

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

This report summarises the key issues dealt with by the Parish Council and its various committees from May 2023 to April 2024. Details of all meetings - including agendas and minutes – are published on the Parish Council website (www.hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Parish Council continued with the same arrangement of committees; some meet on a regular basis; others are convened as business requires. We post news and updates on the Parish Council Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hathersageparishcouncil/>

Changes to Parish Council membership since May 2023: Sara Furness and Stuart Turner stepped down from the Parish Council at the end of the 2022-23 Parish Council year. New Cllrs joining the Council, in June 2023, were Alex Campbell, Matt Ramsden and Anne Yule. Matt Ramsden stepped down in September 2023. In February 2024 Steve Dempsey joined the Council. **At April 2024 membership was:** Councillor Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor, Alex Campbell, Steve Dempsey, Bridget Hanley, William (Bill) Hanley, Tim Hill, James Marsden, Rosie Olle, Peter Rowland, Heather Rodgers, James Shuttleworth, Nick Williams, Anne Yule. All Councillors are thanked for their hard work and unselfish commitment to the community of Hathersage.

Full Parish Council Meetings are regularly attended by Derbyshire Dales District (DDDC) Councillors Peter O'Brien and Simon Ripton. Hathersage Councillors meet regularly with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor Alasdair Sutton. DDDC and DCC Councillors regularly support the Parish Council with making representations, on behalf of the Parish Council, at District and County level.

Councillor representation on other bodies

The Parish Council nominated Cllr William (Bill) Hanley as a Parish Representative on the PDNPA and, after a successful election (by Parish Councils in Dales part of the PDNP), Cllr Hanley was appointed by the Secretary of State in July 2023 to the PDNPA.

Other representation – Cllrs sit on the Stanage Forum; on regional transport groups; on management committees of local bodies and groups – Cllrs share relevant news and updates with the Parish Council and represent Parish Council interests at local and regional level.

As well as the committee structure that supports the Parish Council to work efficiently there is regular, committed support from many residents of the village. Residents' support is invaluable and helps many initiatives progress to completion - the Parish Council is very grateful for this support and sincerely thanks all those who help in any capacity.

The Parish Council has responsibility for oversight and management of a number of facilities in the village including the swimming pool, the MUGA, King George's Field, the Heart of Hathersage (and the toilets sited there), and the burial ground – further

reference is made in reports from the relevant committees responsible for operational (and strategic) oversight.

Donations

Since May 2023 the Parish Council has made community donations to:

- £1,200.00 towards upkeep of St Michael's and All Angels churchyard
- £250.00 towards the costs of an interpretation board at Little John's grave (in the grounds of St Michael's and All Angels)
- £500.00 to Peak Times (after school) Kids Club

Full Council Meetings and the work of the committees

Full Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at St Michael's School, School Lane. In 2023-24 committees generally met at Hathersage Memorial Hall (Sampson Room), on Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm.

- Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee on the second Tuesday of the month.
- Swimming Pool Committee on the third Tuesday of the month.

Other core committees – Human Resources; Transport - meet less frequently. Meetings of the Planning Committee are convened as necessary, when there are planning applications to consider.

It is always best to check the [Parish Council website](#) for meeting details. Ten minutes are allocated at the beginning of every public meeting, for public participation, where attendees can raise relevant matters. The Parish Council cannot comment on any matters not on the agenda but comments from the public can be noted – and items can be put forward for the agenda at the next, or a forthcoming, meeting.

New initiatives

The Parish Council is exploring opportunities for making broader improvements to the village, for example improving the pedestrian route from the railway station to the village centre. The Council has taken note of successful 'Levelling up' funding bids at other Derbyshire parish and town councils and is seeking advice from Ashbourne Council about the preparation involved in their successful funding bid. It is anticipated more Levelling Up (or similar) funding may be made available after the election of the East Midlands Combined County Authority Mayor. The Parish Council is looking to have some firm proposals in place should funding be made available.

The Council has made significant progress with swimming pool decarbonisation plans and seeking alternative energy sources e.g. air source heat pumps; solar panels – and continues to work with specialist alternative energy companies and with the Peak District Planning Authority to make this a reality. The Council is also looking to make improvements to the pool premises including more accessible entry for the public, office space for pool management and a break area for pool staff.

