

# HATHERSAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Hathersage Parish Council Swimming Pool Committee meeting, Tuesday 10 December 2024, 7.30pm MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors W Hanley (Chair), B Hanley, Tim Hill, Rosie Olle, Heather Rodgers

**In attendance:** Maura Sorensen, Clerk; Mike Wellington, Leisure Services Manager (LSM); pool staff member Rachael Phillips

- 094/24 Apologies for absence from Cllr Jane Marsden and from the RFO (Chris Cave).
- 095/24 To decide any variation in the order of business – none.
- 096/24 Declaration of interests – pool staff members Mike Wellington and Rachael Phillips.
- 097/24 **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 – no members of the public were in attendance.
- 098/24 **Minutes of the 19 November 2024 meeting** were **confirmed**; actions arising from the minutes (*referenced in the Action Log*) **noted**.
- 099/24 **Pool Heating Project; Pool Facilities Project**
- .1 **Pool Heating Project and engagement with SHEco** – **received** a brief report on the recent meeting with SHEco; noted a fuller report will be provided at the January 2025 full Council and SPC meetings.
- .2 **Pool Facilities Project** – to **agree** an invitation to local architects to provide a summary of ideas for development and costs. The LSM referenced liaison with five local architects noting one response to date and noting he had arranged an informal meeting with the architect to outline the brief. Cllrs reiterated that it needed to be made clear – to all architects expressing interest – that there was no formal engagement or payment at this stage. Noted formal meetings would be arranged, in due course, between architects expressing interest and the working group and the SPC Chair. SPC Chair noted architects would be asked to provide a brief – both a design brief and estimates of costs, their payment structure etc. Suggested architects also be asked to consider how to minimise pool closure/s throughout the works. Agreed the heritage aspects of the pool should also be flagged with architects and that the Council does not want to see, for example, the veranda structure compromised.
- 100/24 **Pool five-year business improvement and action plan:** to **monitor** (and update as appropriate). SPC Chair had redrafted the plan; he noted he had some information to add in Section B relating to the veranda. In relation to item 7, the SPC Chair and the RFO had liaised about producing a long-term maintenance and renewal schedule. Bandstand – flagged works including a structural survey of the roof. Cllrs queried plans to part fill the area beneath the bandstand with concrete. Cllr Hill suggested the rusting steelwork will need removing first – noted more detailed advice to be pursued, and firm estimates sought **action for the LSM and Cllr Hill**. Reiterated the timescale (as per the Plan) to complete bandstand works by the end of March 2025.
- 101/24 **Pool Manager's Report** including operational, maintenance and staffing matters.
- .1 **Repairs and maintenance**
- a) **Tile repairs** – LSM continues to liaise with Cumberlidge who are now proposing undertaking the work in the spring (no specific dates identified); LSM also seeking quotes from three other flooring specialists.
- b) **Updates** on any other planned works – noted the changing room window may be fitted towards the end of this week or early the following week.
- c) **Mobile (pop-up) sauna proposal** – **noted** confirmed dates - 14, 15, 28, 29 December, and new year's day. Noted members sessions had sold out. LSM commented that event ticketing for these sessions had been shared between the pool and the sauna operator (Hive); he suggested if setting up further events all ticketing be handled by the pool. Agreed to 'wait and see' how these sessions go before agreeing to schedule any further

sessions. Rachael Phillips suggested asking Hive to offer a session for pool staff and Cllrs; the LSM noted Hive were offering some private hire sessions – and that he would ask if any spare places could be offered to staff and Cllrs.

- d) **Casual pool users and capturing entry data** – noted data is being captured. LSM noted data indicated the majority of pool users in the evenings are casual, walk-ins; noted the majority of early morning swimmers are season ticket holders.

.2 **Staffing matters**

- a) **Management** – nothing to update.
- b) **Duty Supervisors** – budgeted hours; areas of special interest. Cllrs asked if a brief update on Duty Supervisors areas of special interest could be included in pool management reports to future meetings. Rachael Phillips shared a proposal – offering pool lowkey stretch sessions for those over 75 years of age – Cllrs supported the proposal.
- c) **Cllrs/pool staff meetings – received** notes from the Wednesday 27 November meeting.

