

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Maura Sorensen, *Heart of Hathersage, Main Road, Hathersage, S32 1BB*

Mob: 07766629419 Email: clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 14 February 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*); George Foy, Pool Operations Manager (POM) (*part*)

- 103/22 Apologies for absence – Cllrs Rosie Olle and Stuart Turner; Leisure Services Manager Mike Wellington.
- 104/22 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
- 105/22 Declaration of interests – George Foy (pool employee).
- 106/22 **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 – there were no members of the public in attendance
- 107/22 **Pool Advisor's Report:** the Pool Advisor joined the meeting by Zoom. Cllrs referenced lower staffing needs associated with lower pool user numbers (while a new boiler is awaited) seeking input from the Advisor. Also queried the extent to which a supervisor is needed when a pool manager is present. The Advisor suggested there may be instances where management are focused on a specific task/meeting/deadline etc when it may be advisable to have a supervisor on duty. The Advisor also flagged that a significant reduction in supervisor hours would mean supervising staff having fewer development opportunities/less experience. Acknowledged part of the supervisor's role is directing other staff to undertake tasks e.g. cleaning.
- 108/22 **Minutes of the 10 January 2023 meeting** were – **agreed** and actions arising **noted** (*referenced in the Action Log*). Cllrs commented on actions:
Shower boiler: the POM confirmed a quote is awaited from a local plumbing company and consideration is being given to alternative providers/models so that maintenance/repair works are not restricted to a named contractor.
Pool boiler: confirmation of delivery dates (by Vaillant) was anticipated (by the end of the week). Pool users to be updated (by email). Referencing pool temperatures agreed to remove references to a temperature of 28 degrees; noted it was unrealistic to guarantee a specific temperature at any time of the year.
Cllr Hill referenced his investigations of commercial boiler options.
Responding further to pool users re boiler problems and low water temperatures: suggested messaging all pool users noting pool management and the Parish Council were doing all they can to resolve the issue – sharing details of the challenges - and noting, once the new boiler has been fitted, the Council will review the position regarding refunds. Noted all Cllrs, and the Clerk, should be included on emailouts to pool season ticket holders *Clerk to flag with pool management*.
Electronic booking system: the POM had investigated some alternative provision but concluded it would be no better than the current provider (Ticket Source). Cllrs flagged broader needs than ticket allocation noting the Council wanted to be able to gather detailed data on pool usage e.g. via a card swipe system used at gyms. The POM noted the recent addition of a till button which counts members in. *Pool management to further investigate booking systems and provide a summary report at March SPC on a couple of systems/options; Cllr B Hanley to share details of systems she had researched*. Acknowledged the need to meet all GDPR requirement when gathering user data.
November 2022 Cllrs pool walkaround/inspection – update on actions: Cllrs referenced the update shared, flagging that it was not clear how far some actions had progressed e.g. pursuing quotes. Cllrs recommended focusing on specific priorities e.g. painting work around the pool *pool management to call for three detailed (e.g. how many coats of paint to be applied) quotes; quotes to be shared at March SPC*. Cllrs asked if it might be possible for lifeguards to undertake some associated work e.g. preparing/priming woodwork, when the pool was quiet.

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Tiling: the Clerk had responded to the Architect noting the Council was not in agreement with his summary of who was responsible for undertaking and paying for remedial works. The Council will go ahead and get the work done. Cllrs referenced keeping hold of T C Williams retention funding until the matter is resolved.

Aquafit: noted cancellation of a recent session due to low water temperature; suggested sessions not be scheduled for the time being. Query raised about staff lifeguarding training/accreditation *to be raised with pool management.*)

109/22

Pool Manager's Report

- .1 **Operations and maintenance including an update on the new boiler** – addressed under minute 108/22 (*and specific operational and maintenance actions and updates referenced in the Action Log*)
- .2 **Staffing – lifeguard hours; monthly planning; training; recruitment.**
- .3 **Events / Marketing / Fundraising:** to **consider** wider marketing opportunities – noted Cllr Olle was liaising with Northern Rail about putting up posters in stations posters. **Agreed** to run an advert in the May issue of Dore-to-Door. A wider discussion on marketing to be addressed at a future meeting. Cllr B Hanley to liaise with the local school to promote aqua fun sessions.
- .4 **Date for next Councillor walkaround/inspection - confirmed – Friday 17 March 2pm.**
- .5 **Live updating of pool session availability:** noted this would be in tandem with a new electronic booking system (under investigation).

