

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Mob: 07766629419 Email: clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 17 September 2024, 7.30pm MINUTES

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

In attendance: Chris Cave, RFO; Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington; pool staff member Jo Wilman; member of the public Gordon Evans (*part*)

- 051/24 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllrs Steve Dempsey and Rosie Olle.
- 052/24 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
- 053/24 Declaration of interests – members of pool staff - Leisure Services Manager, Mike Wellington; pool staff member Jo Wilman.
- 054/24 **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. Gordon Evans, Roslyn Road resident flagged the matter of communications with residents neighbouring the pool, on pool music events. He noted communications are well managed, for the most part, with an annual schedule of music events shared. However, he noted a recent, additional pool music event where neighbours had not been informed. Pool management had acknowledged this – an oversight – apologies were noted. Mr Evans noted he would appreciate being kept up-to-date whenever any music event – or significant additional pool event – was being planned. Cllrs referenced the planned Bowling Club birthday music event in June 2025 and pool 90th birthday celebrations in 2026.
Noted there were proposals in the Pool Management Report about ‘tweaks’ to improve communications with residents.
Mr Evans went on to commend how the pool is managed and the work of SPC and the Parish Council in this.
The SPC Chair noted the Parish Council was very aware that Hathersage residents should benefit from their local pool and that the Parish Council looked to minimise any negative impacts.
Mr Evans left the meeting.
- 055/24 **Minutes of the 16 July 2024 meeting were confirmed;** and actions arising from the minutes (*referenced in the Action Log*) **noted.**
- 056/24 **Pool Heating Project; Pool Facilities Project**
- .1 **Pool Heating Project – progress update; any proposals for consideration/agreement**
- a) **Acoustics Survey (ENS)** – Cllr Hill to liaise further with ENS about undertaking a survey once some further heat pump-related data has been provided.
- b) **Matrix; SHEco** – any **reports or updates**. A report had been shared summarising a recent meeting with SHEco. Cllr Hill noted additional data on energy consumption had been requested. Noted the SHEco estimate for delivery - £524,930 – further noted confirmation awaited on whether this includes an upgraded power supply.
Cllr Hill noted SHEco were seeking assurance on next steps. To date they had been providing advice and information gratis but were not prepared to undertake further work without an HPC commitment to working solely with them on taking the project forward. Cllr Hill also referenced the need to appoint a Principal Designer/Project Manager and he referred to the responsibilities of contractors and clients as set out in the [Construction Design and Management \(CDM\) Regulations 2015](#). Cllr Hill suggested it would be preferable for the Parish Council to employ an independent Principal Designer/Project Manager noting this would avoid a conflict of interest with SHEco delivering the project *and* acting as Principal Designer/Project Manager – suggested appointing an independent Principal Designer/Project Manager would also be SHEco’s preference. Cllr Hill noted he was seeking **agreement in principle** on this appointment and further noted that, with the agreement of the HPC Chair, he had made an informal

Signed:

Date:

approach to local architect Tom Crooks; Mr Crooks had expressed an interest in the role.

Cllr B Hanley asked if the Parish Council could cover the whole of the heating project costs. Cllrs Marsden, Hill and the RFO confirmed the Parish Council has sufficient monies, in reserves, to do so. The RFO referenced the significant HPC reserves and that, if the Council continues to hold these levels of reserves, there is a strong likelihood the Council would not receive a precept for the next year or two. He also noted he had informed the auditor of Council plans to spend reserves on the pool heating project and premises development works. In response to a further query from Cllr B Hanley it was noted the reserves should also cover pool premises development works or at least the majority of those costs.

Cllr B Hanley noted the Parish Council had not formally approved going ahead with the pool heating project, querying why there was discussion with individuals about taking on the role of Project Lead, ahead of formal approval.

In relation to why the Parish Council should formally agree to proceed with the project, Cllr Hill referenced the high risk in sticking with gas only to heat the pool – citing the recent factors impacting the energy market – and future unknowns. He emphasised the benefits of having a mix of pool heating options. The SPC Chair queried if it could be firmly stated that there would be long-term savings in energy costs were the Council to approve proceeding with this project. Cllr Hill acknowledged there were further queries to be addressed before a clear response could be provided – including around the proposed/optimum size of the heat pump, and costs associated with opting for a quieter (but likely more expensive) option.

