MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 18 January 2024 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), G Barham, L Burdett, D Drake, J Gann, K Prynn, G Shephard, P Simpson, J Whatty, G Williams..

In Attendance Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member), P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 3 members of the public.

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. J Morgan and J Brown.
2. Cllrs. Drake and Facey declared an interest in agenda item 15 (request from the Mevagissey Activity Centre).

Cllrs. Roberts and Williams declared an interest in agenda item 18 (request from the Feast Week Committee).

3. Public participation.

Angela Taylor, Manager of the Mevagissey Activity Centre (MAC), and Walter Eyre, a Director of the MAC, outlined their proposals for increasing income and reducing costs, asked the Council for financial help to see them through in the short term, and took questions from members. They had been unsuccessful in their application for Lottery funding. The financial information requested after the last meeting had not been provided because they could not afford to pay an accountant to produce it.

4. Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Drake that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2023 be accepted. Carried.

5. The Clerk reported that:

* He had written to Cornwall Council’s (CC) Chief Executive regarding the shortcomings of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in granting Certificates of Lawfulness;
* The road between The King’s Arms and the southern side of Portmellon Cove will be closed 7.30am – 5pm on 23rd and 24th January for road repairs;
* On 22 January contractors for CC Highways will be abseiling from Polkirt Hill to make a detailed visual inspection of retaining structures supporting Polkirt Hill to the rear of Waterfront Court, Polkirt Mews and Rock Cottage;
* Portmellon Road, just uphill from the Rising Sun Inn, will be closed 29-31 January, 7pm - 7am, for works by S W Water;
* A notice of intention to close Chapel Square 11pm 13/10/24 - 11pm 14/10/24 had been received for works by S W Water. Because the Shanty Festival will be held that weekend, the Clerk will advise CC Streetworks accordingly;
* Sarah Mason (CALC Chief Exec) has asked all member councils to take part in their online membership survey as part of their strategic review. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply in his own capacity, and members could reply if they wished.

6. The Ward Member presented his report, which can be seen on the Council’s website.

7. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/12/23 - 01/01/24 (paid) | £ | 24.50 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/12/23 - 01/01/24 (paid) | £ | 42.37 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 03/12/23 - 02/01/.24 (paid) | £ | 176.66 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 01/12/23 - 05/01/24 | £ | 168.83 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 12/12/23 | £ | 219.60 |  |  |
|  | IT support for January | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | December staff costs | £ | 1,602.40 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC January | £ | 1,352.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC January | £ | 1,397.89 |  |  |
|  | Annual domain renewal from 28/02/24 (mevagissey-pc.gov.uk) | £ | 120.00 |  |  |
|  | Councillor planning training | £ | 36.00 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 5,195.99 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 134,343.84 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 6,293.77 |  |  |
|  | plus bank charges | £ | 20.27 |  |  |
|  | Cleared cheque | £ | 175.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank interest | £ | 890.34 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 128,745.14 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (31/12/2023) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Accounts |  |  | £ | 653.79 |
|  | Deposit Accounts |  |  | £ | 128,091.35 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 128,745.14 |

Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the accounts be accepted and the bills paid. Carried.

8. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the 2023/24 Q3 statement of accounts be accepted.

Carried.

9. To receive a report on the operation of the public conveniences.

Cllr. Facey reported that S W Water had carried out an efficiency audit at the public toilets, free of charge, on 18 December and had changed both systemisers and a tap and will be sending a full report. Cllr. Facey and GCF, the contractor, will attend the next meeting of the Asset Working Group to finalise a comprehensive risk assessment for the toilet blocks. GCF will start shortly on the agreed winter maintenance programme.

10. Cllr. Gann provided a brief update from the Housing Working Group.

11. In Cllr. Brown’s absence there was no report from the Climate Emergency Working Group, but Cllr. Whatty advised that the Group would be meeting the following week. Cllr. Mustoe reported that Cormac would be planting trees along Valley Road to replace those that had been cut, although some of those are now apparently growing back.

