

MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Mevagissey Activity Centre
On Thursday 21 March 2024 at 7pm

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

In Attendance Capt. Hugh Bowles (Chairman, Mevagissey Harbour Trustees), Paul Mason (new Tree Warden), Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member), P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 2 members of the public.

UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED

1. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Gann and Shephard. Cllr. Mustoe would be arriving late..
2. The Chairman and Cllrs. Prynne and Williams declared an interest in agenda item 19a (Feast Week Committee grant application); the Chairman also declared an interest in agenda item 19e (Harbour Trustees grant application); and Cllrs. Facey and Drake declared an interest in agenda item 23 (support for Mevagissey Activity Centre).
3. Cllr. Brown, Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group, introduced Paul Mason as the new Tree Warden for the Parish. Paul summarised his professional background and outlined what he hopes to achieve in the role. The Chairman extended a welcome to Paul and thanked him for taking on the role.
4. Capt. Hugh Bowles, Chairman of the Harbour Trustees, presented a history of the harbour from its origins in 1774, and outlined the fundraising currently underway to raise the £1.5M required for works to protect the North Pier from the rising sea level and the more frequent and ferocious storms caused by climatic changes. Hugh highlighted the role of the harbour as the nucleus of the community and asked the Council to demonstrate its support by offering financial assistance. He then took questions from members.
5. Public participation. No members of the public wished to speak.
6. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Williams that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 be accepted. Carried.
7. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 23 February 2024 be accepted. Carried.
8. The Clerk reported that:
 - Chapel Square will be closed on 25 November from 07:30 to 18:00 for works by S W Water;
 - Road closure notification had been received for Feast Week, 23-29 June;
 - A letter had been sent to Ocean Housing requesting precedence for local people, with reference to the vacancy at Wesley Court. The reply stated that the vacancy had been advertised through Homechoice and shortlisted according to the parish preference, and that for any future lets that become available clients should be advised that they must be registered on Cornwall Homechoice, with their connection to the parish clearly stated;
 - The monthly update on Ocean's works programme in the village had been received and forwarded to the Housing Working Group. More detail on the timescales for rebuilding the retaining wall at Shipbuilders Close was awaited;
 - The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Climate Commission has launched a call for Commissioners, details of which had been forwarded to members;
 - The steps between Cross Park Terrace and Vicarage hill (part of Footpath #8) were closed following a landslip, with the closure ending on 26 March;
 - A letter had been sent to First South West regarding the changes to the no. 24 bus service, copied to Fowey Town Council. No reply was received from First, but the Fowey Town Clerk had confirmed that they had received many complaints about the lack of public consultation;
 - A letter had been sent to Visit Cornwall about the malaise discussed at the last meeting, and a meeting has been arranged at their offices on 15 April, with Cllr. Gann attending, possibly with other members;
 - The proposed meeting with Harbour Trustees to discuss common issues will be rescheduled;
 - Patrick Polglase, the Duchy's Estates Manager had been in touch following a complaint he had received about the Portmellon slipway being slippery from algae growth, and asking whether the Council would be interested in taking it on, or at least raising it with Cornwall Council (CC).

The Chairman summarised the history of the slipway and who has repaired it in the past. Evidence has appeared showing that Cornwall County Council admitted liability in 1965 and the Ward Member (who had just arrived at the meeting) agreed to pursue this with CC. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not take on responsibility for an asset which it didn't own.

9. The Ward Member presented his report, including that the Climate Resilient Mevagissey project was one of forty projects selected to benefit from a government programme to promote flood resilience and will receive the required £280,000 funding. The full report can be seen on the Council's website.

10. To approve the monthly finances.

Bills to Pay	West Wharf PC hygiene services 08/03/24 - 07/06/24 (paid)	£	353.55
	Valley Rd PC electricity 02/02/24 - 01/03/24 (paid)	£	23.31
	West Wharf PC electricity 02/02/24 - 01/03/24 (paid)	£	46.12
	Valley Rd PC water 08/02/24 - 01/03/24 (paid)	£	84.01
	West Wharf PC water 08/02/24 - 01/03/24 (paid)	£	66.10
	February staff costs	£	1,602.40
	Valley Rd PC hygiene services 29/03/24 - 28/06/24	£	297.95
	IT support for March	£	54.86
	Office supplies	£	23.14
	Operate West Wharf PC March	£	1,352.88
	Operate Valley Road PC March	£	1,397.89
	Meeting room hire Oct 23 - Feb 24	£	246.00
		TOTAL	£ 5,548.21
Accounts	Amount available to spend as of last meeting	£	116,621.15
	Expenditure last month	£	5,102.42
	Available to spend	£	111,518.73
	Bank Statements (29/02/2024)		
	Current Accounts	£	177.38
	Deposit Accounts	£	111,341.35
	TOTAL	£	111,518.73

Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the accounts be accepted and the bills paid. Carried.

11. Cllr. Facey reported that the Ladies and Gents at West Wharf PC will re-open on 1st April. Valley Road PC will be closed for a while for maintenance and repair work, delayed by the weather, to be carried out.

12. Cllr. Prynne, reporting for the Housing Working Group in Cllr. Gann's absence, drew the Council's attention to a four-bedroom property in Roberts Close which has been advertised as a house-swap, contrary to the stipulations of the S106 Agreement in place, while there is a large local family who would like to move there. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Barham and Resolved that a written complaint should be sent to Ocean Housing. The Ward Member did this immediately. Cllr. Prynne will post on the Council's social media page urging people seeking accommodation to come to the Council meetings to have their say.

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

- The group appointed a new tree warden;
- The group shared details of free climate training with Cornwall Council;
- The group introduced the new school liaison to Mevagissey School;
- The group is organising a talk on historic fishing villages and renewable energy for 16th May.

Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Prynne that the email address treewarden@mevagissey-pc.gov.uk should be created for the new role. Carried.

14. It was noted that the next meeting of the Asset Working Group had been rescheduled for 22nd April.

15. Seasonal litter bins.

15a. Cllr. Facey reported that the seasonal litter bin service had restarted on 18th March.

15b. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that retrospective approval for the resumption of service be granted. Carried.

15c. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that authority be delegated to Cllrs. Facey and Gann for the day to day management of the service. Carried.

16. To review progress on the development of a devolution package. The Ward Member had received no response from Stephen Foster, CC's Localism Manager, and he will resume liaison with Sarah Solstock (Community Link Officer) following her return to work after a month away.
17. The Chairman reported that the requested reduction in the speed limit from 50 mph to 40 mph between Pentewan and Mevagissey under the approved Community Network Highways Scheme was still under review.
18. To consider amending the Council's Grant Awarding Policy to exempt youth groups from the non-discrimination conditions. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the amendment should be made. Carried.
19. To consider grant applications.
- 19a. The Chairman and Cllrs. Prynne and Williams withdrew for this item, having declared an interest, and Cllr. Facey took the Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that a grant of £1,500 be made to the Mevagissey Feast Week Committee for £1,500 to replace a lighting rig (authorised under LGA 1972, s 145). Carried.
- 19b. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan that a grant of £200 be made to St Andrews Church for the flower festival, with the surplus towards upkeep of the chapel (authorised under LGA 1972, s 137). Carried.
- 19c. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that a grant of £540 be made to Wild Wonder and Wisdom CIC of St Austell towards the operation of a 'Rounders Club' to be run from the Mevagissey Activity Centre this year (authorised under LGA [Misc. Provisions] 1976, s 19). Carried.
- 19d. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that a grant of £400 be made to the 1st Mevagissey Guides towards the cost of a trip to London at October half-term to celebrate their 25th anniversary (authorised under LGA [Misc. Provisions] 1976, s 19). Carried.
- 19e. The Chairman withdrew for this item, having declared an interest, and Cllr. Facey took the Chair. Proposed by Cllr. Morgan, Seconded by Cllr. Prynne that a grant of £5,300 be made to the Mevagissey Harbour Trustees towards the funding of the Climate Change Resilience Project to place rock armour on the outside faces of the North Pier and sections of the South Pier (authorised under LGA 1972, s 137). Amendment proposed by Cllr. Brown that an additional £3,000 be granted next year, but there was no Seconder. Amendment proposed by Cllr. Drake, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the grant should be £2,000, but this was not Carried. The original motion was Carried.
20. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the Chairman's application for continued membership of the Cornwall Planning Partnership be endorsed. Carried.
21. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be amended to confirm that contracts below the public procurement threshold (currently £30,000) for public works, public services, and public supply are exempt from a tendering or procurement exercise, unless the Council decides otherwise. Carried.
22. To clarify Standing Orders 14g and 14h as they apply to members speaking during the period set aside for public participation. The Clerk was instructed to seek advice from Cornwall ALC, including the use of Dispensations, and report to the next meeting.
23. To review the support offered to the Mevagissey Activity Centre. Cllr. Facey and Drake withdrew for this item, having declared an interest. The Ward Member also left the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Prynne, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that Cornwall Council be asked to clarify ownership of the MAC and its grounds, together with details of any covenants or leases. Carried. Cllr. Brown reported that he had provided the MAC with a methodology for carrying out a community research project to establish what people want from the MAC. The results will be presented to the public and Cllr. Brown will report results to the next meeting. Cllr. Simpson said a monthly update on finances and cashflow should be made available. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Prynne that the research results would be reviewed at the next meeting. Carried.
24. The meeting ended at 10pm. Date of next meeting: 18 April 2024.

Signed

Dated