NOTE: part of this minute is confidential due to commercial sensitivities.

The SPC Chair sought the opinions of pool staff members in attendance, on the heating project. The LSM noted his involvement in the project, to date, and his support on moving forward with it. Jo Wilman queried how quickly new technologies are developing and whether there was any merit in waiting and/or investigating possible new technologies. The SPC Chair mirrored this. Cllr Hill expanded on the development of air and ground source heating technologies – and solar heating technology – in recent years. He reiterated that he believed the energy future is electric, not fossil fuels.

The SPC Chair noted there had been no consultation, to date, with Hathersage residents. Cllr Marsden suggested waiting for completion of the second acoustics survey and clarifying next steps with SHEco – on the basis of which clear information could then be shared with residents. Cllr Marsden acknowledged the sheer scale of this project was a major decision for the Parish Council and a major responsibility.

The SPC Chair summarised next steps and actions (**outlined above**).

- c) **Memorial Hall and solar panels** – noted the reference in the SHEco report, that the SHEco estimate included £52,900 for 72 PV panels on the Memorial Hall roof. Noted Cllrs Jane Marsden and Tim Hill had met with a Memorial Hall Management Committee representative; an 'in principle' agreement was proposed re an equitable sharing of benefits if installation of the panels were to go ahead.

.2 **Pool Facilities Project**

- a) **Update** on project proposals shared. The SPC Chair suggested inviting three to four local architects to provide a plan, gratis **agreed the LSM to draft a call, and brief, and share it with SPC**. Referenced the need to consider the building timescale – and whether it should be done in stages - to mitigate impact on pool closures.

- b) **Project management** – there was no specific discussion on this item.

057/24

Pool five-year business improvement and action plan (*referenced in the pool management report*). The SPC Chair suggested moving forward on pool car park improvement proposals could be a 'quick win'. Cllr Rodgers flagged some queries about the pedestrian pathway, protecting pedestrians, and the size of the parking spaces **LSM to**

Signed:

Date:

undertake some basic measurements to share with SPC.

Cllr Hill queried consideration of inclusion of electric vehicle charging (EVC). Cllrs noted the pros and cons and that the matter required significant consideration. Noted areas where pub car parks had incorporated an EVC including the Anglers Rest in Bamforth **agreed to ask them about their provision.**

058/24

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

.1 **Repairs and maintenance**

- a) **Update** on ongoing planned maintenance including replacing window frames *LSM continues to pursue a response from Pennine Woodworking.*
- b) **Tile repairs** – confirmation of rescheduled tile repair work dates *(and associated pool closure)* still awaited.
- c) **Veranda flooring** - noted the quote from Flex Flooring for work on the veranda floor. Cllr Rodgers queried the impact of the heavier crumb, laid on top of the existing surface - is this a concern? Cllr Hill acknowledged it may be **LSM to check if this has already been flagged with Flex Flooring (and their response).**
- d) **Veranda joinery work** – noted the challenges in finding a contractor. Cllr B Hanley referenced means of securing quotes/interest including posting job details on relevant websites. Noted proposed options re the veranda benches (and floor resurfacing) i.e. part-surfacing (around the benches); full surfacing (removing the benches). Noted the proposal that the LSM and Cllr Hill undertake part of the work themselves - removal of the current base structure and installing a temporary supporting structure - to speed up the process (subject to SPC approval).

.2 **Staffing matters**

- a) Management update - noted cover arrangements will need to be agreed for the period when the Leisure Services Manager is undertaking jury service.
- b) Duty Supervisors – budgeted hours; areas of special interest – the SPC Chair thanked Duty Supervisors for the brief updates on their areas of special interest.
- c) September Cllrs/pool staff meeting Wednesday 18 September, 5pm, Stanage Hall – to confirm meeting foci (to include planning for pool 2026 90th anniversary celebrations). In light of the fact that many pool staff members (and Cllrs) did not have this in their diaries agreed to defer this meeting and **look to reschedule it for Wednesday 9 October, 5pm to 6pm Clerk to book the Stanage Hall and liaise with pool staff and Cllrs; Jo Wilman to ask staff re matters they would like to discuss/address at the meeting.**

.3 **Staff training**

- a) Safeguarding training – update noted.
- b) Operational training – update noted.
- c) RLSS audit – outcome 'good' – noted it's an assessment of the pool trainer DT.
- d) Suggested, ahead of the 24 September Human Resources Committee (HRC) meeting, Cllr B Hanley review staff files held at the pool.

