MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), G Barham, B Collins, J Gann, K Prynn,

G Shephard, P Simpson, J Whatty, G Williams.

In Attendance Cornwall Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member) (arrived 7.35 pm), Alex Williams (Community Support Group),

P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 2 members of the public.

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 *UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. J Morgan, L Burdett, and J Brown.

Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member) would be arriving late.

2. Cllrs. Roberts, Prynn and Williams declared an interest in agenda item 21 (grant application).

3. Alex Williams provided an update on progress towards the establishment of a parish nurse following the recent completion of a business case for funding. St Andrew’s Church will be the employer and will provide an office. Recruitment is yet to be arranged

4. Public participation. Charlie Clayton (Mevagissey Activity Centre [MAC] MD) spoke on agenda item 23, providing an update on the MAC’s progress towards achieving financial viability and reporting an immediate requirement for £6,000 to meet the costs of essential repairs and upgrades. He then outlined two proposed applications for funding from the Community Levelling Up Programme and asked the Council to provide letters of intent to provide matched funding of £10,000 for each application.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Shephard that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2025 be accepted. Carried.

6. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the words ‘on the letter from Marazion’ be added to the end of minute 8a from the planning meeting held on 17 January 2025. Carried.

7. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the amended minutes of the planning meeting held on 17 January 2025 be accepted. Carried.

8. The Clerk reported that:

* He had written to Cornwall Council’s (CC) Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to complain about the new arrangements at St Austell Household Waste and Recycling Centre (minute 24/12/23 refers), and her reply had been circulated;
* A new dog waste / litter bin had been installed at the junction of Portmellon Road and Penwarne Lane (minute 24/12/18 refers);
* The alleged driving hazard in River Street had been reported by the Ward Member to the Highways Manager who had agreed to arrange an inspection to understand if any minor works are required (minute 25/01/23 refers);
* The Community Area Partnership’s presentation on the Community Capacity Programme had been circulated;
* The Cornwall Interim Policy Statement had been circulated for comment but no comments had been received;
* Pete Middleton's defibrillator training sessions at the Jubilee Hall on 11 February had been attended by 25 people at 7pm and 6 people at 8pm, and Pete, on behalf of SWAST (South Western Ambulance Service Trust), thanked the Council for its support (The Council will send a letter of thanks to Pete Middleton);
* New contracts for cutting the public footpaths and the coast path within the parish had been agreed;
* There would be just one meeting in April, on the 17th, which would include planning issues.

9. The Ward Member arrived at this point and presented his monthly report which can be seen on the Council’s website.

10. To approve the monthly finances.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Electrical work at West Wharf PC (paid) | £ | 535.00 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/01/25 - 01/02/25 (paid) | £ | 36.34 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/01/25 - 01/02/25 (paid) | £ | 50.02 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 03/01/25 - 03/02/25 (paid) | £ | 51.52 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 03/01/25 - 03/02/25 (paid) | £ | 209.73 |  |  |
|  | IT support February | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC February | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC February | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC hygiene services 08/03/25 - 07/06/25 | £ | 374.72 |  |  |
|  | January staff costs | £ | 1697.24 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 5,850.20  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 132,351.06 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 5,413.24 |  |  |
|  |  plus Councillor training | £ | 36.00 |  |  |
|  |  Grant to Mevagissey School PTFA towards travel costs | £ | 5,000.00 |  |  |
|  |  Portmellon bleed control kit annual service fee | £ | 48.00 |  |  |
|  |  Meeting room hire during December and January | £ | 183.78 |  |  |
|  |  Bank charges | £ | 8.10 |  |  |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 121,661.94 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (31/01/2025) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 3.33 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 121,658.61 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 121,661.94 |

Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the monthly finances be approved and the bills paid.

 Carried.

11. To receive a report from the Public Toilets Working Group. Cllr. Facey reported that the West Wharf toilets had been closed for much of the time due to bad weather, and that the Valley Road toilets had been open intermittently during the maintenance programme.

12. To receive a report from the Housing Working Group. Cllr. Gann reported slow progress with the housing questionnaire interviews which were ongoing. It was agreed that once the works at Wesley Court were complete, the Ward Member would arrange a site meeting with the MD of Ocean Housing.

13. Cllr. Whatty presented the monthly report from the Climate Action Group.

14. To receive a report from the Asset Working Group. Cllr. Shephard reported that the Risk Assessment for the new defibrillator had been completed by Cllr. Williams and the Asset Register updated. Cllr. Williams had reported that Boots will be doing the regular maintenance and testing checks, and have a recording sheet for this; that there is little to be done to the machine itself but the cabinet warranty is dependent upon certain things being regularly checked, and Boots are happy to do this. Cllr. Shephard asked that those members responsible for each asset complete a review of those assets before the March meeting, at which time the Register and reviews will be consolidated ready for passing forward to the new Council following the local elections.

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. Cllr Facey asked for this item to be removed from the agenda until the April meeting.

16. To receive an update on the new contract for the provision and servicing of the bottle bank. Cllr. Facey reported that the switch to the new contractor had gone smoothly and the first swap-out would be due soon.

17. To receive an update on negotiations for a devolution package and, if a decision is made to continue negotiations, to set up a working group to progress further. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with CC’s Devolution Officer prior to the local elections to set a baseline for further negotiations, including the six selected sites for grass cutting and possibly the Jubilee Hall; and to receive an update on the Council’s request to transfer the land on which the MAC and sports facilities stand.

18. To consider a response to the government’s consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England, either directly or by forwarding comments to the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC). Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Williams that the Council agrees with CALC’s proposed response to the consultation and should be informed accordingly. Carried.

19. 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. Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that current arrangements should continue, and that all submissions to the Council’s Facebook page should be made via the Clerk. Carried.

20. To make a final decision regarding the replacement or scrapping of the memorial bench on the harbour.

 A second quotation for replacement of the bench had been received. Cllr Barham believed that the bench was not beyond repair and it was agreed that members would individually inspect the bench prior to a final decision being made at the next meeting.

21. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Williams that the existing contract for street weed control be renewed for this year. Carried.

22. To consider a request from the Mevagissey Feast Week Committee for a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of replacing flags on the parapet and providing uplighters for them. Cllrs. Roberts, Prynn and Williams withdrew for this item, having declared an interest. Cllr. Facey took the Chair.

Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Gann that the grant be paid in full. Carried.

Cllr. Roberts re-took the Chair.

23. Cllr. Gann reported on the activities of the recently established Mevagissey Businesses Group, which has now met twice with 40-50 people at the first meeting and 35 at the second. The group will be applying to the Good Growth Fund for £30,000 to develop an app for use by local businesses. If the group is successful it may evolve into a Chamber of Commerce.

24. To consider how best to support the Mevagissey Activity Centre’s possible application to the Good Growth Fund (Cllr. Gann). The Chairman called an extraordinary meeting for 26 February to consider the MAC’s specific requests, conditional on receipt of a formal grant application before that date.

25. The meeting ended at 9.45 pm. Date of next meeting: 20 March 2025.

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