

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 11 June 2024, 7.30pm MINUTES

Present: Councillors W Hanley (Chair), Steve Dempsey, B Hanley, Tim Hill, Jane Marsden, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers

In attendance: RFO, Chris Cave; Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington

019/24 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Alex Campbell.

020/24 **Election of a Chair and Vice Chair**

.1 **Chair:** Cllr W Hanley was nominated by Cllr B Hanley; seconded by Cllr Hill and **unanimously agreed.**

.2 **Vice Chair:** Cllr Rogers nominated Cllr Jane Marsden; seconded by Cllr Hill and **unanimously agreed;** further agreed Cllr Dempsey would shadow Cllr Marsden as Vice-Chair

021/24 **Committee terms of reference** including committee membership – to **review.** The proposal for staff representation as discussed at the 4 June full Council was **agreed;** two Duty Supervisors to share the role; meeting attendance to be paid; as per other staff SPC meeting attendees, pool staff representatives will not have voting rights. **ACTION – LSM to liaise with Duty Supervisors to agree SPC representation.**

Other reference terms were flagged: agreed to retain the reference to Cllr membership (up to seven Cllrs); amend reference to meeting frequency to monthly (no need for specific reference to which week); queried whether the amount of expenditure the committee was authorised to approve should be increased; suggested some changes to wording around authorisation of expenditure. **ACTION – Clerk to amend membership references; other suggested changes be considered at July SPC.**

022/24 **SPC meeting management.** SPC Chair referenced agenda management and alternative approaches. **Agreed** to continue with the agenda in its current format. Further **agreed** the SPC Chair and Clerk should agree the agenda order for each meeting, dependent on which items/decisions were the greater priority and/or needed more extensive discussion. To decide any variation in the order of business – none.

023/24 Declaration of interests – Leisure Services Manager Mike Wellington (pool staff).

024/24 **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. There were no members of the public in attendance.

025/24 **Pool Advisor** – noted the Advisor's facilitation of the recent meeting with pool staff and Cllrs.

026/24 **Minutes of the 21 May 2024 meeting confirmed;** actions arising from the minutes (referenced in the Action Log) noted.

027/24 **Pool Manager's Report** including operational, maintenance and staffing matters.

.1 **Tile repairs** – LSM noted provisional dates shared by the contractor – 17 and 18 July – noted this was weather dependent. **ACTION - Clerk to liaise with Mytec re CCTV cabling work on these dates.** Referenced other works to be undertaken during the closure e.g. on the bandstand; LSM is looking at scaffold hire. Confirmed painting work around the pool was close to completion; LSM noted some areas left unpainted until work on the veranda flooring is completed. Cllrs commended the work. Noted it's likely further repainting/retouching will be needed in three to four years.

.2 **Staffing matters**

a) Management – no issues/concerns.

b) Duty Supervisors – budgeted hours; areas of special interest. LSM had shared allocation of areas of special interest and monitoring and oversight. Noted some Duty Supervisors were already taking initiatives forward. Cllrs commended pool staff on maintenance of the grassed and planted areas.

- c) Lifeguards: LSM had shared the SPC reviewed and agreed job description with Duty Supervisors; none of the Duty Supervisors had responded with any specific comments or feedback. Referenced forthcoming interviews with four candidates. Candidate references to be sent to LSM and shared with the Clerk. DBS checks will be undertaken and there will be working practice restrictions on any new appointees prior to receipt of DBS approval.
 - d) 22 May meeting (Cllrs and pool staff) facilitated by the Pool Advisor. LSM suggested staff appreciated clarification of decision-making processes and protocols. Noted the positive Pool Advisor commendation on the pool business model and the comparison with other pools (and leisure services) at significant financial risk. Suggested foci for the next meeting including an end of summer season review and planning ahead for the next 12 months ***ACTION – LSM and Clerk to liaise on a September meeting date.***
- .3 Staff training**
- a) Safeguarding training – confirmed pool management have paid for (pool management) training modules – to be undertaken asap. LSM referenced a staff member having undertaken the basic module – she agreed it was suitable for all pool staff. Pool management to ‘roll out’ training to all staff asking staff to undertake training within the next month; staff to be reimbursed for any costs; staff to provide evidence of training undertaken e.g. certificates. ***ACTION – Clerk and LSM to liaise on communications with pool staff [noting training is mandatory].***
 - b) Operational training – nothing to report.
 - c) RLSS audit – outcome - not yet received.
- .4 Fundraising / Events / Marketing**
- a) Synchronised swimming: SPC Chair noted the AlmostSynchro group would like to deliver another performance/session in 2025 (earmarked 26 April 2025). LSM referenced proposed 2024 session details to be led by a couple of staff members with swim teaching qualifications. ***Reiterated*** there will be no charge for attending these sessions however casual users will be expected to pay the usual pool entrance charge. Numbers of attendees to be managed as appropriate; instructors will determine this. Review the success of the sessions in September.
 - b) AlmostSynchro – donation towards costs of their April 2024 attendance and demonstration – Cllr B Hanley proposed an amount of £100, seconded by Cllr Hill and ***unanimously agreed.***
 - c) Pool 2026 90th anniversary celebration – SPC Chair referenced forward planning. ***ACTION - item for the Sept staff meeting.***
 - d) ***Approach by a board games company*** – LSM referenced an approach relating to production of a Peak District version of the monopoly board game and an offer to include the pool on the board – at a charge to the Parish Council ***ACTION - LSM to share the related email.***
- Other standing agenda items***
- .5 Widening pool access to users with health and/or mobility issues**
- a) Water Wellbeing Scheme – noted Duty Supervisor Helen Beach is leading on this.
 - b) Sessions/slots for water wellbeing sessions - LSM referenced potential slots identified (while school swim lessons are not ongoing) and consideration of support groups the pool might approach/work with in delivering sessions.
 - c) Cllr B Hanley flagged some queries about the cancer swimming group. Noted Weston Park used to help with funding this session but it is now funded by HPC. Noted, for some attendees, their treatment may have ended some time ago; some may be currently in treatment; some are likely to have co-morbidities/other health issues. Acknowledged this was a sensitive area and that pool staff have some

