

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 16 July 2024, 7.30pm MINUTES

Present: Councillors W Hanley (Chair), Alex Campbell, B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle

In attendance: Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington; pool staff member Rachael Phillips; member of the public Kathryn Fraser (*part*)

- 035/24 Apologies for absence – Cllr Steve Dempsey and Heather Rodgers; RFO Chris Cave.
- 036/24 New SPC attendee – pool staff member Rachael Phillips – was welcomed; noted Rachael would be alternating meeting attendance with another pool staff member, Jo Wilman.
- 037/24 **Committee terms of reference** - to **review**: amendments to references to membership were **approved**.
- 038/24 To decide any variation in the order of business - none
- 039/24 Declaration of interests – Mike Wellington and Rachael Phillips (pool staff members).
- 040/24 **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. Kathryn Fraser flagged queries in relation to agenda item 8.1 (pool acoustics survey). Ms Fraser noted one of the surveyors had tested noise levels outside her home, on a day when it was particularly noisy with significant numbers of large vehicles going by, partly as a result of diversions elsewhere. Ms Fraser had queries with the surveyor whether this would be taken into account and was assured this would be the case.

Cllr Hill expanded on the science of acoustic testing and the extent to which outcomes, and judgements, were subjective. He suggested a second specialist contractor be appointed to conduct a further survey so Cllrs could compare the outcomes of the ENS survey and a second survey. He further suggested SHEco may undertake some work around calculating noise levels. Cllrs asked Ms Fraser what days/times it was likely to be most and least noisy outside and around her home noting it was important to capture noise levels at the quietest time. Ms Fraser noted it was noisiest over the weekends particularly on Sundays when there were regularly large numbers of motorbikes in and around the village; and quietest on weekday mornings or early evenings. Agreed any further acoustic survey should ensure readings are undertaken at the quietest period. Cllrs reiterated the Council is anxious to ensure there is no negative impact, from the project, on villagers. Cllr Olle flagged a range of measures to mitigate noise. Ms Fraser noted support for the positive climate-friendly aspect of the heating project as long as related noise wasn't excessive. *Ms Fraser left the meeting.*

- 041/24 **Minutes of the 11 June meeting** – flagged minute 028/24.5 noting it was pool staff member Helen Kohlhardt [not Helen Beach] leading on the water wellbeing initiative - otherwise the minutes were **approved**; and actions arising from the minutes (*referenced in the Action Log*) **noted**.
- 042/24 **Pool Heating Project; Pool Facilities Project**
- .1 **Pool Heating Project – progress update; any proposals for consideration/ agreement**
- a) **Acoustics – report from Environmental Noise Solutions Limited (ENS) – to receive and consider.** There had already been some discussion under minute 040/24. Cllr Hill expanded on different levels of insulation and different heat pump models flagging that quieter models are more expensive. Cllr Hill also expanded on acoustics survey methodology and what falls outside the parameters e.g. lorries/heavy goods vehicles. Cllr Hill noted he would have a discussion with SHEco on acoustics survey methodology
- Cllr Hill reiterated that it would be best practice to commission another independent survey. He referenced other contractors who had bid for the survey and recommended approaching one of the contractors (Nova). He expanded on presenting Nova with a specific brief e.g. times at which the survey should be

conducted and seeking assurance they would work to agreed British standards.

Agreed that Cllr Hill (re)share the Nova quote – and the HPC brief – with all SPC members; approval for expenditure to be sought at August HPC.

Further agreed the ENS invoice – payment for the survey they have completed – to be approved for payment at August HPC.

