

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the meeting of Hathersage Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2024, 7.30pm

Councillors present: Jane Marsden (Chair); Alex Campbell; Martin Bloor; Steve Dempsey; B Hanley; W Hanley; James Marsden; Rosie Olle; Heather Rodgers; Pete Rowland; James Shuttleworth; Nick Williams

In attendance: Chris Cave (RFO); Maura Sorensen (Clerk); DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton (*part*); members of the public Brian Morris (*part*) for agenda item 13.2 and Kirsty Rogerson (*part*) about a request for the use of the Heart of Hathersage

- 090/24 Apologies for absence **received** from Cllr Tim Hill; from DDDC Cllr Peter O’Brien; and from the police (a report had been shared). The Chair noted the resignation of Cllr Alex Campbell and that this was her last meeting.
- 091/24 To **decide** any variation in the order of business. Both members of the public in attendance were invited to address the meeting – noted the request for the use of the Heart of Hathersage (HoH) had been submitted after the meeting agenda had been circulated but it had been agreed to consider the matter at the meeting; noted Mr Morris was attending in relation to agenda item 13.1 (Bowling Club 90th birthday celebration)
- Request for the use of the Heart of Hathersage (HoH):** Kirsty Rogerson confirmed this was a fundraising event (sponsored walk from Sheffield to Hope) to raise money and awareness of a humanitarian medical aid charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). Organisers were looking to use HoH between 11am to 2pm on Saturday 28 September to provide tea and coffee for walk participants as they arrived in Hathersage, en route to Hope. Small numbers were anticipated. Ms Rogerson addressed questions from Cllrs. Cllrs noted there should be no political associations or overtones as such events were not permitted [at HoH]. Cllrs were satisfied that the event met HoH policy criteria and it was **unanimously agreed** to facilitate the event. **ACTION – Clerk to liaise with organisers about a risk assessment, and HoH access.** Ms Rogerson left the meeting.
- Bowling Club 90th birthday celebration:** Brian Morris expanded on the proposal for a bandstand performance on Sunday 1 June 2025. Noted Hathersage Brass Band had already been booked. Cllrs **unanimously supported and agreed** the request. **ACTION – Clerk to confirm the booking with pool management.** Mr Morris noted any help/support with organising the event would be welcome e.g. sourcing a PA system, provision of chairs/seating, parking. Suggested Mr Morris liaise with Hathersage Gala organisers. Suggested Mr Morris approach Michael Shuttleworth about use of the Business Centre car park; Cllr James Shuttleworth noted his support.
- Mr Morris referenced recent renovation of a couple of the seats around the bowling green, frequently used now by members of the public.
- Mr Morris also asked about progress with resolving issues with the club CCTV system. The Clerk noted a new CCTV system had been recently installed at the pool and it was proposed to integrate the club cameras into the pool system. **ACTION - Clerk to liaise with the CCTV company and with Mr Morris.** Mr Morris left the meeting.
- 092/24 **Declaration of Members Interests** – none.
- 093/24 **Public Participation.**
- a) A period of not more than ten minutes for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matter. *Two members of the public had already addressed the meeting.*
- b) If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will have an opportunity to raise any relevant matter.
- DDDC:** though not in attendance, DDDC Cllr Peter O’Brien had reported that he continues to receive complaints from residents concerning the number of motorcycles coming through the village, the excessive noise from individual machines, and the general level of disturbance. He had raised this with Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner and had also invited her to visit Hathersage.

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DDDC Cllr Simon Ripton reported that Cllrs had flagged concerns, with the Chief Executives of DDDC and DCC, about the changes to policy on electrical vehicle charging (EVCs) and the move away from provision in public spaces. Cllr Ripton also queried if there had been any liaison on consultation on local, affordable housing; the Chair confirmed the DDDC Rural Housing Enabler Officer had been in touch – it was likely a drop-in event would be scheduled in October. *Cllr Ripton left the meeting.*

Police: a report had been shared referencing crimes recorded over the past month – highlighted there had been three shed break-ins, targeting pushbikes. Cllr W Hanley noted he had reported two instances of cycleway obstruction – not referenced in the police report. Cllrs discussed criteria for inclusion of items in the report i.e. where a crime had occurred and suggested reports should include other matters and concerns reported to the police to provide a broad picture of community concerns. Further suggested, where crime incidents are reported, locations should be shared so the community can see if specific locations are being targeted.

