MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 19 December 2024 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), L Burdett, B Collins, J Gann, P Simpson,

J Whatty.

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

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. G Barham, J Brown, J Morgan, K Prynn, G Williams.

2. There were no declarations of interest or gifts.

3. There were no members of the public present.

4. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2024 be accepted. Carried.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 22 November 2024 be accepted. Carried.

6. The Clerk reported that:

* He had written to Celia Mitchell (Fishermen's Association) regarding obstructing the bottle bank (minute 24/11/7 refers) and a reply was awaited;
* He had written to the Highway Manager asking for works to be carried out to make safe the footpath running alongside the B3273, and to and Pentewan Valley Parish Council (PVPC) asking for its support (minute 24/11/10 refers). The Highway Manager had replied that any agreed works would not take place until after 2027, and a reply from PVPC was awaited (the Ward Member confirmed that PCPC had resolved to support the request at the previous evening’s meeting);
* He had written to Cornwall Council’s (CC) Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to express dissatisfaction at Ocean Housing selling properties within the parish but not replacing them within the parish (minute 24/11/11 refers) and had received a reply saying that the comments had been noted;
* The 2025/26 precept notification had been submitted to CC.
* A meeting with the Harbour Trustees to discuss a possible alternative site for the harbour toilets had been arranged for 7pm on Thursday 9th January at the Mevagissey Activity Centre (MAC);
* He had ordered a salt bin to replace the one at the junction of Cliff Street and Coastguard Station Mall which had been broken (presumably by a vehicle);
* Mevagissey School PTFA’s grant application will be on the January agenda because the Head Teacher wishes to address the Council.

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

8. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Hedge laying course instructor | £ | 300.00 |  |  |
|  | Gardening tools for Climate Action Group projects | £ | 89.80 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 02/11/24 - 02/12/24 | £ | 123.45 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 02/11/24 - 02/12/24 | £ | 56.12 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/11/24 - 01/12/24 | £ | 39.57 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/11/24 - 01/12/24 | £ | 48.69 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC hygiene services 29/12/24 - 28/03/25 | £ | 315.82 |  |  |
|  | Web services 2024 | £ | 441.00 |  |  |
|  | IT support December | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | November staff costs | £ | 1,697.24 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC December | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC December | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | Office costs (phone)ved | £ | 20.00 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 6,027.32 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 139,757.59 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 7,340.74 |  |  |
|  | plus final collection of seasonal litter bins | £ | 92.88 |  |  |
|  | Councillor training | £ | 72.00 |  |  |
|  | Remembrance Sunday wreath and poppy fund donation | £ | 175.00 |  |  |
|  | November meeting room hire | £ | 75.00 |  |  |
|  | Advance for materials for PC winter maintenance | £ | 600.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ | 8.40 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC card reader receipts (net) | £ | 279.38 |  | Received |
|  | West Wharf PC cash receipts | £ | 2,130.00 |  | Received |
|  | Business contributions for seasonal litter bins | £ | 1,650.00 |  | Received |
|  | LMP/SWCP grant | £ | 2,087.53 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 137,540.48 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (30/11/2024) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 675.22 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 136,865.26 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 137,540.48 |

Proposed by Cllr. Whatty, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the monthly finances be approved and the bills paid.

Carried.

11. Public Toilets Working Group

11a. Cllr. Facey reported that the programme of winter maintenance works at the West Wharf PC was underway. He also reported that GCF had been granted permission by the Harbour Trustees to install a temporary public toilet on the outer harbour, at the foot of the steps up to Cliff Park, on a trial basis, noting that this was nothing to do with the Council. The Ward member commented that if this was to be free to use, it might impact on the income at the West Wharf PC and therefore represent a conflict of interests.

11b. Quotations had been received from GCF for the full service management of the public toilet blocks during 2025/26, showing a 1.8% increase over the current year.

11b(i) Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that GCF’s quotation for the full service management of the Valley Road PC for 2025/26 be accepted. Carried.

11b(ii) Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that GCF’s quotation for the full service management of the West Wharf PC for 2025/26 be accepted. Carried.

12. Housing Working Group (HWG).

12a. Cllr. Gann reported that the statistics from the housing survey had been circulated to other members of the HWG, and summarised the details. Further reports would be dealt with in closed session at the end of the meeting.

12b. Issues arising from the 3rd December meeting with Ocean Housing were discussed, and it was agreed to await the outcome of the site meeting in the New Year before considering further action.

13 Climate Action Group (CAG)

13a. Cllr. Burdett presented his report of the CAG’s activities this month.

