MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 16 January 2025 at 7pm

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

G Shephard, J Whatty.

In Attendance Ben Ringrose (Headteacher, Mevagissey School), P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 6 members of the public.

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*UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. The Chairman wished everybody a Happy New Year and welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the year.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. J Gann, J Morgan, K Prynn, P Simpson, G Williams, and

J Mustoe (Ward Member).

3. There were no declarations of interest or gifts.

4. Ben Ringrose, the Headteacher of Mevagissey School, made a presentation showing the wide range of extra-curricular activities provided for the school children and the travel costs involved, in support of the PTFA’s grant application (agenda item 20).

5. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that agenda item 20 be brought forward to follow agenda item 10 so that Mr Ringrose and the PTFA members present would not have to wait longer than necessary to hear the outcome of the grant application. Carried.

6. Public participation. Lucy Wright, Chair of the PTFA, spoke on agenda item 20, explaining that a grant towards travel costs would free up their limited funds for other things, eg playground equipment.

7. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2024 be accepted. Carried.

8. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 20 December 2024 be accepted. Carried.

9. The Clerk reported that:

* Cornwall Council (CC) had said there was no funding available for more dog waste / litter bins;
* The replacement grit bin had been installed in Cliff Street, and another requested for Higher Well Park;
* The public training course on the use of defibrillators and bleed control kits, to be provided by Peter Middleton, had been arranged for 7pm on Tuesday 11th February at the Jubilee Hall. Peter had asked whether publicity could be arranged for the website and social media (Cllr. Facey said he would speak to Peter about this);
* The Council’s objection to the new booking system for the HWRC had been sent to CC’s Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods, copied to Suez, and a reply was awaited;
* A quote had been obtained for a replacement memorial bench on the harbour (Cllr. Barham said he would obtain an alternative quote from a joiner he knows, and this will be considered at the next meeting);
* CC Highways had been asked to provide signage indicating that the footway along the B3273 is dangerous and becomes impassable, but Highways replied that a closure might be necessary, although this would cause further problems because people would then walk all the way in the road. It had been agreed that it would be better to do nothing. The footway has now been cleared as far up as the three properties on Valley Road.

10. In the absence of the Ward Member, the Clerk read out his report, which can be seen on the Council’s website.

11. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/12/24 - 01/01/25 (paid) | £ | 40.39 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/12/24 - 01/01/25 (paid) | £ | 49.75 |  |  |
|  | Annual gov.uk domain renewal | £ | 120.00 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 11/12/24 & 30/12/24 | £ | 430.20 |  |  |
|  | IT support January | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC January | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC January | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 03/12/24 - 02/01/25 | £ | 106.75 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 03/12/24 - 02/01/25 | £ | 39.13 |  |  |
|  | December staff costs | £ | 1697.24 |  |  |
|  | Office costs (paper) | £ | 4.15 |  |  |
|  | Meeting room hire (Housing Group) | £ | 30.00 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 5,413.24 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 137,540.48 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 6,027.32 |  |  |
|  | plus Councillor training | £ | 96.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ | 20.45 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC card reader receipts (net) | £ | 16.57 |  | Received |
|  | Bank interest | £ | 937.78 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 132,351.06 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (31/12/2024) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 42.45 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 132,308.61 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 132,351.06 |

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

Carried.

12. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Shephard that the 2024/25 Q3 Statement of Accounts be accepted.

Carried.

13. To consider a request from the Mevagissey CP School PTFA for a grant of £5,000 to meet the travel costs of extra-curricular activities (deferred from November).

Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Whatty that a grant of £5,000 be made to the PTFA to meet the travel costs of extra-curricular activities during the remainder of this school year, with a report to be sent to the Council at the end of the period detailing how the money was spent. Carried.

14. Public Toilets Working Group.

Cllr. Facey reported that the ongoing winter maintenance work may require the occasional brief closure of the public toilets. He summarised the recent meeting with the Harbour Trustees to discuss the possibility of operating a public toilet in a more sheltered location on East Wharf rather than the existing one on West Wharf. The Trustees are currently focussed on getting funding for the Harbour Resilience Project, so anything ese would have to wait until the outcome is known. The Council would need a fully costed plan, and planning permission, before looking at funding sources for a new toilet block.

15. Housing Working Group. Cllr. Gann was absent but had sent the following report:

*The HWP met this week and reviewed the data from the questionnaire completed in September / October 2024.*

*It was felt that to get a clearer picture of the housing need, we will contact respondents that are currently seeking housing or have a family member that is and invite them to take part in interviews on a one to one basis.*

*HWP are drafting questions by 22/01/2025 and will meet again to agree a standard set to be used in all interviews ASAP.*

*John Brown has offered the use of software to record and transcribe the interviews so the data can be collated into a report.*

*This report will guide next steps and where we may be able to support housing need.*

*There are 45 people to be contacted, if any other PC members are interested in conducting interviews, it would be appreciated.*

*Depending on the output from this exercise, an open day to engage with residents may be necessary.*

16. Climate Action Group.

Cllr. Burdett reported that the 25th February was the agreed date for the school’s climate emergency day, with 4th March as a fallback date.

17. Asset Working Group.

Cllr. Shephard reported that a Risk Assessment for the new defibrillator was being carried out by Cllr. Williams and would be presented at the next meeting.

18. 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.

19. An alternative supplier’s quotation for the provision and servicing of the bottle bank was considered.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that the quotation should be accepted and the existing contract terminated. Carried.

20. To receive an update on negotiations for a devolution package. Supplier quotes for the agreed grass cutting regime were awaited.

21. 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), and to consider involvement with the associated Neighbourhood Watch event.

The Council did not wish to be involved with either of these initiatives, but details of the Neighbourhood Watch event will be put on the Council’s social media page and forwarded to Alex Williams for possible interest.

22. 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) (deferred from last month).

In the absence of Cllrs. Gann and Prynn, this was again deferred.

23. To consider improvements to the visibility of the traffic islands in River Street (Cllr. Collins).

The double yellow lines have faded and the kerbs are difficult to see in dark and wet conditions. The Ward Member will be asked to pursue a solution with Highways.

24. The meeting ended at 8.15 pm. Date of next meeting: 20 February 2025.

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