In relation to the poorly maintained A6187 cycleway, this had been referenced at the August HPC meeting and it had been noted maintenance was worse in the section for which High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) was responsible. The Clerk had flagged the matter with DCC Cllr Alasdair Sutton asking him to make appropriate representations. The Chair suggested individual Cllrs flag maintenance concerns directly with HPBC.

The Chair referenced DDDC Cllr Peter O’Brien’s invitation to the DCC Police and Crime Commissioner to visit Hathersage noting, if she does so, Cllrs should look to raise these matters with her.

094/24 Minutes of the HPC meeting of 6 August 2024 were **confirmed**; actions arising from the minutes were **noted**.

095/24 **PDNPA, DCC, DDDC matters; and related reports from community groups**

.1 **PDNPA – oral report/update from Parish Member Cllr W Hanley** *Cllr W Hanley commented on his involvement with the PDNPA Local Plan.*

.2 **PDNPA Draft Local Plan:** any **update** on public consultation; consideration of the Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF) suggestions/recommendations re parish councils considering the plan and making a response. Cllr W Hanley noted he was a member of the PDNPA Local Plan Group. He commented on Local Plan areas/foci most likely to impact Hathersage. Noted it was intended to start Local Plan consultation early in October, inviting comments/responses to be submitted by the end of November. Cllr W Hanley noted the Local Plan was a lengthy documents and noted hard copies would be shared; queried where a hard copy/copies could be held – in the village – to be accessible to residents. He also referenced a PDNPA proposal to hold Local Plan-related drop-in event, in Hathersage.

In response to a query from Cllr Dempsey on the process of producing a new Local Plan, Cllrs responded noting it was a central government requirement, that specific elements of the Plan are compulsory, and that consultation with stakeholders is compulsory. Suggested, when the consultation opens, HPC look to convene an extraordinary meeting to consider the Plan and a response **ACTION – item for October HPC**. The Chair referenced the Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF), of which HPC is a member, noting PPPF will be reviewing the Plan, in depth, on behalf of member parishes. The Chair also referenced the forthcoming (12 October) Parishes Day (and the PPPF AGM) – noted it is likely there will be a strong focus on the Local Plan. Cllr W Hanley reference his role on the PDNPA Board noting he would share the Board’s views on the Plan with HPC, and vice versa.

.3 **DDDC car parking review: noted** the ongoing review (encompassing new charging scales and a review of provision of disabled bays and bays for motorhomes and bicycles) with a response deadline of 18 September.

.4 **DDDC and local needs housing consultation:** to **consider** a date, time and venue (possibly in October). The Chair had already noted liaison with the DDDC Rural Housing Enabler Officer about a drop-in event for residents. Suggested the Stanage Hall would be most appropriate. **ACTION – Clerk to liaise with the DDDC Officer about a date/time and book the Stanage Hall.** Cllr Dempsey queried why this consultation was being held separately from the Local Plan consultation (and how the Local Plan informed local housing policy). Cllrs noted the current housing proposals were made with reference to the current PDNPA policy on housing (and other elements of the current Local Plan). Noted the

proposed PDNPA Local Plan consultations relate to the next iteration of the Plan – and noted the likely (lengthy) timescale before the next iteration is formally signed off. Cllr Olle noted the questions raised by Cllr Dempsey did flag the need for clarity when consulting with Hathersage residents on DDDC housing proposals aligned to the current PDNPA housing policy and the current PDNPA Local Plan.

- .5 **Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF) call for management committee members from member parishes** (election of new committee members to be confirmed at 12 October PPPF AGM). The Chair asked Cllrs to give call for new committee members some consideration.

096/24

Donation requests

- .1 **Hathersage Luncheon Centre**, towards their running costs. **Noted** specifics of what the Centre is seeking to fund. Noted the benefits to those who use the Centre. Cllr Williams proposed a donation of £750 (which would cover two months transport costs), seconded by Cllr Rodgers and **unanimously agreed**. ***ACTION - CLERK to inform the Luncheon Centre and ask for confirmation of bank details.***
- .2 **Hathersage Brass Band**: noted this was an initial approach and that the band is seeking funding and/or sponsorship. Cllrs agreed it would not be appropriate for the Parish Council to provide a donation/funding. Suggested the Band put out a call for donations in Hathersage News. ***ACTION – Clerk to liaise with the band.***

097/24

Financial Matters:

- .1 **Received** the RFO's Report. The RFO referenced the reduced amount of cash donations in the HoH toilets donations box when he had recently emptied it. Cllrs referenced factors including that people carry less cash now and the lack of signage directing people to the donations box and referencing Parish Council maintenance costs. Queried whether it would be feasible to facilitate card donations and agreed appropriate signage should be posted (noted some signage had been posted, previously). ***ACTION – LFAC agenda item.***
- .2 Accounts totalling £61,199.30 including £4,026.79 VAT were **approved** for payment.
- .3 **Noted** account scrutiny arrangements and approved signatories (Cllrs James Marsden and Nick Williams) from the agreed schedule for the October 2024 meeting, to approve and pay wages and any urgent items between this meeting and the October 2024 meeting.
- .4 **Investment of Parish Council monies**: to **consider** options. The RFO referenced the option detailed in the report however Cllrs did not support it. Noted previous options considered including a Dudley Building Society account. **Unanimously agreed** to move £100K from the Unity Trust Bank account to the Dudley Building Society account currently offering the best interest.
- .5 **Renewal of pool water supply contract**: to **consider** options. The RFO expanded on options in the report recommending HPC contracts with Everflow, again. Noted nationally set water charges may rise or fall. **Unanimously agreed** to contract with Everflow; Cllrs Rodgers and Dempsey to sign the contract on behalf of the Parish Council.
- .6 **External audit: received** the External Auditor's audit certificate; **noted** that the external auditor had raised no matters and that these documents have been published on the Parish Council website.
- .7 **Cllr expenses**: advice from DALC, from the internal auditor, and examples of how other parish councils manage Cllr expenses had been shared. Noted the tax implications of any Cllr allowances. Noted alternative arrangements to mitigate Cllr expenditure e.g. that Cllrs can use the printer at the pool to print Parish Council papers. Noted any other Cllr expenditure would have to be reclaimed with a purchase receipt. ***ACTION – RFO to further investigate payment of Cllr expenses and advise Cllrs.***
- .8 **Contribution towards staff Christmas meal (or equivalent payment to those unable to attend)**: to **consider**. RFO noted Cllrs were being asked only to consider making a contribution/donation to the pool staff Christmas meal and that this should not be conflated with consideration of an equivalent payment to other staff; that matter should be considered separately. **Agreed** the RFO liaise with pool management about Christmas meal arrangements this year, and costs.

098/24

Committees and Working Groups: no committee meetings were held in August.

Hathersage Transformation, the way forwards: noted this initiative had been effectively suspended for the time being as elements of the DCC/HVCA-led Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan (HVATM)

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will encompass some of the Transformation proposals. Noted forthcoming HVATM engagement sessions (Cllrs attending will reference Hathersage Transformation proposals); a report/update will be shared with full Council.

099/24

HR Matters

- .1 **Noted** the resignation of Assistant Clerk Andy Gibbs and that it had been agreed, by the Parish Council Chair and the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, to approach one of the other candidates who attended for interview and who had scored well; the Clerk is liaising with the candidate.
- .2 **Noted** Leisure Services Manager Mike Wellington has been called up for jury service (two weeks, w/c Monday 21 October). The RFO expanded on proposed pay arrangements for the period - Cllrs **supported** the proposals to pay his normal salary, less attendance allowance payable to jurors, for the duration.