.3 **Staff training**

- a) Safeguarding training – nothing to update.
- b) Operational training – nothing to update.

.4 **Fundraising / Events / Marketing**

- a) 22 November Memorial Swim – noted the impact of the poor weather on attendance – noted £145 had been raised for Blythe House – agreed to holding this event annually (around the end of October/start of November).
- b) LSM referenced the recent well attended quiz night – attended by pool staff, pool users and Hathersage residents. Suggested holding this annually.
- c) Synchronised swimming sessions – referenced the planned 26 April 2025 event with demonstrations by AlmostSynchro.
- d) Pool 90<sup>th</sup> birthday 2026 celebrations (*standing agenda item through to 2026*). Referenced convening working groups – one group to focus on celebration events; one group to focus on design and production of interpretive/information boards. Groups to start meeting early 2025 to begin planning. Rachael Phillips shared a number of event suggestions (and other initiatives); all suggestions and proposals to be discussed in depth by the working group – and notes from group meetings to be shared with SPC. Cllr Hill suggested some limited opening of areas not usually accessible to the public e.g. the bandstand.
- e) Peak Oil advertising – this had been referenced in the RFO report however it was agreed further clarification was needed on the period covered by the most recent payment. Suggested any reduction in the costs previously approved by the Parish Council should not be agreed; further suggested fossil fuel-related advertising at the pool was inappropriate.

***Other standing agenda items***

- .5 **Widening pool access and wellbeing initiatives – update** on any proposals from pool management and/or Duty Supervisors on related provision. Reference made to using summer 2025 slots – used by schools in term time - for some additional provision e.g. the over 75s lowkey stretch sessions referenced in 104/24.2 b). Other provision included special sessions for SEND children; sessions for young people with mental health/wellbeing issues. SPC Chair noted a recent conversation suggested some people assume the pool can only be accessed via online pre-booked sessions. Suggested publishing a piece in Hathersage News.

- .6 **Pool seasonal timetable and entry charges:** no changes to the current timetable suggested. Discussion on entry charges minuted under 102/24. Summer 2025 timetable – LSM suggested pool management draft a timetable, seek pool staff input, then share it with SPC in January 2025. SPC Chair suggested providing a separate timetable for the school summer holidays.

.7 **Engagement with external pool and leisure providers** – reference made to the recent Future Lidos donation ask; Cllrs noted disappointment in the lack of detail about Future Lidos remit, and plans.

.8 **Swim Club.**

102/24 **Finance – 2025-26 Pool Budget** – to **consider**. SPC Chair flagged the RFO's reference to a projected drop in Direct Debits/season ticket holders. Members commented that winter season swimmers were more committed. **The committee agreed a recommendation to full Council – no increase in summer 2025 entry charges (to remain as per winter 2024-25 charges); entry charges to be reviewed for the 2025-26 winter season (possibly looking at a 5-10% increase).**

103/24 **Pool car park/drive**

a) The LSM had shared a reconfiguration plan. Cllr Rodgers suggested this matter wasn't urgent noting that any significant pool premises improvement works would likely involve heavy machinery and degradation to the car park surface – suggested focusing on car park improvements after pool premises works have been completed.

b) Liaison with Severn Trent on the recurring water leak on the drive – LSM noted he had reported the matter to Severn Trent; Severn Trent confirmed a job reference – Cllrs reiterated urgency in resolving this matter ahead of further cold weather and icy conditions.

104/24 **Pool User Group: to consider** further liaison/consultation with the group. SPC Chair suggested seeking group user input on the mobile sauna and suggested seeking user input on pool 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations ***ACTION - SPC Chair to draft a user group message; Clerk to circulate.***

105/24 **Clerk – any additional reports and/or correspondence** – none.

106/24 **Next meeting – Tuesday 21 January 2025, 7.30pm, Hathersage Memorial Hall (Sampson Room); noted** items for the January meeting.

Meeting ended at 20:40.