110/22

Pool User Group: Cllr W Hanley had shared survey outcomes on which he expanded. Noted the positive comments and endorsement of pool provision. Going forward, pool management to work with a small staff sub-group to develop ideas and wording around pool etiquette.

111/22

Pool Summer Timetable: the POM expanded on timetable changes. Cllrs suggested some tweaks e.g. around managing the aqua fun sessions. Cllrs suggested publicising free flow sessions both online and in print (via Hathersage News). Cllrs suggested adapting the timetable for the school summer holidays. Noted the challenges in offering more public sessions and accommodating season ticket holders. Cllrs asked that the inflatable be used more frequently – suggested putting it up on alternate weeks (in free flow sessions). Cllrs discussed summer weekend evening provision. Acknowledged the need to weigh up income from private hire versus income from an extended Saturday evening public session. The POM flagged the challenges of staffing Saturday evenings. Suggested account also needed to be taken of noise and the impact on local residents. Cllrs suggested trialling a later Saturday evening public session. The POM noted the rota could be adapted; if there was no private hire on a Saturday evening, a free flow session could be offered. Subject to amendments/tweaks referenced being implemented the timetable was **agreed**.

112/22

Green Flag Award: noted, following information shared at the January meeting, the award was more focused on green space provision. Suggested looking at a quality assurance system more appropriated to the pool. Agreed to ask pool staff and seek their input/feedback. Acknowledged the Green Flag would be an opportunity for the Leisure Services Manager to focus on provision and standards on the MUGA and King George's Field.

113/22

Meeting with pool staff: noted the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 February, 5-6pm to discuss operational matters.

114/22

Local authorities pool funding

- .1 **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):** Cllr W Hanley noted feedback from one of the Hope Valley HPBC Cllrs about potential reinstatement of pool funding. Cllr Hanley to follow up with HPBC. Noted comments/response from other (HPBC) peak district parish councils whose High Peak residents would be impacted by the withdrawal of funding and subsidised season tickets. Agreed pool management communicate with High Peak season ticket holders noting sales of season tickets would be 'held' until the HPBC funding position was confirmed.
- .2 **Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC):** **noted** the DDDC response to queries raised about funding towards energy costs. **Agreed** to acknowledge the response thanking the Officer for the clarification and noting the Parish Council's appreciation of the continued support from DDDC.

115/22

Pool Heating Project

- .1 **Leisure Energy:** Cllr Hill referenced the report circulated. A further LE report had been sought but had not been received; Cllr Hill to write to LE to express dissatisfaction. Cllr Hill reiterated that LE need to provide a detailed report, with detailed temperature data, before an options report can be produced. Suggested LE have not met the terms of their contract i.e. they have not delivered monthly reports *Clerk to check the LE contract.*

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- .2 **PDNPA: noted** the PDNPA response. Cllr Hill referenced his amended draft Parish Council response – to be circulated again to SPC members before Cllr Hill responds to PDNPA.
- .3 **Funding:** there was no update on potential funding streams.
- .4 **Weather data monitoring:** summary data for December and January were shared and Cllr Hill tabled a graph of daytime December and January air temperatures. Suggested the data did not support the air source heating option. Noted a visit to Ashbourne Pool to be undertaken to see their air source heating in operation (but noted it was not yet operational).

116/22

Pool Five Year Business Plan: confirmed the document was with the printer.

117/22

Finance

- .1 **Received** the revised budget. The RFO flagged that LE costs were not included. Noted, if HPBC confirmed reinstatement of pool funding, the budget would be amended accordingly.
- .2 The RFO shared a report shared on the impact on pool usage of low winter temperatures (because of the broken boiler). Noted he would investigate whether the Council could make an insurance claim on the basis of business interruption. The RFO referenced an enquiry from a pool staff member re pool finance report and pool usage; RFO to share a summary report.

118/22

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

119/22

Next meeting – **14 March 2023, 7pm**; and to **note** any items for the March meeting.

Meeting ended 20.50pm

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