- b) **Matrix and SHEco** – to **receive** a report. Cllr Hill shared a concern that contractors may still be underestimating the size of the heat pump needed. He referenced a recent meeting with SHEco noting he anticipated receipt of their next estimate by the end of the following week. Cllr Hill noted he was generally happy with the SHEco approach. He referenced discussions with SHEco on appropriate provision of training to staff on managing the heat pump system.
Matrix - Cllrs noted previous concerns and dissatisfaction shared – agreed to discontinue engagement with Matrix.
- c) **Memorial Hall and solar panels** – to **consider** a response to queries from the Memorial Hall Management Committee (MHMC). Cllr Hill noted both Matrix and SHEco had recommended solar panels on the Memorial Hall roof, to provide grid back-up. Noting the lack of a clear timescale for the pool heating project – and that MHMC were looking to submit a funding bid for PV roof panels with a bid deadline approaching – it was agreed to respond to MHMC suggesting they go ahead with their bid and noting HPC would liaise further when the Council was in a position to share firm solar panel proposals.
- d) **Pool temperatures – monitoring; pool covers and energy saving.** In relation to sharing desired/aspirational temperatures with contractors, Cllr Hill referenced a recent conversation with pool management on average pool temperatures noting the temperature was currently set at 26.5 degrees. Cllr Hill asked for consensus on seasonal pool temperatures which can then be shared with contractors. **Agreed an aim to attain a year-round temperature of 26.5 degrees noting this was achievable in the warmer months but 24 degrees was a more realistic aim in the colder months.**

- .2 **Pool Facilities Project – any further update and/or proposals for consideration/ agreement.** SPC Chair summarised the report. SPC members commented on disabled access measures and improvements. Reiterated the need to take a long-term view with any building alterations being embedded for years to come. SPC Chair noted a detailed brief needs to be produced including square metres of floor space required for each room/space/use identified, before commissioning an architect; Cllr Marsden suggested it should be someone who is familiar with PDNPA planning criteria. SPC Chair also flagged that the Council should aim to ensure any material changes meet sustainability criteria, as far as possible. He suggested considering inviting local architects to provide a brief, broad plan free of charge.
- .3 **Project management** – to consider next steps including appointing a Project Manager. Cllr Hill shared his thoughts on progress of the pool heating project and what the Council would be asking a Project Manager to take forward. Noted further consideration needed to be given to including elements of the pool facilities project [under the remit of a Project Manager]. Cllr Marsden queried whether HPC needs to seek advice on coming up with a brief. Agreed that Cllrs Hill, Marsden and Rodgers start to consider parameters, a job description and person specification, to share with and be considered by SPC. Cllr Hill referenced the Institute of Project Management and information on pay rates. Cllr Campbell suggested liaising with recruitment agencies. Cllr B Hanley noted the Council will have to agree allocation of funding for both projects.

045/24

Pool Manager's Report including operational, maintenance and staffing matters.

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Signed:

Date:

SPC_16.07.2024_Minutes

- .1 **Tile repairs**
 - a) **Noted** Flex Flooring cancellation of scheduled works on 17 and 18 July – looking to reschedule early-mid Sept; other works also to be rescheduled. LSM noted it may be necessary to look for another contractor to undertake veranda joinery works **ACTION – LSM to share update ahead of the August HPC meeting**. Noted plans for part filling of the storage space beneath the bandstand. Noted dates for work on window frames (Pennine) still TBC. Cllr Hill flagged the stickiness of the handrail on the stairs; suggested this was not to do with the painting and that a wipe-down should address this.
- .2 **Staffing matters**
 - a) Management – nothing to flag.
 - b) Duty Supervisors – budgeted hours; areas of special interest. SPC Chair asked that pool staff members (Duty Supervisors) sharing SPC attendance provide brief reports on Duty Supervisor progress with areas of special interest.
 - c) Lifeguards – noted recruitment of three new Lifeguards. Queried whether all pool staff have had the recently revised Lifeguard job description and person specification **ACTION – Clerk to circulate them, again**.
 - d) September Cllrs / pool staff meeting – Wednesday 18 September, 5 to 6pm, Stange Hall – meeting foci to include the pool 2026 90th anniversary celebrations.
- .3 **Staff training**
 - a) Safeguarding training – noted pool management had completed their training. Pool staff were looking to complete training however some staff had issues with downloading the training module – pool management were looking into it. Cllrs asked that all staff look to complete training by the end of September.
 - b) Operational training – nothing to update.
 - c) RLSS audit – outcome/s (if it has been shared) – no update **to be followed up at September SPC**.
- .4 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing**
 - a) Synchronised swimming sessions – first session scheduled for 26 July with four further sessions planned for August and September. The new provision had been enthusiastically received and the sessions fully booked.
 - b) Flagged a previous action for the Clerk - to liaise with High Peak Parish Councils about some measure of financial support for their residents (both season ticket holders and casual users) who benefit from the pool **Clerk to follow up**.
 - c) Referenced a forthcoming pool birthday celebratory concert and looking to invite a brass or silver band.
 - d) Cllr Hill noted the pool is referenced in audio commentary on the Hope Valley seasonal open top buses.

