

HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Mob: 07766 629 419; Email clerk@hathersageparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Leisure, Facilities and Amenities Committee (LFAC) meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2024, 7.30pm, at Hathersage Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Jane Marsden (Chair), Martin Bloor, Bridget Hanley, Tim Hill, James Marsden, Peter Rowland, Heather Rodgers

In attendance: Maura Sorensen (Clerk); Alison Wheeler (Assistant Clerk); members of the public
part attendance by members of the local Rewilding Group Carol Collins, Lynne Irving, Jane Varley, Jim Miles, Scharlie Platt in relation to agenda item 10.1 (Verges and rewilding)

Timings

- 069/24 7.30 **Apologies for absence** – none
- 070/24 **Order of business – any variation** – discussion on agenda item 10.1 (Verges and rewilding) was the first item considered, while members of the Rewilding Group were in attendance.
- 071/24 **Public participation:** members of the local Rewilding Group spoke to agenda item 10.1. A written statement from the group was shared, detailing aims – responding to the biodiversity crisis - and activities to date. The group emphasised that rewilding takes time and that habitats cannot be changed overnight. Noted no specific timescale could be confirmed re getting the rewilded verges fully established; it could take some years. They flagged progress to date and acknowledged points about the lack of obvious evidence of wildflowers in the verges and challenges in fully establishing an array of flowers, but also cited flowers/plants currently growing there. Further flagged that rewilding the verges encourages insects, promoting pollination and providing food for birds, and helping to support the hedgehog population. The group noted the verges are being managed and highlighted that verges will look less uniformly tidy across the year, and less tidy towards the end of summer (until the autumn cut). Reference made to positive responses from some Hathersage residents on the verge rewilding initiative.
Cllr Martin Bloor flagged concerns raised by residents, with him, about how unkempt the verges appear (acknowledged this had been in part addressed by the recent DDDC cut). Residents had suggested the unkempt verges were a detriment to the village and created a poor impression with visitors. He suggested the biodiversity gains were outweighed by these concerns. Some Cllrs had suggested that verges in the rewilding initiative are not suitable because of poor soil and seeded grasses and that the verges would need to be completely stripped back before rewilding could be properly established. Group members noted this was neither the DDDC policy or approach to verge management, and that it would be expensive. Group members reiterated progress made at the sites since they had first adopted them four years previously.
Cllrs suggested wider education on rewilding - and expectations – was needed e.g. publishing an article in Hathersage News. Group members noted ongoing education activities.
Noted a forthcoming meeting (4 November) with a DDDC Officer, Cllrs, and members of the Rewilding Group to clarify the DDDC commitment to, and management of, the rewilding initiative. **ACTION – further report and recommendations to be shared after the 4 November meeting.**
The Chair thanked members of the Rewilding Group for their attendance and they left the meeting.
- 072/24 **Declaration of interests** – none.
- 073/24 **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024** were **confirmed**; and actions arising **noted**.
- 075/24 **2025-26 budget-setting:** to **consider** budgeting for areas overseen by LFAC. **ACTION – members to consider and share suggestions by email.**
- 076/24 **Playground and Play Equipment** - maintenance, repairs or other matters.

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- 077/24 .1 To **receive** the most recent Alliance Environmental Services (AES) inspection report – **noted** the inspection report for another Parish Council had been shared in error – the Clerk has flagged this with AES and asked that the most recent Hathersage report be shared.
MUGA - maintenance, repairs or other matters. **ACTION - Clerk to ask LSM about progress on repairs to netting and on securing a quote for fencing.**
- 078/24 .1 **MUGA charges** were reviewed. **Agreed** no change to current rates **to be further reviewed for 2025-26 (by April 2025)**. Queried whether there should be a higher charge where the booking is for a class/session and attendees are charged for attendance – noted this is the case at the Memorial Hall **ACTION – Clerk/Assistant Clerk to seek RFO advice**. Queried charges for use of the tennis court **ACTION Clerk/Assistant Clerk to liaise with LSM.**
- 079/24 **Hathersage Playing Field Association (HPFA)** – in light of the fact there were currently no volunteer members other than Cllrs, suggested HPFA be folded and incorporated into the KGF charity **unanimously agreed**. Cllr Rodgers to investigate next steps.
- 080/24 **Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan** – standing agenda item – to note ongoing initiatives; flag any proposed initiatives. The Chair referenced an approach by the National Trust – looking to share plans for a piece of Outseats land they were taking on – anticipated National Trust representatives are looking to attend the 5 November HPC meeting – suggested this will be an opportunity to query any planned biodiversity initiatives.
- 081/24 .1 **Verges and rewilding**: see 071/24.
Toilets
- 082/24 .1 **Maintenance** – Cllr Hill noted a local plumber is now familiar with addressing problems arising with the toilets. He suggested purchasing spare parts so any problems arising can be dealt with swiftly – **agreed an allocation of up to £500 to purchase spare parts.**
Cllrs noted satisfaction with the current cleaning (contractor) arrangements.
- 083/24 .2 **Donations** – **noted** agreement at the 1 October HPC meeting to provide a QR code for electronic donations; Cllr Rodgers is liaising with a resident (Sarah Spence) to provide a code. Suggested a small working Cllr group convene to consider the detail of any donation signage.
- 084/24 **Burial Ground**
- 085/24 .1 **Depositing soil from newly dug graves** – **options**: the Chair expanded on the challenges. She asked members to consider solutions (to be shared by email).
- 086/24 .2 **Burial Ground extension** – any **update** – Chair still looking into this.
- 087/24 **DCC Snow Warden Scheme 2024-25**. Agreed not to join the Scheme (based on volunteer insurance concerns flagged in 2023-24). Suggested no further grit/salt stocks needed, currently. Cllr James Marsden asked if Cllrs could help with taking grit/salt to bins in/around the village **ACTION – Clerk/Assistant Clerk to share a list of bins/sites.**
- 088/24 **Footpaths**: **noted** a matter raised by Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF) in relation to timeliness of responses from DCC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Officers.
The Clerk noted she has asked DCC PRoW for a progress update on River Derwent stepping stones repairs.
Cllr Hanley referenced the poor state of the footpath leading to the railway bridge and flagged health and safety risks with the stiles – other Cllrs concurred – suggested a gate would be more appropriate. **ACTION – suggested raising the matter with Volker Rail.**
- 089/24 **Any other maintenance, repairs or other matters to bring to the Committee's attention**
- 090/24 .1 **Shuttleworth Lamp** – Cllr Hill shared a repairs update. A DCC electrician had found faults with the wiring however had been unable to access the wiring – noted additional expense may be incurred to do so. Confirmed by DCC that interim, temporary measures are not possible. **ACTION – Cllr Hill to continue to liaise with DCC.**
- 091/24 .2 **New seat on Station Approach - Clerk querying, with DCC, technical queries required in the application process.**

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- .3 **Heart of Hathersage (HoH) 'no parking' signage (specifically targeting motorbike riders)** – Cllr Rowland confirmed he had received signage. Agreed to post one sign in the HoH planter; and to further consider where to place the other sign.

085/24

Clerk's Report/Correspondence – none.

086/24

HoH bus shelter – Cllrs flagged the roof of the shelter needs cleaning.

087/24

Next meeting: Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 7.30pm - in the Heart of Hathersage;
note items for the November agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm and was followed by a meeting of the Transport Committee

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