MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Mevagissey Activity Centre

On Thursday 20 April 2023 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), G Barham, J Brown, D Drake, J Gann, K Prynn, G Shephard, J Whatty, A Williams, G Williams

In Attendance Cllr. Mustoe (Ward Member), P Howson (Locum Clerk to the Council), Mark Sweeney (Mevagissey Support Group).

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Morgan, and Cllr. Mustoe would be arriving late (he arrived at 7.20pm).

2. The Chairman confirmed that Anna Christie had resigned from the Council.

3. The Chairman ruled that an item regarding the Parish Nurse initiative would be added to the agenda and discussed later in the meeting.

4. Cllr. G Williams declared an interest in agenda item 21 (grant application from Mevagissey Feast Week Committee).

5. Public participation. Cllr. A Williams introduced Mark Sweeney as a founding member and key volunteer of the Mevagissey Support Group. Mr Sweeney described the difficulties of raising funds to reach the £50,000 target necessary to support a Parish Nurse and asked the Council to support a proposal to hire a professional fund raiser.

6. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2023 be accepted. Carried.

7. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 17 March 2023 be accepted. Carried.

8. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 6 April 2023 be accepted. Carried.

9.. The Locum Clerk reported that bank reconciliation was not currently possible but would be resolved by the next meeting.

10. The Chairman reported that he had attended the last meeting of the St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Panel which had now been wound up to be replaced by a larger network including Fowey and Lostwithiel. Helen Nicholson would be the Community Link Officer and the first meeting would be in June, when a name for the Network would be agreed.

11. To approve payment of items listed on the monthly payment schedule, as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT (£) |
| Clerk | March salary | 931.06 |
| HMRC | March PAYE and Employer NIC | 235.78 |
| British Gas | W Wharf PC electricity 02/02/23 - 01/03/23 | 38.69 |
| British Gas | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/02/23 - 01/03/23 | 45.07 |
| Source for Business | Valley Rd PC water 07/02/23 – 06/03/23 | 115.03 |
| Cornwall ALC | Annual membership renewal | 843.24 |
| Carlyon Systems | Monthly fees | 48.60 |
| G C Farr | Pre-season works at Valley Rd PC | 1,634.45 |
| G C Farr | Service W Wharf PC during April | 1,277.88 |
| G C Farr | Service Valley Rd PC during April | 1,322.89 |
|  | PAYMENTS TOTAL | 6,492.69 |

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. A Williams that the bills be paid. Carried.

12. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Drake that an update on the appointment of a new Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) should be deferred to the end of the meeting and held in closed session. Carried.

13. Cllr. Facey reported that anti-slip paint had been applied at Valley Road PC and timber trim installed to enhance the appearance. All units at West Wharf PC were now open. The quote for the provision of card readers at West Wharf was £5,700 including installation, with half payable in advance and the balance on completion. There was a 4-6 week lead time. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the quote be accepted. Carried.

14. The Chairman ruled that the Parish Nurse item would be discussed at this point. Cllr. A Williams confirmed that the sum required to secure the provision of a Parish Nurse for a period of 3 years remained at £50,000 and expanded on what Mark Sweeney had said during the public participation session. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Drake that the £2,000 included in the budget for the Parish Nurse should be allocated to hiring a professional fundraiser. Carried (Cllr. A Williams abstained).

(It was noted that this would be in addition to the £6,000 over 3 years previously agreed for the provision of a Parish Nurse).

15. Cllr. Mustoe presented his report, which can be seen on the Council’s website.

16. Cllr. Facey reported that the 1,100 litre blue bins were now in place at Kiers car park to be filled from the smaller black bins by the businesses involved, which now also included Seaosk and Kernow Street Kitchen. Cllr. Gann reported that the cost this year was £153.50 per week and noted that although the seasonal bin scheme was originally introduced to facilitate trading during Covid restrictions it was generally recognised that the village was now much tidier as a result. However, he was concerned that the cost involved was of no benefit to those businesses who did not depend on them. He will consider whether to pursue this at a future meeting. Cllr. G Williams asked whether the unused blue bin outside the Central Café could be moved to a less visible location, and Cllr. Facey agreed to investigate.

17. Cllr. G Williams confirmed that nurturegreen would continue to cut the coast path this year and that Treleaven had taken over the contract for the inland paths. He will seek a meeting with the Clerk to clarify interpretation of the cutting maps.