Other standing agenda items

- .5 **Widening pool access to users with health and/or mobility issues**
 - a) Water Wellbeing Scheme – report/update on progression with identifying special interest groups, liaison with external services/service providers, and delivery. Pool staff members leading on this initiative to liaise with the LSM on scheme details **ACTION – update to be provided at September SPC meeting**.
Cllrs reiterated queries flagged at June SPC about attendees at the Friday morning cancer swim session leading to a discussion about possible provision for people with other health conditions. Agreed that the LSM liaise with the cancer pool session co-ordinator about attendees. Rachael Phillips suggested shortening the Friday morning cancer swim session and providing another [short] session for people with other

health conditions. **ACTION – LSM and Duty Supervisors to further consider these suggestions.**

- .6 **Season ticket holders and monthly direct debits**
a) Provision of a new till for capturing casual users' entry data – Pool Operations Manager is still investigating options **further update to be share at September SPC.**
- .7 **Pool seasonal timetable and entry charges**
a) **Winter 2024-25 timetable** – proposed removing the weekend private hire sessions, other than that amendment the timetable was **agreed - ACTION – add to August HPC agenda, for approval.**
b) **Winter 2024-25 entry/pool user charges** – SPC Chair referenced the pool asset audit he had shared, highlighting its relevance to discussion of entry charges in terms of noting the ongoing and predicted pool running costs. Cllr Marsden noted the Finance Committee had given some consideration to pool assets and depreciation. Referencing the VAT refund which had contributed to the pool currently being in sound financial position, Cllr Marsden noted she did not support an increase in charges. Cllr B Hanley supported an increase referencing discussions at June SPC that the Council should not shy away from making a profit when any profit was used to maintain and improve the pool. Also flagged the RFO recommendation of regular, incremental increases. The LSM referenced his June SPC report recommending a 5% increase; Duty Supervisor Rachael Phillips supported this – suggested the majority of pool staff supported an increase. **Agreed to recommend, to full Council, a 5% increase in charges across the board - apart from junior charges (no increase).** *Subsequently it was clarified that it was not proposed to increase charges for spectators, or for private hire; that the charge for aquafit classes move to £8.00 (in line with swim entry charge); and that swim lesson charges increase to £12.00 (from £10.00) for non-pass holders and to £6.00 (from £5.00) for pass holders.* **ACTION – item for August HPC agenda.**
- .8 **Pool five-year business improvement and action plan** (*monitor and update as appropriate*) – LSM suggested it would be more appropriate for the Pool Facilities Project to take ownership of this – **agreed** - but noted SPC must continue to monitor the Plan **ACTION - September SPC list the Plan as one of the first substantive agenda items for discussion.**
- .9 **Engagement with external pool and leisure providers** SPC Chair shared a brief update/comments.
- .10 **Swim Club** – referenced plans for use of Swim Club sessions (details shared at June SPC) through the summer school holidays. Referenced the 25 September Club gala.
- 046/24 **Finance** – the Treasurer's report had been shared. SPC Chair report on pool asset depreciation and replacement costs had also been shared *referenced under minute 045/24.7 b).*
- 047/24 **Pool car park/drive:** agreed to ask Cllr Rodgers for an update - on liaison with the Memorial Hall Management Committee re co-ordinating maintenance/repairs to the car park/drive at both the pool and the Memorial Hall – at September SPC.
- 048/24 **Pool User Group:** **noted** responses to a call to user group members to share suggestions on topics for wider consultation **ACTION – September SPC - consideration on further correspondence with the User Group.**
- 049/24 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence** – none.
- 050/24 Next meeting – **10 September 2024, 7.30pm;** **noted** items for the September meeting, highlighted in the minutes.

Meeting ended 9.45pm

Signed:

Date: