MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), J Brown, L Burdett, J Gann,

J Morgan, K Prynn, G Shephard, P Simpson, J Whatty.

In Attendance Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member), P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 10 members of the public.

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Barham. Cllr. Mustoe would be arriving late (arrived 7.55pm).

Dale Drake has resigned from the Council.

2. Piers Gilbert did not attend for his expected co-option to the Council, so the vacancy remains.

3. Cllr. Facey declared an interest in agenda item 29 (support for the Mevagissey Activity Centre [MAC]).

4. Public participation.

Angela Taylor (Manager of the MAC) spoke on agenda item 29, thanking the four members of the Council who had offered their expertise on a personal basis to help steer the MAC towards a viable future. She now has a clearer idea of the skills required by the management team, and new directors with those skills are being sought.

David Sycamore spoke on the same item, offering his help to the MAC in their efforts to increase footfall, and starting by urging members to patronise the bar after meetings.

Caroline Horsman spoke on agenda item 21 (proposed Cliff Street Traffic Regulation Order [TRO]), urging the Council to support the proposal and outlining the new signage she would like to see.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024 be accepted.. Carried.

6. Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 22 March 2024 be accepted. Carried.

7. The Clerk reported that:

* The Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) had confirmed that members who have declared an interest in an agenda item are not permitted to speak on that item during public participation, and must leave the room if a member of the public speaks on that item. Dispensations cannot be used to circumvent this;
* He had contacted Cornwall Council’s (CC) Housing Officer to establish whether financial penalties could be used to expedite work at 11 Polkirt Hill, and he had replied that empty home premium charges set by council tax were currently a premium of 100% when a dwelling is listed as unoccupied and unfurnished in excess of two years, a 200% premium is applied after 5 years, and 300% after 10 years. He also confirmed that the council tax currently applied to 11 Polkirt Hill conforms to that policy, and that they are continuing in their communications with the owner to progress works and understand what, if any, barriers there may be;
* The temporary closure of the steps between Cross Park Terrace and Vicarage Hill (part of FP 8) was extended to 5 April, and again to 1 May;
* The issue of the Local Planning Authority’s (LPA) handling of Certificates of Lawfulness had been referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman as advised by the Standards Committee, but the Ombudsman has replied that they cannot investigate complaints from public bodies. The Chair of the Standards Committee has been advised of this outcome;
* Following receipt of a 5-day protocol letter re. PA24/00761 (22 Lower Well Park), members had voted to 'agree to disagree' with the planning case officer;
* An email had been received from Mevagissey Bowls Club expressing their concern for the future of the MAC,
* The next Community Area Partnership meeting is on Wednesday 24th April at 6pm at the MAC;
* The proposed meeting with Mevagissey Harbour Trustees is to be rescheduled.

8. Actions arising from the Clerk’s report.

8a. Cllr. Gann said it is a criminal offence to allow a listed building to deteriorate, and the Listed Building Officer should be asked what action they are taking over 11 Polkirt Hill.

8b. Cllr. Gann said it was a criminal offence to make false statements in pursuit of a Certificate of Lawfulness, and that CC’s Chief Executive should be pressed to address the Council’s concerns raised previously.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that a letter should be sent to the CC Chief Executive making it clear that if she continues to ignore the Council’s concerns the matter would be referred to the police for investigation under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Carried.

9. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Cornwall ALC membership subscription 2024/25 (paid) | £ | 868.54 |  |  |
|  | Councillor training (paid) | £ | 36.00 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/03/24 - 01/04/24 (paid) | £ | 25.65 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/03/24 - 01/04/24 (paid) | £ | 43.90 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 02/03/24 - 02/04/24 (paid) | £ | 96.33 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 02/03/24 - 02/04/24 (paid) | £ | 191.42 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC April 2024 | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC April 2024 | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | IT support April 2024 | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 01/03/24 | £ | 217.80 |  |  |
|  | Staff costs | £ | 1,602.40 |  |  |
|  | Postage | £ | 10.80 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 5,988.47 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 111,518.73 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 5,548.21 |  |  |
|  | plus Councillor training | £ | 36.00 |  |  |
|  | Wild Wonder and Wisdom CIC grant | £ | 540.00 |  |  |
|  | Mevagissey Feast Week Committee grant | £ | 1,500.00 |  |  |
|  | Mevagissey Harbour Trust grant | £ | 5,300.00 |  |  |
|  | St Andrews Church grant | £ | 200.00 |  |  |
|  | First Mevagissey Guides grant | £ | 400.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ | 24.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank interest | £ | 789.28 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 98,759.80 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (31/03/2024) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Accounts |  |  | £ | 129.17 |
|  | Deposit Accounts |  |  | £ | 98,630.63 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 98,759.80 |

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

10. Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the 2023/24 End of Year Accounts Summary be accepted and signed by the Chairman. Carried.

11. Cllr. Face reported that the Ladies at the Valley Road PC would re-open in the next few days on completion of the scheduled works. New hand driers are being installed at the Valley Road and West Wharf blocks. No major works are planned for this year, so the operation should remain within budget. There is an ongoing problem with the doors being left open at West Wharf PC, which upsets the software as well as reducing income. He will be asking local businesses to buy advertising space in lieu of contributions towards operating costs.

12. Cllr. Gann presented his report from the Housing Working Group (WG). He is currently looking into house-swapping sites to see how they work. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that authority be granted to the Housing WG to spend up to £100 on running online housing questionnaires and hiring a venue for a follow-up with the public. Carried.

[Note: the Ward Member arrived during the above item].

13. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that agenda item 21 (proposed Cliff Street TRO) be brought forward. Carried.

14. Cllr. Gann summarised the proposed Cliff Street TRO. The long-standing problem is caused by drivers who prefer to believe their SatNavs rather than the road signs and end up getting stuck, and the intended solution is the amendment of SatNav systems to show Cliff Street as a cul-de-sac. The Highways Manager had confirmed that she would allow ‘a prohibition of motor vehicles restriction (and TRO) at the point where the road narrows at Tregorran, but with advanced signing at the junction of School Hill to deter entry in the first place. This restriction would need an exemption (except for access to off-street premises) to allow residents, however we would need to include a sign plate stating ‘except for access’ on site at the School Hill junction. This would further discourage non-residents from using this route. It would also likely remove the route form Sat Nav systems, if that is still a current issue.

The road will remain as an unclassified road for its entire length.’

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the Highways Manager should be asked to proceed with the scheme as soon as possible, and that residents should be informed of the process for asking Google to update their maps. Carried.

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

16. Cllr. Brown presented his report from the Climate Emergency WG:

• Developing a set of new activities with the school;

• Organising traditional hedgerow planting with our Tree Warden;

• Speaker confirmed on 15th May, 6.30pm at the MAC to talk about renewable energy in traditional fishing villages.

Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the WG be authorised to spend up to £500 from the WG’s budget for the hedgerow planting course leader, refreshments for participants, and appropriate tools. Carried.

17. The Chairman commented that liaison between the Council and Mevagissey School was not as frequent as previously. Cllr. Morgan will speak to the Chair of the Governors about this.

18. Cllr. Shephard confirmed that the Asset WG was meeting at 7pm on Monday 22 April at the MAC.

19. Cllr. Gann reported that the seasonal litter bin scheme was running smoothly, with one lift per week which would increase as the season picks up.

20. The Chairman reported that CC had just announced that a devolution package would not be possible. The Ward Member will arrange a meeting between CC’s Devolution Officers and the Council to establish the reasons for this volte-face.

21. The Chairman reported that he had heard nothing further on whether the proposed speed limit under the approved Community Network Highways Scheme for the B3273 would be 40 or 50 mph.

22. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the new version of the Grant Awarding Policy, amended to exempt certain groups from the non-discrimination conditions, should be approved. Carried.

23. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the new version of the Financial Regulations, 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, should be approved. Carried.

24. Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the new version of the Standing Orders, amended to align with the Code of Conduct regarding members speaking during the period set aside for public participation, should be approved. Carried.

25. Cllr. Gann, who had been absent from the meeting at which a grant had been made towards the cost of the Harbour Resilience Project, expressed concern about the lack of public consultation, the visual impact of the proposed scheme, and the impact of the works on tourism and other businesses. The Chairman addressed these issues in turn. Cllr Shephard suggested that the harbour’s website might include details of the scheme, framed for the general public, and the Chairman agreed to raise this at the next meeting of the Harbour Trustees.

26. Proposed by Cllr. Morgan, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that a grant of £500 be made to the Mevagissey Male Choir towards the cost of events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its foundation. Carried

27. To consider an alleged breach of planning at 30 Church Street arising from the installation of plastic windows in a Grade II Listed building within the Conservation Area without permission. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the case be referred to the Listed Building Officer and Planning Enforcement. Carried.

28. A request for an update on the following planning enforcement cases had met with no response:

25a. EN24/00099. Alleged breach of condition 14 of planning approval C2/07/00942. Bosuns House, 2 Little Meva, East Wharf, Mevagissey, St Austell.

25b. EN24/00100. Alleged installation of solar panels and raised concrete area following refusal of PA22/02002

Land South of 1 Battery Terrace, Mevagissey, Cornwall.

29. Planning decisions (for information).

PA23/04840 : Outline planning permission with access and layout reserved for Fishing Museum and Community Hub with parking for 12 cars. Land Off Portmellon Park At OS Grid Ref 201466 43915 Portmellon Park Mevagissey Cornwall. WITHDRAWN

PA24/00761 : Internal and external alterations to the existing dwelling at 22 Lower Well Park, with the addition of a balcony and an upwards extension in order to provide a replacement bedroom. 22 Lower Well Park Mevagissey

APPROVED

30. Any other planning issues.

30a. The Chairman reported that his application to continue his membership of the CC Planning Partnership had been successful, and the inaugural meeting had taken place the previous week.

30b. Cllr. Gann said he would be happy to meet the Tree Warden on-site at Ava to go though the various issues regarding the trees there.

30c. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the Council should write to CC’s Constitution and Governance Committee, asking them to reverse the recent decision that while members of a planning committee may continue to ask the applicant’s representative(s) a question for clarification, they may not ask questions of any other speaker. Carried.

31. Cllr. Gann reported that he had met Mike Steel, the new MD of Visit Cornwall, and had discussed self-funding through advertising. Mike would be happy to come and talk about tourism, and if anyone can generate content and send it to them they would be happy to publicize it. This will be posted on the Council’s Facebook page.

32. To review the support offered to the Mevagissey Activity Centre (MAC). Cllr. Facey left the meeting, having declared an interest in this item. The Ward Member also left at this point.

Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that Standing Order 3(w) be suspended to permit the meeting to continue beyond 3 hours. Carried.

Cllr. Brown reported that he had completed four focus groups for the MAC totalling 20 people, all of whom were enthusiastic about the MAC’s future. The key themes to emerge were: better comms, more events, better engagement with holiday makers, better access to gym and room booking facilities, more depth of skills brought in. The MAC will now be undertaking a digital survey which will then inform a broader business strategy

Cllr. Simpson said that the MAC is now entering ‘peak period’, so its finances should be adequate until October.

33. The meeting ended at 10.30pm. Date of next meeting: 16 May 2024, to follow the Council’s Annual General Meeting (AGM). Timetable: 6pm Annual Parish Meeting (the ‘Meeting of Electors’), followed by the AGM, followed by the Ordinary monthly meeting.

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