.4 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing**

- a) Memorial Swims – Jo Wilman expanded noting proposals to schedule a 'reflective' swim session on Friday 1 November. Queried charging for this event. Suggested no charge be made but a call for donations to be made to an appropriate charity *(covered donations bucket to be provided at the event)*. **Noted only full Council could agree pool admission charges item for 1 October HPC meeting – to agree no charge be made for this event.**
- b) Synchronised swimming sessions – noted these were a success/going well; referenced scheduling a further demonstration and workshop by Almost Synchro with a suggested date of 26 April 2025 (LSM to confirm no clashes with any other scheduled events).
- c) Noted proposed pool quiz night on 6 December – TBC.

- d) Referenced communications with local residents about pool events – proposals shared in the pool management report - alongside the hard copy of annual events suggestions included posting details on the HPC website and on community social media, and a regular e-newsletter (neighbours to be asked to opt-in). Cllrs cautioned against making this too onerous (on pool staff).

Other standing agenda items

- .5 **Widening pool access to users with health and/or mobility issues including via the Water Wellbeing Scheme**
a) Friday cancer swims – LSM to discuss this further with the lead Duty Supervisors ***item for the October SPC agenda.***
b) Proposals around widening provision or other specialist provision (referenced in pool management report). Queried DDDC funding for this initiative.
- .6 **Casual pool users and capturing entry data:** any **update** on provision of a new till (to capture user entry data). LSM noted the Operations Manager continued to research options - ***details to be shared at the October SPC meeting.***
- .7 **Pool seasonal timetable and entry charges:** any **updates, reports** or matters to bring to the committee's attention. Cllrs flagged new arrangements to manage session cancellations, online, including offering refunds for sessions cancelled with less than 24 hours notice. **Cllr B Hanley proposed no refunds be made with less than 24 hours notice - unanimously agreed.** Pool management to look at making the necessary alterations on the booking system. LSM shared some (limited) data on cancellations and refunds.
- .8 **Engagement with external pool and leisure providers** – an update from Future Lidos had been shared.
- .9 **Swim Club** – reference was made to the forthcoming gala.
- 059/24 **Finance** – any further **reports** or **updates**
- .1 **HPBC parish and town councils and contributing towards their residents' use of the pool:** a report had been shared with responses from some HPBC parish and town councils ***to be further considered at the October SPC meeting – an early agenda item.*** The LSM suggested there hasn't been a significant loss of HPBC pool users as a result of loss of subsidies ***LSM to provide some data for the October SPC meeting.***
- .2 **Pool staff Christmas meal and Parish Council contribution** – to **agree.** LSM noted a preference that HPC pay for the Christmas meal for pool staff attending the meal (meal only; not alcohol). Pool Operations Manager to share details of costs, per head. RFO suggested, in future, this matter should be delegated to pool management.
- 060/24 **Pool car park/drive** and co-ordinating maintenance/repairs to the car park/drive at both the pool and the Memorial Hall. Cllr Rodgers noted repairs needed to the pool car park/drive were more significant than those needed to the Memorial Hall car park. She suggested notifying the Memorial Hall Management Committee when HPC invites contractors to a site visit noting a member of the Management Committee could attend and could seek a quote for works to be done to the Memorial Hall car park, simultaneously.
- 061/24 **Pool User Group:** to **consider** foci for further liaison/consultation with the group. The SPC Chair referenced a query from a pool season ticket holder about booking the café for a season ticket holders meet-up; ***LSM to liaise with pool season ticket holders and the café tenants.***
- 062/24 **Clerk** – any **additional reports and/or correspondence** – none.
- 063/24 Next meeting – **15 October 2024, 7.30pm;** **noted** items flagged in the course of the meeting, for the October meeting.

Meeting ended 9pm