13b. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the Council extends its thanks to Paul Mason, the Tree Warden, for all he has achieved since taking up the position. Carried.

13c. Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that up to £250 expenditure be approved for the forthcoming CAG event at the MAC, to cover refreshments, travel expenses, fees, room hire, advertising and sundries, to come from the CAG’s budget and to be supported by invoice(s). Carried.

14. Cllr. Shephard was not present to present a report from the Asset Working Group.

15. To review the decision to allow a commercial waste bin to be sited alongside the seasonal litter bins in the River Street car park. It was agreed that the arrangement should continue.

16. To review the contract with Biffa for the servicing of the glass recycling skip (deferred from last month).

Biffa’s prices will increase by 26% from 1st January. Cllr. Facey said that there were many properties in the village with limited storage space for recycling, and he was satisfied that the facility was used by residents and not local businesses, and that the facility should remain available. The Clerk will obtain quotes from other suppliers.

17. To receive an update on negotiations for a devolution package, including consideration of revised costings received from Cormac. It was noted that Cormac’s costings exceeded CC’s income figure for the Church Street car park, and it was agreed that costings would be requested from other suppliers.

18. To consider the provision of litter / dog waste bins (deferred from last month). Cllr. Simpson noted that despite a considerable number of bins throughout the village, only one of them was in Portmellon.

Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Billie Collins that litter / dogwaste bins be requested for the following locations:

1. The junction of Bodrugan Hill and Chapel Point Lane;
2. The junction of Portmellon Road and Penwarne Lane;
3. The junction of Higher Well Park and public footpath #5 (track from Penwarne Lane). Carried.

19. Telecommunications Resilience Planning. To consider the development of a community level action plan to address any negative impacts caused by the transition of the telephone network to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) (Cllr. Shephard) (deferred from last month). In Cllr. Shephard’s absence this was deferred.

20. Defibrillators.

20a. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that Duchy Defibrillators should be contracted for their bleed control kit maintenance service, with the kit to be installed free of charge in the Portmellon defibrillator which they maintain.

20b. To consider an offer from a locally based First Responder to run a training course, open to the public at no charge, showing how to operate defibrillators and, if necessary, bleed control kits.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the offer should be kindly accepted and a course should be arranged in January or February to be held in the Jubilee Hall. Carried.

21. To consider whether to scrap or replace the VE/VJ memorial bench sited on the harbour.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that a quotation should be obtained for a like-for-like replacement.

Carried.

22. To consider a response to Cormac’s consultation on the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 40mph on a section of the B3273 between Pentewan and Mevagissey. It was noted that PVPC had also been consulted.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the Council should respond indicating support for the proposal. Carried.

23. Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the Council registers an objection to Cornwall Council and SUEZ regarding the sudden and poorly communicated introduction of a booking system for the household waste disposal site in St Austell on the 9th December, believing that it is unnecessary, less user-friendly, is inconvenient for users and is likely to discourage residents’ use of the facility. There is concern that this will have a negative impact on local recycling efforts, and has the potential to increase fly-tipping. To ask Cornwall Council and SUEZ to consider other aspects of improving site management efficiency within the site, rather than pushing an additional administrative burden onto users of the facility. And if the trial is persisted with, to ensure that full monitoring of consequential impacts such as facility usage levels, customer experience, fly tipping levels, and any increased volume of household waste collection, is included in an impact assessment. Mevagissey Parish Council seeks to maximise our residents’ recycling, and believes that this is best achieved by keeping the process as simple, easy and openly available as possible. Carried.

24. To consider a response to the Highway Manager’s statement that any works to the footpath on the B3273 would not happen until ‘sometime after 2027’ (Cllr. Gann).

There was concern that what starts at the MAC as a usable footpath eventually proves unusable, resulting in people walking in what is a notoriously dangerous road.

24a. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that if the Highway Manager is not able to carry out the works as a matter of urgency, they should be asked to erect signage indicating that the path is dangerous and becomes impassable. Carried.

24b. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that the landowner(s) should be approached with a view to providing an alternative, safe route. Carried.

25. To review current arrangements for sharing information and promoting the work of the Council to the local community, including a Social Media Policy and frequency of updates (Cllr. Gann).

In Cllr. Prynn’s absence, this was deferred.#

26. Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty 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 the concluding part of agenda item 12a (to receive the HWG report).. Carried.

27. The remainder of the meeting was held in closed session.

28. The meeting ended at 9.40 pm. Date of next meeting: 16 January 2025.

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