

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 10 October 2023, 7.30 pm MINUTES

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

In Attendance Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM); Rachael Phillips, Pool Lifeguard; members of the public Tom Hodgson – *and who else???*

Timings

- 089/23 Apologies for absence from the Clerk, Maura Sorensen (illness); RFO, Chris Cave; and Assistant Clerk, Kathyne Fraser. In the absence of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk the SPC Chair took meeting notes.
- 090/23 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
- 091/23 Declaration of interests - Mike Wellington and Rachael Phillips – members of staff at the Pool.
- 092/23 7.32pm **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. Member of the public (Tom Hodgson) referenced his email detailing his concerns over restricted winter opening hours affecting afternoon provision, asking that consideration be given to extending pool opening hours in October and March, and noting his approval for the new swipe system.
- 093/23 7.42pm **Pool Advisor's Report** – no report had been provided on this occasion.
- 094/23 **Minutes of the 12 September 2023 meeting** were **confirmed** and actions arising (*referenced in the Action Log*) from the minutes **noted**.
- 095/23 7.50pm **Pool Manager's Report** including operational, maintenance and staffing matters
- .1 **Tile repairs** including closure dates and other repair/maintenance works planned. Work dates still TBC - noted Cumberlidge were awaiting delivery of the tiles. The pool will be closed for two to three days – with dry weather and a minimum air temperature of 5C. Other work planned to coincide with the closure includes clearance of the space beneath the bandstand. **ACTION - LSM to seek advice from Pool Advisor on removing barrels of silurian acid.** Other work to include a premises-wide deep clean and painting the verandah surface.
- .2 **Disabled access ladder** – supplier has been paid and the ladder is being made to order. Delivery anticipated within two to six weeks.
- .3 **Pool staff noticeboard** (with staff photos) – any **update**. **ACTION - LSM to collect the board from the contractor; Councillors requested that staff photos be taken at the 11 October staff training session and posted on the noticeboard.**
- .4 **Solarium floor** – a quote of £7,880 had been **recommended to full Council for approval**.
Other related actions:
- **LSM to seek quote** for cutting legs off benches and subsequent remedial work and making good, to allow new surface to be applied.
 - **Staff input to be sought on floor colour**; noted the speckled darker grey shade is the preferred colour.
 - **LSM to confirm with suppliers that supply and fitting complies with and includes testing in line with any Health and Safety standards.** Reference made to issues with non-compliance and additional costs associated with previous surface applications.
- .5 **Staffing – lifeguard hours; monthly planning; training; recruitment:** **noted** the decision at full Council to seek external assessment of the supervisor role including any changes to the role/responsibility/pay. **ACTION Clerk to ask Pool Advisor if he and/or another expert can assess new Duty Supervisor Role against industry standards including pay/hourly rate.** **AGREED** to suspend all further Swimming Pool staff appointments until current round of new job descriptions/roles have been agreed.

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NOTED the increased pay rate of one and a half hours, for the hourly staff training sessions (held weekly on Wednesdays), had been agreed by full Council and had been communicated to all pool staff.

.6 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing**

- Liaison with Northern Rail on siting pool posters at Hope Valley stations. **AGREED** the quote of £450 - for two posters of existing art deco-style style Pool artwork - be **recommended to full Council for approval**. Thanks noted to Cllr Olle for her research and work on this initiative. Cllr Olle to follow up on poster installation.
- **Hilly Triathlon 2024** – to **confirm** charges to the organisers for use of the pool and MUGA during the weekend of 20, 21 July 2024. **AGREED** charges as follows: £300 per hour for hire of the swimming pool from 6.30am to 12 noon. Pool to reopen to the public from 12 noon. £25 per hour for hire of the MUGA (Friday evening and Saturday). Anticipated total fees will amount to between £1800 and £1900.

.7 **Swim Club** - **noted** the successful gala event on 27 September and the presentation evening on 11 October.

.8 **Widening pool access to users with health conditions and/or specific needs**: discussion **deferred** to the November meeting.

.9 **Cllrs 20 September pool walkaround/inspection** – outcomes **noted**. **ACTION - LSM to continue updating the list and circulate an up-to-date list ahead of the November SPC meeting**.

.10 **Cllrs and pool staff 20 September meeting** – outcomes **noted**. Date for next meeting TBC.

.11 **Outdoor shelter for pool staff**. **AGREED** to proceed with this purchase - **LSM to circulate quote – once he has received it - by email, to all SPC members**; Cllrs to share views on cost and design by email.