18. Cllr. Brown presented his report from the Climate Emergency Working Group. Mevagissey school has selected their planters that the group has donated and will be organising a planting project with Eden for 3rd May. Alongside this the group have been working with the school to put together pledge pennants which are going along nicely. A visit to some beehives is being arranged over the coming months. The group is looking at how it can support the harbour with fundraising for the harbour walls. Finally, a date of 29th of September has been pencilled in for a bat walk with an Exeter University representative.

Cllr. Mustoe reported that he had arranged for children from the school to visit Heligan Gardens on 17 May for a tree planting session.

The Chairman mentioned that the report commissioned by the Harbour Trustees to look at the options to defend the harbour from the effects of climate change was now available on the Harbour’s website; and a grant from Cornwall Council towards the £150,000 cost of improving access to Island Beach had been received.

A meeting between the Council and the Harbour Trustees to agree and discuss areas of common interest would now be arranged.

19. Cllr. Whatty reported that the Council’s IT infrastructure improvements had been paused, but he would now progress plans with Carlyon Systems.

20. To receive a report from the Housing Working Group. Cllr. Gann reported that:

* He had introduced the owner of a flat in Wesley Court to CC’s Housing Team in the hope that CC will purchase the property to ensure it remains as an affordable rental in the Parish;
* He noted that a property in The Net Lofts has come on the market, but the S106 restriction for local occupation was removed by the Developer in 2015. He will raise this with CC to see if they may also be interested in purchasing;
* The search for land for new development in the Parish continues.

21. To review progress on the development of a devolution package. The Ward Member reported that he had met CC officers earlier in the week to discuss the shortfall in the costs of provision of the identified services and the income levels from the car parks. Currently there is a significant deficit to CC if the two car parks and the identified sites were to transfer. The figures previously provided by CC apparently gave only a partial year’s worth of figures, hence why they were different. This was down to an error by an officer who no longer works at the council. Most assets are already included so there is limited scope to re-balance through additional services being included. He had highlighted the potential reduction in car park income due to evening charging changes. Officers are going to refresh the figures with CC parking accountants, taking into account the changes to the tariff charges that will come into effect in May and any uplift in costs associated with inflation and contract price changes. The officers are going to look at possible options for the parish once updated figures have been provided. These options could include one or both car parks to try to identify a combination of assets that could work for both Councils.

22. It was agreed that the reply to Cornwall Council’s consultation on alcohol free zones was that the status quo should be maintained.

23. Cllr. G Williams withdrew for this item, having declared an interest. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the application by the Mevagissey Feast Week Committee for a £500 grant towards the cost of a PA system and barbecue facilities should be paid in full. Carried.

24. It was agreed that the Council’s Grants Policy should be amended to clarify the procedure for budgeted payments as follows: if the payment was for the same purpose each year, then a one-off application form should be completed; but if the purpose of the payment varied from year to year, then a fresh application form should be completed each year.

25. The Clerk reported that the wooden noticeboards on the side of the old Post Office and at Portmellon were suffering from rot. The noticeboard on the side of The Ship Inn was still serviceable. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the two rotting noticeboards should be replaced with personalised parish noticeboards made from durable materials, coloured black, and that the Clerk was authorised to select models within a total cost limit of £1,950. Carried.

26. Cllr. Shephard had investigated the proposed Infrastructure Levy which the DLUHC was now consulting on and concluded that it failed to address fundamental infrastructure problems, failed to address affordable housing, and proposed measures which it would not be possible to implement. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that Cllr. Shephard would summarise this for the Clerk to respond to the consultation. Carried.

27. |It was noted that no members will be available to represent the Council at the Coronation Service of Commemoration to mark the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III at Truro Cathedral on Sunday 7 May.

28. Then Council went into closed session to progress the appointment of a new Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Drake that the decision by the interviewing panel to appoint the new Clerk/RFO be ratified. Carried.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the new RFO had full authority to set up a new bank mandate to meet the future needs of the Council, including the consideration of other banks following HSBC’s departure from St Austell. Carried.

29. The meeting ended at 9pm. Date of next (non-planning) meeting: 18 May 2023.

Signed ......................................................................................... Dated ....................................