discretion in admission to these sessions. Cllrs reflected on the range of health conditions where individuals might benefit from water wellbeing sessions.

Acknowledged this discussion raised complex issues requiring further consideration. **ACTION – LSM to liaise with staff delivering these sessions and share staff comments/response with SPC.**

.6 Season ticket holders and monthly direct debits

- a) Capturing entry data for casual users – LSM referenced *known* data on admission numbers noting it was not currently possible to provide an hour-by-hour break down. LSM suggested a digital till would be needed to capture this data. Cllr B Hanley suggested a snapshot of hourly admissions across one or more days.

ACTION - LSM to look into purchasing a new till that will capture more detailed user entry data.

.7 Pool seasonal timetable and entry charges

- a) **Draft winter 2024-25 timetable was shared.** LSM expanded. **ACTION – July SPC agenda item; LSM to seek pool staff input/comments in the interim.**

- b) **Entry charges – proposals shared:** RFO referenced Parish Council management of increased pool income and VAT changes that have informed increased income, on the basis of which he suggested the Parish Council does not increase charges at this point; Cllr Jane Marsden agreed with the RFO; LSM suggested keeping winter 2024-25 charges as per summer 2024. Cllr Dempsey indicated agreement with the proposal on this occasion but queried why the Council would ‘shy away from the pool making a profit’. SPC Chair referenced current and future potentially very costly pool initiatives as well as costs associated with maintenance and wear and tear, all of which will use some of the pool surplus monies.

Reference made to pool accounts. Cllr Dempsey suggested looking to actuarial numbers for accounting purposes. **ACTION - SPC Chair asked the RFO and LSM to produce a report - on costs of pool works over the last few years; costings around depreciation; and predicted maintenance costs over the next couple of years.**

Winter entry charges ACTION - to be further considered - and agreed - at July SPC.

- .8 Pool five-year business improvement and action plan** (*to monitor and update as appropriate*). LSM had shared the most up-to-date action plan (which links to the pool facilities/premises project).

- .9 Engagement with external pool and leisure providers** – nothing to report.

- .10 Swim Club – agreed** to repeat the summer 2023 offer to Swim Club members of free sessions for Hathersage children/families (in the ‘unused’ summer Swim Club sessions) – Swim Club to promote this to members - LSM to liaise with the Club.

029/24 **Pool car park/drive:** to **consider** the need for some maintenance/repairs and to **consider** co-ordinating this with maintenance/repairs to the Memorial Hall car park/drive. **Agreed** that Cllr Rodgers flag the matter with the Memorial Hall Management Committee. Cllrs suggested also investigating removal of the grass bank between the car park and the MUGA, to increase the size of the parking spaces. Cllr Jane Marsden to investigate specialist contractors.

030/24 **Pool Heating Project; Pool Facilities Project**

- .1 Pool Heating Project – progress update; any proposals for consideration/ agreement.** Cllr Hill noted significant dissatisfaction with the report from Matrix further noting he was not confident Matrix could produce the assessment the Parish Council is seeking. Cllr Hill expanded further on particularly disappointing aspects of the report including some flawed engineering conclusions. He further noted the timescale for provision of a full Matrix report had been exceeded. RFO noted the kWh per hour charge in the report was incorrect. Cllr Hill referenced work he had undertaken on compiling the relevant data.

Cllrs discussed options, going forward including whether Cllr Hill should flag specific

concerns directly with Matrix. Cllr Dempsey suggested Cllr Hill robustly challenge Matrix and suggested the Parish Council should not pay full costs for what is judged to have been a poor piece of work. It was agreed **not** to pursue further liaison with Matrix at this point. Cllr Hill also referenced liaison with SHEco and using lessons learned from the experience with Matrix to issue very specific directions to SHEco and put direct questions to them. Acoustic testing (ENS) – Cllr Hill expanded on planned testing in the next week. Deep Green and using excess heat from data centres [to heat pools]: Cllr commented on this initiative. He suggested most data centres are sited close to other areas with large numbers of businesses and suggested it was likely the cost of siting a data centre in Hathersage would be prohibitive. Cllr Dempsey noted the likely challenges in finding a suitable site in Hathersage and getting planning permission.

- .2 **Pool Facilities Project – received** a report from 24 May meeting of the working group; noted action points will be created ***ACTION - July agenda item – appointment of a Project Manager.***

031/24

Finance

- .1 **Pool finance report or update** – nothing specific to report.

- .2 **Asset depreciation and future project costs** ***ACTION - July agenda item.***

032/24

Pool User Group: update on responses to a call to user group members to share suggestions on topics for wider consultation ***ACTION - July agenda item.***

033/24

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

034/24

Next meeting – **16 July 2024, 7.30pm; noted** items flagged for the July meeting.

Meeting ended 21:35