MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

[mevagissey-pc.gov.uk](http://mevagisseyparishcouncil.co.uk/)

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

On Thursday 22 February 2024 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), G Barham, J Brown, L Burdett, J Gann, K Prynn, P Simpson, J Whatty,

G Williams.

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

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. J Morgan, G Shephard, D Drake and M Facey.
2. There were no Declarations of Interest or Gifts.

3. Public participation. No members of the public were present.

4. Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Williams that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2024 be accepted. Carried.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 19 January 2024 be accepted. Carried.

6. The Clerk reported that:

* + S W Water will re-schedule the planned closure of Chapel Square to a Monday night later in the year (provisionally 11 November) to avoid coinciding with the Shanty festival (note: subsequently confirmed for 25 November);
* Following complaints about the handling of the recent closure of Church Street for works by S W Water, their Public Affairs Manager has written to apologise and say that he has escalated the Council’s concerns to the Chief Operating Officer who has assigned a member of his team to investigate the matter and raise it with their contractors. He said that they set high expectations of their contractors and expect them to be met;
* A progress update from Ocean Housing on their works programme had been received and forwarded to the Housing Working Group on 27 January;
* Replies from Cornwall Council’s (CC) Homechoice Officer and Livewest to the letter sent regarding Martins Court and a desired Local Letting Plan had been received and forwarded to members;
* CC’s Housing Standards Officer has visited 11 Polkirt Hill following the letter sent regarding ‘empty properties’, but has not yet met with the owner. I have forwarded his reply to members today and Cllr. Gann has asked for it to be on tomorrow’s planning agenda;
* Alex Williams had provided an update on the fundraiser engaged for the proposed Parish Nurse. Stakeholder engagement is almost complete and the final report and submission of applications to funders will follow;
* The Mevagissey RNLI volunteer team are planning an event to celebrate 200 years since the establishment of the RNLI. This will take place on 6th April 2024 starting at 3.00 pm. A commemorative scroll is travelling around the country to be signed at selected lifeboat shops and stations. Fowey and Mevagissey have been selected to sign the scroll which will be brought across the bay by the Fowey lifeboat to be greeted by shanty singers and flag waving. The lifeboat will then stay in the harbour and allow tours of the lifeboat. A display of the history of the Mevagissey lifeboat in conjunction with the museum is being planned, along with other activities.

7. The Ward Member, Cllr. Mustoe, presented his report, including proposed changes to the no. 24 bus service and improvements to the playground on Pentillie field. His report can be seen in full on the Council’s website. The Chairman said that he had received a letter asking for the Council’s support in an application for accommodation at Wesley Court. It was agreed that the Council should remain neutral in such matters, but it was Proposed by Cllr. Whatty, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson, and Carried, that a ‘generic’ letter should be sent to Ocean Housing stating the importance of providing accommodation for local people.

8. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Councillor training (paid) | £ | 72.00 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/01/24 - 01/02/24 (paid) | £ | 24.50 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/01/24 - 01/02/24 (paid) | £ | 42.00 |  |  |
|  | January staff costs | £ | 1,602.40 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 03/01/24 - 07/02/24 | £ | 84.91 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 06/01/24 - 07/02/24 | £ | 251.38 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 18/01/24 | £ | 219.60 |  |  |
|  | IT support for February | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC February | £ | 1,352.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC February | £ | 1,397.89 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 5,102.42 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 128,745.14 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 5,195.99 |  |  |
|  | plus Mevagissey Activity Centre (emergency support grant) | £ | 6,400.00 |  |  |
|  | Street weed spraying (second treatment 2023) | £ | 528.00 |  |  |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 116,621.15 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (31/01/2024) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Accounts |  |  | £ | 29.80 |
|  | Deposit Accounts |  |  | £ | 116,591.35 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 116,621.15 |

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

9. Cllr. Facey was not present to report on the operation of the public conveniences but had forwarded details of income from the entry charges and had recommended that the West Wharf disabled facility should remain open again next winter.

10. Cllr. Gann presented his report from the Housing Working Group.

11. Cllr. Brown presented his report from the Climate Emergency Working Group:

* The group would like to thank Tracey Harris for her incredible work and is sad to see her go
* Welcome to Leon from the Parish Council who has joined the group
* The group is coordinating a talk on renewable energy in traditional fishing villages
* The group is organising training for Dale Drake the new Tree Warden
* The group is sending out a bat box to the winner of the bat box competition
* The group has raised concerns about illegal flyposting in the village
* The next group meeting is on 15th March at 5.30pm at The MAC

12. The next meeting of the Asset Working Group has been postponed until 25 March.

13. There has been some movement within CC towards the development of a devolution package, and further news is awaited.

14. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the new version of Standing Orders, with amendments to paragraphs 8a and 15f, should be adopted. Carried.

15. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the quotations received for public toilet operation (GCF), street weed spraying (Complete Weed Control), and footpath cutting (Treleaven Countryside Services Ltd) in the next financial year should all be accepted. Carried.

16. The Chairman provided feedback from the 31 January meeting of the Community Area Partnership. He said that the proposed new format of the meeting had lapsed back into the previous pattern, with presentations by the police and by Cormac with no opportunity for discussion or questions; and that online attendees were unable to hear and had dropped out of the meeting.

17. To agree priorities for the Community Network Highways Scheme meeting on 27 February.

Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that authority be delegated to the Chairman to vote at his discretion. Carried.

Cllr. Brown said that the outcome of the 27 February meeting, together with an explanation of the proposed speed limit, should be notified to Alexander Kennel, who had proposed the adopted scheme at the October council meeting. This was agreed.

18. To consider action to deal with illegal flyers posted around the village (Cllr. Brown). Cllr. Mustoe offered to write to CC asking them to take appropriate action.

19. To consider the impact of changes to local bus services. Cllr. Gann said that First Kernow were cutting the no. 24 Fowey – Mevagissey route, and passengers would now have to change at St Austell with a 48 minute wait. Cllr. Mustoe had also covered this in his earlier report. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that a letter should be sent to the bus company (copied to Fowey Town Council) complaining about the lack of consultation, the impact on people trying to get to work, the impact on tourism because of the broken link with the Fowey ferry, and asking them to reduce the waiting time by synchronising bus times. Carried.

20. Proposal that the Council should review what support it can give to key sources of employment in the Parish including Fishing, Tourism and Hospitality given the current challenges they are facing (Cllr. Gann).

Cllr. Gann listed various issues suggesting an increasing malaise within the village, including:

* + Fishing industry and local fleet under threat
  + Hotel / Guest House accommodation changing use or closing
  + Numerous businesses on the market
  + Empty shops around the village
  + Model Railway closed
  + MAC needing support
  + Football Club moving away?

He asked members to consider how the Council could offer support. Members felt it was indicative of a countrywide malaise resulting from Brexit, the pandemic, and the cost of living crisis.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the Council should write to the Harbour Trustees, offering to meet to explore common interests. Carried.

Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the Council should write to Visit Cornwall to highlight the lack of publicity for Mevagissey compared to other parts of the County, and to invite suggestions of how to combat the decline in hotel type accommodation. Carried.

21. Cllr. Prynn volunteered to take over from Cllr. Gann the administration of the Council’s social media page.

22. The Council declined to buy access to Cornwall Council’s training portal for local councils.

23. To review the support offered to the Mevagissey Activity Centre.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. Carried.

The remainder of the meeting was held in closed session.

24. The meeting ended at 9.45pm. Date of next meeting: 21 March 2024.

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