Hathersage Swimming Pool



AlmostSynchro group at Hathersage Swimming Pool, 20 April 2024



The Swimming Pool Committee (SPC)

Chaired by Cllr Bill Hanley, other members (at April 2024) were: Cllrs Alex Campbell, Bridget Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle and Heather Rodgers. SPC meets monthly; other meeting attendees include pool management, the Parish Council's Responsible Finance Officer, the Clerk, the Pool Advisor. The Swimming Pool Committee (SPC) oversees pool operations and takes an overview of the long-term management and development of this well loved and well used village facility. To keep the pool working well requires ongoing maintenance and a rolling programme of sometimes significant repairs and improvements.

Report from the Swimming Pool Committee Chair, Cllr Bill Hanley

The Swimming Pool Committee continues to strive to provide the parish and surrounding areas with a much-loved open air swimming pool. The Committee recognises the strong regional and national reputation that the pool has established and the financial support of customers from a very wide geographical area. We are committed to ensuring the long-term viability of the pool by ensuring best practice and continuing to innovate. The past year has seen the introduction of entry swipe cards and also direct debit payment opportunities for season ticket holders. There have also been further investigations of sustainable and cost-effective heating solutions, support for local children to access the pool, and the installation of a lifeguard shelter. The shelter was meant primarily for winter use, but sadly it appears to be necessary all year round! The promotion of new events, such as synchronised

swimming and access for different groups of users will continue. The Pool could not thrive without the full engagement and energy of all our pool staff, to whom many thanks.

Report from the pool management team

The 2023/24 Summer and Winter season has been a progression of previous years with the pool team working hard to push the pool forward. Overall, both seasons have been hugely successful with 900+ season ticket holders and 60,000 visitors, with swimmers enjoying all the different sessions, charity, and fundraising events that we organise and operate through the year, especially those hardy swimmers who joined us through a cold and wet winter! It has been great to see the continued support from our customers, new, old, and returning, who enjoy using our facility that we are so lucky to have. We look forward to seeing everyone through the 2024 summer and winter seasons, and hope that they make the most of all the new sessions and times we have available for them. Everyone involved in our wonderful pool would like to thank everyone for their continued support and here`s to a long and successful future at Hathersage Pool! Thank you, Mike & George, Pool Management Team.

Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee (LFAC) formerly the Joint Recreation, Amenities and Burial Ground Committees

In July 2023 it was agreed to rename this committee to better reflect the business considered. *Note: this committee still oversees matters related to the burial ground.* Chaired by Cllr Jane Marsden, other members (at April 2024) were Cllrs Bridget Hanley, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle, Pete Rowland, James Marsden, Heather Rodgers and Anne Yule.

In 2023-24 the committee oversaw installation of more new play equipment in King George's Field



The committee has oversight of maintenance of recreational facilities including the MUGA and the playing field – not just play equipment but ensuring the field itself is well maintained. The committee has worked with Friends of Hathersage Playing Field both to raise funds for play and recreation equipment and to get input from Hathersage children on what they wanted in terms of the space and play equipment.

The committee has worked with local groups e.g. the rewilding group – this group oversees rewilding of some of the verges in and around the village. Following the Parish Council's approval of a Biodiversity Policy and Plan, in 2024, LFAC will regularly reference the plan to ensure the Council is not just compliant but is looking to promote biodiversity as much as possible e.g. working with a local group to promote protection of hedgehogs and their habitats.

The committee has oversight of the burial ground and, recognising that remaining burial spaces are likely to be filled in the coming years, the committee is exploring options of acquiring additional land.

Transport Committee

Chaired by Cllr Rosie Olle, other members (at April 2024) were Cllrs Martin Bloor, William Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Peter Rowland, Heather Rodgers, James Shuttleworth, Nick Williams, Anne Yule.

Report from the Transport Committee Chair, Cllr Rosie Olle - the Transport Committee met four times between May 2023 and March 2024 considering and discussing the following issues.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

A TRO was discussed in 2020, and this identified areas with parking problems and where restrictions are needed. The Parish Council consulted residents, and a proposal was agreed and submitted to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) for officers to start the formal implementation process.

It is with great disappointment that there is no further progress to report. The Transport Committee has met with representatives from DCC, who have said that due to lack of resources there has been little progress. The Transport Committee will continue to put pressure on DCC to progress the TRO.

