MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 18 July 2024 at 7pm

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

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

In Attendance Charlie Clayton and Andrew Mitchell (Operations and Finance Directors respectively of the Mevagissey Activity Centre [MAC]), Cllr. Mustoe (Ward Member) (arrived 7.55 pm), P Howson (Clerk to the Council),

1 member of the public.

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by calling for a minute’s silence in memory of John Arthur, a previous parish councillor of many years’ service, who passed away on Saturday. He then offered congratulations to Cllr. Brown who has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce.

2. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Williams. Cllr. Mustoe would be arriving late.

3. Cllr. Facey declared an interest in agenda items 3, 23 and 24 (Mevagissey Activity Centre).

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

Charlie Clayton and Andrew Mitchell presented details of the recovery plan for the MAC and their vision of its future as a vibrant community hub. To further this aim, and to improve access to funding sources, the Directors propose to convert the MAC from a Community Interest Company (CIC) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). They explained the purposes of their grant applications and took questions from members.

5. Public participation. Tim Boggis wanted to speak on the Countywide 20mph Speed Limits referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting. Although this was not on the agenda for this meeting, the Chairman allowed him to continue. Mr Boggis asked the Council to ensure that appropriate signage was installed at the top of Tregoney Hill.

6. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2024 be accepted. Carried.

7. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Shephard that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 21 June 2024 be accepted. Carried.

8. The Clerk reported that:

* The latest updates on the issues outstanding from the site meeting last October had been received from Ocean Housing and forwarded to the Housing Working Group;
* An intention notice had been received to close Prospect Place, School Hill, from Church Street to Crosspark Terrace, on 21-22 October, 07:30 to 17:00 hours, for vegetation cutting;
* An intention notice had been received to close Portmellon Road on 7 September, 11:30 to 21:00 hours, for the Portmellon Regatta;
* This year, Small Business Saturday will take place on Saturday 7th December. The Portfolio Holder for Transport has agreed that all Cornwall Council car parks will be free on this day;
* An update had been received from former Councillor Alex Williams on the fundraising for the proposed Parish Nurse. This had been forwarded to members;
* The requested amendments to the proposed 20mph speed limit zone had not been accepted in full by Cornwall Council, but the following compromises had been agreed:
  + Old Road/Vicarage Hill – the existing 20mph zone would be extended to start at the Mevagissey name plate, so the mini-roundabout would also be 20mph, and the existing 30mph stretch would be removed;
  + Valley Road – the 20 mph zone would start at the weight limit signs by the bottle bank. To address the problem of the car park being 20mph at the entrance but 30mph at the exit, 30mph signs would be attached to the back of the car park’s NO ENTRY signs.

Members accepted the Old Road/Vicarage Hill compromise but disputed the Valley Road one.

9. The Ward Member arrived in time to present his report, which can be seen on the Council’s website.

10. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/06/24 - 01/07/24 (paid) | £ | 47.72 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/06/24 - 01/07/24 (paid) | £ | 46.34 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 06/06/24 - 02/07/24 (paid) | £ | 156.07 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 06/06/24 - 02/07/24 (paid) | £ | 383.37 |  |  |
|  | IT support July 2024 | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 10/06/24 & annual waste transfer note | £ | 329.40 |  |  |
|  | Service seasonal litter bins 22-24/06/24 | £ | 185.76 |  |  |
|  | June staff costs | £ | 1,697.24 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC July 2024 | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC July 2024 | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | Payroll services April - September | £ | 60.00 |  |  |
|  | Annual monitoring fee for Portmellon defibrillator | £ | 228.00 |  |  |
|  | Street weed spraying (1st treatment) | £ | 543.60 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 6,573.13 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 136,378.33 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 7,641.80 |  |  |
|  | plus Repairs and upgrades to West Wharf PC | £ | 172.38 |  |  |
|  | Service seasonal litter bins 07/06/24 | £ | 101.09 |  |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ | 26.10 |  |  |
|  | Business contribution to seasonal litter bins (Seaosk) | £ | 125.00 |  | Received |
|  | West Wharf PC card reader receipts (net) | £ | 300.12 |  | Received |
|  | West Wharf PC cash receipts | £ | 1,000.00 |  | Received |
|  | Bank interest | £ | 930.79 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 130,792.87 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (30/06/2024) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 176.74 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 130,616.13 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 130,792.87 |

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

11. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the 2024/25 Q1 Statement of Accounts be approved.

Carried.

12. Cllr. Facey reported that flooding at the West Wharf public toilet block following heavy rain had led to the closure of the disabled toilet for a few days. This may have been caused by recent work nearby by South West Water. People were still propping the doors open which reduced income and also risked upsetting the door mechanisms.

Cllr. Brown asked for a comparison of this year’s income compared to last year.

13. To receive a report from the Housing Working Group. Cllr. Gann asked that this item be deferred to a private session at the end of the meeting.