100/24

IT - including the HPC website; social media

- .1 **Cllr IT devices** and provision of electronic notebooks/other device to Cllrs for use exclusively for Parish Council business; **noted** responses/advice from DALC, other councils, and the internal auditor. Cllr Campbell suggested, if the option is affordable, HPC should go ahead and provide an electronic notebook/other device. The RFO noted the auditor's suggestion to approach DDDC about making the purchase on behalf of HPC, noting DDDC may be able to secure a discount on a large order. Cllrs expressed support for provision in principle but some queries were raised e.g. should Cllrs *only* use their .gov.uk email account on HPC-provided devices? should Cllrs be asked to exclusively use their electronic notebook/other device for HPC business?

There was wider discussion on IT matters including:

- encouraging all Cllrs to adopt their .gov.uk email accounts (noting this was recommended best practice);
- provision of a shared file system (which, among other benefits, would do away with the need to share large numbers of papers/reports by email)

The Clerk noted ongoing liaison with IT professionals and noted she would seek advice/input on queries raised.

Cllr Dempsey asked if pool IT needs should be considered alongside Council IT needs.

- .2 **HPC website:** to consider moving the domain to a new, approved registrar. Noted Fasthosts can no longer act as registrar as of 30 September. Noted Clerk discussions with an IT professional and a forthcoming meeting, also noting his advice on moving to a new, approved registrar; Clerk to update Cllrs further following the meeting.

101/24

Clerk's Report/Correspondence: **noted** updates/items shared since the August 2024 meeting including:

- DDDC review of licensing house-to-house and street collections
- Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA) updates
- Appointment of a new PDNPA Community Policy Planner
- PDNPA Climate Change Survey

102/24

Village Matters

- .1 **Rewilding of verges in and around the village:** to **note** and **consider** residents' concerns raised with Cllr Bloor. A number of Cllrs concurred with residents and Cllr Bloor's views that 'verges look a mess'. Cllr Olle had liaised with the rewilding group who had confirmed wildflowers had been planted at the site; the group had also referenced the maintenance agreement with DDDC and that verge cutting/clearing was scheduled to be undertaken, very shortly. Cllrs noted differences of opinions among residents in relation to those who prefer more managed verges. Cllrs also noted that 'rewilded areas' still need management suggesting this is not currently the case in Hathersage. The Chair proposed she seek advice from a previous HPC Cllr with expertise in this area and that Cllr Olle approach the rewilding group for further input – **agreed** – outcomes to be shared with all Cllrs.
- .2 **Bowling Green 90th birthday celebration** and use of the bandstand for Sunday 1 June 2025 – noted this had already been discussed and agreed.

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- .3 **2024 Remembrance Day Parade: agreed** to formally ask the Royal British Legion to organise this event on behalf of the Parish Council; to note the event is covered by the Parish Council's insurance; to note RBL will complete the relevant risk assessment and put appropriate measures in place.
ACTION – Clerk to liaise with RBL organisers.
- .4 **Christmas parade and switching of lights at the Heart of Hathersage** (date TBC): **agreed** to ask local volunteers to lead on this, subject to completion of a risk assessment and appropriate measures being put in place. **ACTION – Clerk to liaise with the volunteer organisers, copying Cllr W Hanley into correspondence.**
- .6 **Hedge-cutting:** referenced sites where hedges (still) need cutting back including the hedge alongside the swimming pool/Memorial Hall car park.
- .7 **Hathersage News** - news/items for inclusion in the next issue – suggested referencing the PDNP Local Plan; reopening of the footpath (FP28) and the new railway bridge; hedge cutting reminders.
- 103/24 **Memorial Hall: received** minutes of recent meetings of the Memorial Hall Management Committee and note any other relevant updates.
- 104/24 **Noted** items circulated since the August 2024 meeting.
- 105/24 **Date and time of next meeting – 1 October 2024; noted** items for the October agenda including **consideration of library facilities in the village.**
- 106/24 On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair thanked Cllr Campbell for all her contributions in her time on the Parish Council and wished her well for the future.

The meeting closed at 10pm; a meeting of the King George's Field Charity was held directly after the closure of the Parish Council meeting.