

Minutes of Outseats Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18 April 2011 in the Hathersage Memorial Hall Sampson Room at 7.30pm

Present:	Councillor Jane Marsden – Chairman	<u>In attendance</u>
	Councillor Jean Hodgkinson	Councillor Chris Cartledge (Hathersage PC)
	Councillor Simon Taylor	PC Ian Richardson
	Councillor Bill Hanley	
	Councillor Anne Claxton	
	Councillor Bill Gordon	Clerk: David Palmer

No members of the public were present.

The Annual Parish Meeting had been held immediately before this meeting and did not close until 7.45pm. Therefore, this meeting commenced as soon as the other meeting had concluded.

36/11 Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Pauline Whitney (on holiday).

37/11 Variations in Order of Business

There were no variations in the Order of Business.

38/11 Declaration of Members' Interests

A Declaration of Interest was received from Councillor Taylor for minute 42/11.

39/11 Public Speaking

1. PC Ian Richardson gave a report on current issues in the village. These included continued issues with scrap metal dealers and nuisance from youths. He also answered a number of questions from Councillors.
2. Councillor Chris Cartledge said a meeting had been held regarding the damage caused by 4x4s to the track up the dale that leads past Callow Farm (the track to Cupola Low).

40/11 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

It was resolved to confirm as a correct record minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2011, subject to an amendment to minute 34/11, section 2, because the ticket costs at the pool had only been held for one year, not "a number of years" as stated in the original minutes.

41/11 Highways/Transport

1. Review of Processes for Snow/Ice Clearance – The Clerk had attended a training course that had a question and answer session from the Council's insurers; this session had included a long debate on snow and ice clearance. He informed the Council that, while the insurer had been careful to never say this explicitly, his view and the view of many other clerks at the meeting was that the insurers advice made matters very difficult for Councils trying to do the best for their residents regarding snow and ice clearance. A particular stumbling block was that, once a Council or other body started to clear snow and ice in a particular place, they then had to continue to regularly do this until the snow and ice had finished being a problem. Other advice received was that the Council need to have a Snow Clearance Policy, a Snow Clearance Risk Assessment and that signs should be put on all grit bins covering matters such as health and safety and where to obtain new supplies of grit. If the Council organised volunteers to clear the snow, then matters such as health and safety training and supplying the correct clothing also became relevant. It was resolved that all these documents would need to be prepared over the summer and that the insurers should then be asked to approve each of them, along with a newsletter that would inform residents of what was happening. The Councillors were clear that they wanted to do the best for the residents of Outseats and did not want to have their efforts derailed because of insurance issues. Furthermore, Councillors Hanley and Gordon said they were well experienced in their professional lives in writing documents like those required for snow clearance, so they offered to help the Clerk prepare these documents. Councillors Hanley and Gordon also offered to draft a letter to the local MP, informing him that the insurance issues being experienced were against the principles of the "Big Society" and asking him to take action. The Clerk was instructed to add a further discussion of this matter to the agenda of the June Council Meeting.
2. At the same training session, the Clerk had been advised that DCC Highways had to be informed of all grit bins used to supply grit for clearing the highway. This had not been done for the grit bins that the Council had recently supplied in Cliffe Lane, Ranmoor Lane and planned to put in place in Higger Lane. It was resolved that the Clerk should contact DCC Highways about this.

