge, £7.50. Charging for swimming lessons – current charge to schools was £60 for a half hour block – a **10% increase agreed** -new charge £66 for a half hour block.

097/22 **Pool Summer 2023 Timetable:** agreed to defer a decision until responses re summer evening weekend opening have been received from pool user group members *February agenda item*.

098/22 **Pool Heating Project**

- .1 **Leisure Energy (LE):** Cllr Hill referenced his online meeting with LE representatives on 9 January. Cllr Hill acknowledged this project is slightly outside the usual remit for LE. He noted LE monthly reports were still not fully meeting his expectations and referenced questions raised by LE which he would have expected to have been flagged at an earlier stage; further noted he was looking to have a more detailed discussion with the LE manager. Flagged that LE were keener on ground source heating however Cllr Hill suggested the pros/benefits had not been adequately evidenced and he referenced the significant additional costs. Cllr Hill referenced the air source heating option and attendant issues including noise; he flagged a pending visit, with LE, to Ashbourne Leisure Centre (Cllrs welcome to attend) to look at their air source heating and ask questions. Cllr Hill also referenced a hybrid air/ground source system – likely to be very costly. Cllr Hill confirmed significant detailed information was still to be gathered and considered before any recommendations on heating options could be made.

Cllr Hill also referenced the solar/photovoltaic panels options and attendant issues e.g. lack of energy generated in dull, cloudy weather; and storage of excess energy generated in good/sunny weather. He flagged that panels on the solarium panels generate less energy than originally predicted. Cllr Hill expanded on potential sites for panel including in the pool car park and at the far end of the café. Referencing PDNPA planning permission, suggested HPC will need to firmly push the green credentials of this option. Cllr Hill also flagged the likelihood that the electricity supply would need to be upgraded - costs unknown but could be up to £100K *LE to advise the RFO on how/what to ask energy suppliers (or the brokers) re upgrading the electricity supply*.
Noted there was no further action for the Parish Council to take at this point

- .2 **Costs analysis of alternative heating project options:** potential costs referenced in 098/22.1 but no explicit details shared at this meeting.
- .3 **PDNPA:** noted a response on pre-planning advice was anticipated in the next couple of weeks.
- .4 **Funding:** Cllr Hill noted an LE staff member was willing to meet with Cllrs to discuss funding options/sources/applications *Cllr Hill to liaise further with him before arranging a meeting with Cllrs*.
- .5 **Weather data monitoring:** Cllr Hill noted LE wanted access to the data; suggested not sharing the data with them at present (to be reviewed). Cllr Hill also referenced the need for monitoring energy consumption.

099/22 **Pool Five Year Business Plan:** LSM confirmed the proofs were done and quote for printing provided; print run to be undertaken imminently.

100/22 **Finance:** addressed under 096/22.

101/22 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence** – none.

102/22 Next meeting – **14 February 2023, 7pm;** items for the February meeting

- Date for next pool Cllr walkaround/inspection
- Pool live attendance data to promote/manage attendance – consider options
- Pool marketing
- Pool summer 2023 timetable

Meeting ended 21.10pm

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