12. Cllr. Shephard advised that the 22 January meeting of the Asset Working Group was now postponed to 26 February.

13. To review progress on the development of a devolution package.

The Clerk reported that CC’s Community Link Officer (CLO) has been chasing for an update on the proposed devolution package, but has said that the basis on which any package may progress is currently with the relevant senior officers within the services (not the devolution team). Cllr. Mustoe said it was with Brian Skinner of CC, where it had been for months, and recommended that if no response had been received by the next meeting a letter should be sent to CC’s Chief Executive. The Chairman will raise it with the CLO when he sees her next week.

14. To consider tenancy arrangements at Martins Court flats, School Hill.

Cllr. Shephard explained that there was no S106 agreement in place for Martins Court, so banding takes precedence over locality, ie tenants are able to move in from the other end of the country regardless of local need.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the Council should write to Sarah Thorneycroft, CC’s Homechoice officer (copied to Ocean Housing and Live West), requesting that a local letting plan is enabled for all housing association properties within the parish as a matter of urgency because the tenancy mix has become unbalanced. Carried.

15. To consider further the request for emergency assistance from the Mevagissey Activity Centre.

Cllr. Facey and Drake withdrew for this item, having declared an interest.

The Chairman noted that the provisional offer of support made at the previous meeting had been dependent on a successful application for Lottery funding and the provision of a detailed set of financial and management information, neither of which had materialised. Some members concluded that the MAC was not viable as a business and therefore no assistance should be provided. However, others felt strongly that the MAC was an important local asset and could not be allowed to fail, and those members with business expertise would be happy to help get the MAC back on track. The Clerk, as the Responsible Financial Officer, advised that no further assistance should be given because due diligence had not been demonstrated, but the prevailing view was otherwise.

To enable this, it was proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that Standing Orders be suspended to rescind the 6-month rule regarding previous resolutions so that the previous conditions of support could be set aside. Carried.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that in recognition of the user groups dependent on the MAC, the Council should grant £6,400 to enable the MAC to continue trading for a further 2 months, subject to the officers of the Community Interest Company (CIC) working with Council members to support them in developing a clear understanding of the CIC’s assets and liabilities and developing a business turn-around plan before 21 March 2024.

An Amendment was Proposed by Cllr. Simpson that the MAC’s shortfall should be topped up each month for a three month period up to a total of £6,400, to be reviewed each month, but there was no Seconder and the Amendment fell.

Those voting For Cllr. Gann’s motion: Cllrs. Gann, Barham, Simpson, Burdett and Whatty.

Those Against: None. Abstentions: Cllrs. Shephard, Prynn and Williams. Carried.

16. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the updated Audit Action Plan be accepted. Carried.

Cllrs. Drake and Mustoe left the meeting at this point.

17. It was agreed that Cllr. Barham would represent the Council at the 20mph Phase 3 Stakeholder Meeting on 17 June.

18. To consider a request from the Mevagissey Feast Week Committee for a grant of £1,500 to replace a lighting rig.

Cllrs. Roberts and Williams withdrew for this item, having declared an interest. Cllr. Facey took the Chair.

Because of the limited amount of funding resource available it was agreed to defer consideration of this application to the March meeting to see if any other applications were received in this financial year.

19. To review the impact of the work currently being carried out on behalf of South West Water.

Members felt that the management and operation of the closure of Church Street had fallen well short of what had been promised, with nonsensical signage and a poor attitude from Amberon traffic management operatives who seemed reluctant to emerge from their vehicles, and in some cases to stay awake while on duty, and who had often been rude and uncooperative, including preventing access for surgery staff and giving rise to a high number of complaints from the public. It was agreed that the Council would write to South West Water detailing the grounds for complaint and asking that they take greater care in managing their contractors during future road closures.

20. The meeting ended at 9.55pm. Date of next meeting: 22 February 2024.

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