14. Cllr. Brown reported that Cllr. Burdett had taken over as Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group.

Cllr. Burdett reported that:

* A successful 3 bays wildlife marine habitat on-beach talk delivered on June 24th talk for KS1 was hugely popular, arranged by the Climate Action Group for Mevagissey School.
* We have arranged for Action Nan & our Tree warden to give their respective litter & tree talks for Mevagissey School in the new September term.
* Bee talk & site visit (to Johns hives) is also to be arranged for the School with Tom White in the new term.
* At advice of tree warden Heather Cox is to be contacted to discuss the three newly planted trees in the Valley Road park, one of which is "failing".
* Next "ask an expert" event suggested: Ask an On-shore wind expert (x2 parts); part 1 Infrastructure focused, part 2 planning focused.
* WhatsApp group (informal) to be created to aid in quicker identification of suitable meeting dates.
* Cans & Plastic Bottles bins - to work with fellow Cllrs on the bin working group to see if we can replicate the recently introduced new scheme in the centre of St Austell town.
* We’ll explore the possibility of Cornwall recycling bags/sack available for collection from the MAC (since no longer available from the Council offices near Pondhu in St. Austell).
* To check on progress on the Bio diversity audit with Exeter University.
* Explore co-operation with feast week committee of commissioning assessment report of Feast week firework finale show v’s laser light show.
* Transport was selected as the immediate focus for a medium sized project. Specifically to explore Better bus routes / times as a priority.
* Explore with the MAC the creation of an "information space" to provide our Climate Action group.
* The return of Climate Denial illegal flyers; Agreement to tear down all of these for all group members, with myself personally having removed over 16 of these in the last week.

15. Cllr. Shephard reported that two asset risk statements remained to be written up, and all statements, together with the associated policy, would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

16. Cllr. Facey reported that the large seasonal litter bins in the River Street car park had been surrounded by piles of disgusting rubbish at the end of Feast Week, which he had cleared up. The existing number of bins would be maintained for the time being.

17. The relocation of a commercial waste bin to sit alongside the seasonal litter bins in the River Street car park was working well. This will remain on the agenda for monthly review. The business concerned has been proactive in working with the Council to resolve the issue of siting the bin in front of the War Memorial.

18. The Ward Member reported that a site meeting with Rachael Tatlow (CC Highways Manager) would be arranged for next Tuesday to review various highways issues, including the 10 ton weight limit restriction.

19. An update on devolution had been received this afternoon from Cornwall Council’s devolution officer, but too late for consideration by members. It will be considered at the next meeting. Cllr. Gann asked for details of the existing contracts to be requested including service level agreements for the various sites.

20. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the Council should start negotiations with Cornwall Council to transfer the freehold of the MAC and all the associated land, including the football pitch, bowls club and tennis courts. Carried.

21. To acknowledge the activities of the current 'speak Cornish' campaign being promoted by Cornwall Council and consider whether greater recognition of the Cornish language is of merit locally (deferred from last meeting) (Cllr. Simpson). It was agreed that members would consider this issue and report further at the next meeting. It was further agreed that Cllr. Simpson would set up a working group and interested members should contact him.

22. To consider options for a pedestrian crossing on Valley Road (Cllr. Facey). This will be on the agenda for the site meeting with Rachael Tatlow (Highways Manager) on 23 July, with feedback at the next meeting.

23. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the sum of £1,125 be granted to Mevagissey FC for 2024/25 pitch cutting (15 cuts @ £75) under the power granted by LGA [Misc. Provisions] 1976 s 19. Carried.

24. Cllr. Facey withdrew for the next two agenda items, having declared an interest.

25. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the sum of £2,500 be granted to the Mevagissey Activity Centre for 2 x remote locks, 7 x CCTV cameras and installation costs, to enable out of hours accessibility to facilities without incurring additional staff costs, under the power granted by LGA [Misc. Provisions] 1976 s 19. Carried.

26. To consider a grant application from the Mevagissey Activity Centre for the sum of £18,000 to cover an operating deficit of £1,500 per month for the next 12 months. Some members argued that the Council should commit to this expenditure in its entirety, while others argued for a more cautious response, conditional on evidence that other funding sources are being pursued.

Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the sum of £4,500 be granted to the Mevagissey Activity Centre to cover the operating deficit for a period of 3 months, that this should be reviewed after 3 months and a further grant of the same amount be then considered conditional on presentation of a well-researched plan demonstrating what other funding avenues are being pursued in addition to the support provided by the Council, under the power granted by LGA [Misc. Provisions] 1976 s 19. Carried.

(6 members were for the proposal and 2 against, with 1 abstention)

27. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that future agendas and briefing packs / supplementary papers should be stored on a shared drive, visible to the public, and no longer sent by email to members. Carried.

28. To consider further action following continued complaints about Sunny Corner car park (Chairman).

It was noted that a letter sent previously to the operator had received no reply.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the Council should now write to Noah Law MP asking for his intervention. Carried.

29. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue beyond three hours. Carried.

30. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the Council should write to congratulate the new Member of Parliament for St Austell & Newquay on his election victory and advise him of some key concerns of the Council including support for the fishing industry, challenges with the allocation and maintenance of existing affordable / social housing in the Parish and construction of new housing, devolution of services from Cornwall Council, and the continuing discharges of untreated sewage by South West Water; and that a meeting (not open to the press or public) should be requested at his earliest convenience. Carried.

31. Proposal for a review of current policy in respect of the Council’s electronic record keeping, document sharing and storage of documents including e-mail accounts, following the Asset Working Group’s identification of the need to monitor data storage and its total volume (Cllr. Gann). It was agreed that this was covered by the resolution recorded at minute 27 above.

32. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan 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 meeting for agenda item 12 (to receive a report from the Housing Working Group). Carried.

33. The remainder of the meeting was held in closed session. Cllr. Facey left the meeting at this point.

34. The meeting ended at 10.20 pm. Date of next meeting: 22 August 2024.

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