42/11 Finance

1. It was resolved to note the Statement of Accounts for March 2011.
2. The Council reviewed quotations received from Redwood Landscapes (Hathersage) Ltd for footpath clearance, grass cutting and other tidying in the Parish. It was noted that the costs had increased by about 20% in the last 2 years and the Council could not sustain such increases. It was resolved that the grass cutting that had previously been done 5 times a year would now only be done 3 times a year, to save money. The Clerk was instructed to inform Redwood Landscapes that the quotation had been approved subject to a reduction in costs for the above changes.
3. The Clerk noted that the Council had ceased to make a formal allocation of funds in its budget for Hathersage and Outseats Allotment Group (HAG) two years ago. Nevertheless, the Council had offered to provide HAG with up to £350 to cover the legal costs of diverting footpaths on their land some years before. HAG had now asked if this money was still available and it was resolved that up to £350 of the Village Projects Reserve could be made available for this purpose.
4. It was resolved to authorise the following accounts for payment (total sum £352.28) after the Clerk had informed the Council that the amounts differed from those in the original agenda. This was because the payment of expenses to the Clerk included travel costs to a training course the previous week and the payment to Hathersage PC included an adjustment for actual year-end costs incurred (a previous payment to HPC had been based on an estimate):

Clerk	salary, office allowance and expenses for April	£217.41
Hathersage PC	contributions re Playing Field safety inspections	£134.87

43/11 Correspondence for Decision

1. It was resolved that no one was available to attend the Hathersage Village Centre Group AGM on 19 April.
2. It was resolved that who would attend the rearranged DCC Parish Council Liaison Forum at 6pm in County Hall, Matlock on 23 June would be discussed at the next meeting.

44/11 Audit Commission Return

The Council reviewed and approved the accounting statements provided in Section 1 of the Audit Commission Return and reviewed and approved that each of the governance statements in Section 2 could be responded to as "Yes". It was resolved that the completed Audit Commission Return reflected a true record of the Council for the year to 31 March 2011.

45/11 Items for Information

It was resolved that the following items for information should be received:

Derbyshire Assoc of Local Councils Circulars 21/11
Hathersage PC Agendas 5/4/11
Recreation Comm Minutes 16/3/11; Fundraising Minutes 8/3/11
Village Centre Group Minutes 31/3/11
Allotments Group Email dated 4/4/11
Derbyshire Police Selected Ringmaster mailings
Derbys Dales Dist Council Dales Matters Spring 2011
Derbyshire County Council Sacre Annual Report 2009/10; Letter re bus shelters 30/3/11
PDNPA Selected press releases; Park Life March 2011
Derbyshire Fire Service Letter re Community Fire Safety Champions
Peak Park Parishes Forum Newsletter Spring 2011
Trains High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership Minutes 15/3/11
Came & Co Parish Matters Spring 2011
Magazines Clerk & Councils Direct March 2011

46/11 Committee Reports

1. Hathersage Parish Council (HPC) – Councillor Hodgkinson gave a report of the last meeting of HPC and mentioned that an excellent presentation had been given by local young people for the building of a skate park. It was resolved that Councillor Claxton would attend HPC's May meeting.
2. Recreation Committee – The Clerk read a report sent by Councillor Whitney. A large number of people (30+) had attended the last Rec Comm meeting, in support of the proposal for a skate park. Another excellent presentation had been given by local young people and the meeting had resolved that a steering group should be formed by those interested to draw up a more detailed proposal and plan. The refurbishment of the swimming pool was moving ahead on time and some of the costs had gone down. Also, fundraising projects for the pool were underway, with the solarium roof and pool covers likely to be early areas to focus on. A professional business plan for the longer term future of the pool was also being taken forward.

47/11 Parish Matters

1. Councillor Marsden reported that she had received a phone call from Lady Sykes, following the Clerk's letter to Sir Hugh Sykes asking what his plans were for Gamekeeper's Cottage at Brookfield Manor. Lady Sykes had said this matter was regularly discussed at trust meetings and that various options were being considered. Nevertheless, funds were limited so it may still take some time to take matters in hand. The Council resolved to revisit this issue later in the year, when it could be seen if any progress had been made to secure this listed building.

Date of Next Two Meetings

It was noted that the date and venue of the next meeting has changed: it will now take place on Monday 16 May at 7.30pm in Hathersage Methodist Church Lounge. The dates of the meeting after this remained unchanged as 27 June 2011 at 7.30pm in Sampson Room, Hathersage Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.