.12 **The Committee commented on progress on other operational items in the Action Log**:

- **Signage** - Blue Badge Parking sign and Pool Etiquette Sign **LSM to collect from contractor later in the week (along with the staff noticeboard)**.
- **Trial changes to booking of swim sessions**: **noted** the success of the removal of booking requirements for lane swimming despite initial unhappiness from a (small) number of season ticket holders. **Further noted** all public sessions (except for the 9am session) would continue to be (optionally) bookable – noted this has also proved to be a success, ensuring that the public commit to booking and paying and, furthermore, are guaranteed entry.
- **Painting work** - concern was expressed that painting work had not yet been started – suggested the excellent repair and priming work done by Peter Wilcoxson would be wasted if painting work was not completed before the winter. **ACTION - LSM to follow up – to get contractor to commit to start the painting work as soon as possible or, if there is any significant delay, to arrange for a further coat of primer undercoat to be applied onto accessible surfaces**.

.13 **Standing SPC agenda items**: acknowledged many of the core aspects of pool provision – operational and strategic - have long lead-in times and it was **agreed** the following should be standing agenda items:

- **Pool session booking system**;
- **Season tickets and entry charges**;
- **Summer and winter timetables**

.14 **Pool Bandstand**: **agreed** all operational matters relating to the bandstand to be dealt with by SPC rather than LFAC.

096/23 **Parish Council policy on staff pool access, and charging**: **noted** the policy approved by the full Parish Council has been shared with all staff; to date six staff had purchased £10 season tickets.

097/23 **Pool electronic entry system**: an **update** on installation and implementation. Noted the system is generally working well though there had been a few teething problems including around users swiping in. **ACTION – agreed LSM to provide a separate screen at a cost of approx. £140**.

098/23 **Finance**

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- .1 **Finance Report:** brief report from the RFO **received**. Reference made to data on pool income and **agreed** to ask the RFO for a breakdown of income for the last year (October 2022 to September 2023), by month, for the following categories; season ticket users; use by other categories (adult, family, child, spectator); income for the different types of season ticket holder (winter and summer); income from public (adult/child/over 65/family/spectator); group hire.
- .2 **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC):** **noted** HPBC will no longer commit to funding the pool. Stakeholders, including HPBC season ticket holders, had been informed. Noted this amounts to a loss of annual pool income of around £6,000 (approx. 1% of total pool income). *Subsequently confirmed by RFO that loss amounts to £4,600.*
- 099/23 8.50pm **Pool Heating Project:** **noted** a brief report/update from Cllr Hill. **Agreed** to allocate a timed session to this item at the November meeting.
- 100/23 **Pool User Group:** **noted** outcomes of the 29 September in-person meeting. The SPC Chair commented that some useful suggestions and positive comments had been shared, however it was disappointing that a significant number of participants had come with a single issue – suggested the format of future meetings be considered to avoid this. **Further actions agreed by SPC:**
- **LSM and pool staff to organise a Friday Night Swim, before Christmas; all season ticket holders to be offered free entry** – suggested this would address perceptions among winter season ticket holders that they were not getting value for money; acknowledged input from pool staff in suggesting this.
 - **Pool user suggestion box** – all pool users welcome to post their suggestions.
- 101/23 **Engagement with other pool and leisure organisations and services**
- .1 **Future Lidos Project:** the SPC Chair had attended a Future Lidos Zoom meeting on 5 October. **Noted** advantages and disadvantages in handing over the running of a (new) outdoor pool to a Trust or other commercial/not-for-profit organisation. Noted disadvantages include loss of control in seeking to reach out to specific groups (e.g. disadvantaged communities/local communities/those with health and/or mobility issues).
- .2 **Other relevant providers, services, projects etc:** any **updates** – nothing specific.
- 102/23 9.00pm **2023-2028 Pool Business Improvement and Renewal Plan:** **noted** updates shared by the LSM at the meeting. **Agreed** to schedule this as a timed item at the November SPC meeting.
- 103/23 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence**
- **agreed** to move SPC meetings to the third Tuesday of the month – with LFAC moving to the second Tuesday;
 - **agreed** that, to make meetings more efficient, agendas to have some timed items – specifically items requiring more detailed discussion and/or a decision. More information to be distributed (by email) in advance of meetings and members to ensure they read/note all reports and information circulated.
- 104/23 Next meeting – **Tuesday 21 November 2023, 7.30pm** (third Tuesday of the month). Agenda items had been flagged in the course of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

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