Public Transport

Buses - one of our councillors has been attending meetings of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) group and has been able to raise issues that affect our parish. We are also in communication with the Hope Valley Climate Action Group (HVCA) who are also pressing for improvements to bus services. It is unfortunate that many local services have suffered cancellations and lack punctuality. The Transport Committee will continue to liaise with others to try and achieve improved services.

Trains – the Hope Valley Rail Capacity Scheme has finally been completed. It has been a lengthy project and we all hope that things will settle down.

Parking

Parking continues to be a big problem in Hathersage, particularly at weekends and bank holidays. The Transport Committee regularly raises parking problems with DCC and PDNPA, but it is not only a problem here but across the National Park as a whole. We are still looking at the possibility of creating additional parking areas in Hathersage but it is considered that a wider strategy is needed to address this widespread problem. The Transport Committee will continue to work with DCC and PDNPA to try and improve this situation.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)

The Transport Committee is making progress with DCC, to site a SID on the section of the A6187 approaching the village from the Sheffield direction and to renew the existing pole located near the railway bridge entering the village from the Castleton direction. The location of a SID at both ends of Hathersage will hopefully encourage traffic to slow down.

Electric Charging Points

The Transport Committee has been liaising with Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) and it is hoped that the charging points will be installed early in 2025.

The Planning Committee

Chaired by Cllr Jane Marsden, other members (at April 2024) were Martin Bloor, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers, James Marsden, Nick Williams, James Shuttleworth. The Parish Council fulfils a vital role in local planning matters. Although decisions are made by the Peak District National Park Authority (Peak Park), the Parish Council is invited to consider and comment on planning applications affecting Hathersage.

The Human Resources (HR) Committee

Chaired by Cllr Bill Hanley, other members (at April 2024) were Cllrs Alex Campbell, Steve Dempsey, Bridget Hanley, Jane Marsden, Heather Rodgers. The committee is responsible for ensuring due process is followed in recruitment and management for all staff (including swimming pool staff) employed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council employs a number of part-time staff – the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Village Caretaker. At the pool, the Council employs two full time managers and approximately 20 part-time Lifeguards a number of whom step up to the role of Duty Supervisor for short periods, as and when necessary.

The HR Committee generally meets at least quarterly but additional meetings are held as and when necessary.

The Finance Committee

Chaired by Cllr Jane Marsden, other members (at April 2024) were Cllrs Heather Rodgers, Peter Rowland and James Shuttleworth. The Responsible Finance Officer, Chris Cave, attends all Finance Committee meetings. The Finance Committee's prime functions are to prepare a detailed income and expenditure budget on which the Council sets the annual precept. Actual income and expenditure is monitored by the full Council against this budget on a monthly basis.

The Council's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. Its financial transactions are audited by an Internal Auditor appointed by the Council and by an independently appointed External Auditor. Accounting Statements, the Annual Governance Statement and the External Auditor's Report are published in accordance with the legislative requirements. The Council's precept for 2023-24 - the amount collected through residents' rate bills - was £60,000, the same as it was for the previous year. During 2023-24 the Council's expenditure has been within the budget on which the precept was based.

The Council continues its policy of building up reserves to meet future large-scale expenditure such as the renewal of playing field equipment, resurfacing the MUGA and, in particular, the installation of carbon free energy sources at the swimming pool - as to precept for this expenditure in full, in the year it was incurred, would result in a huge increase in the precept in that year.

In budgeting for 2024-25, the Parish Council have managed to keep the precept at the 2023-24 rate of £60,000.

Website Working Group

This is a slight misnomer as this group has a broader IT oversight. In 2023-24 the Council started the process of allocating Parish Council email addresses for Cllrs. In 2024-25 it is hoped all Cllrs will move to using their .gov.uk email addresses exclusively, in relation to Parish Council business and communications. The [Parish Council website](#) – and [Facebook page](#) - are the places to go for information about the village. Current group membership is Cllrs William (Bill) Hanley, Bridget Hanley and Rosie Olle.

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is run by a Management Committee which is separate from Hathersage Parish Council. The Parish Council acknowledges the work of the Memorial Hall Management Committee for their efficient running of the Hall.

2023-24 staff changes: in March 2024 the Parish Council said goodbye to **Kathryne Fraser**, Assistant Clerk.

Maura Sorensen (Clerk for Hathersage Parish Council).

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