MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7pm

Present Cllrs. M Roberts (Chairman), M Facey (Vice-Chairman), J Brown, L Burdett, B Collins, J Gann, J Morgan, K Prynn, G Shephard, P Simpson, G Williams.

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 and J Whatty.

Cllr. Mustoe would have to leave at 8.30 pm.

2. There were no Declarations of Interest or Gifts.

3. Public participation. No members of the public were present.

4. Proposed by Cllr. Prynn, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2025 be accepted. Carried.

5. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the minutes of the planning meeting held on 21 February 2025 be accepted. Carried.

6. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26 February 2025 be accepted. Carried.

7. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the minutes of the extraordinary planning meeting held on 5 March 2025 be accepted. Carried.

8. The Clerk reported that:

* The Portmellon Road (between junctions with Polkirt Hill and Portmellon Park) will be closed 11.30am – 9pm on Sunday 24th August for the Portmellon Regatta;
* Cornwall Council has dedicated a section of the footway at Battery Terrace as a highway maintainable at the public expense, designation as footway 410/10;
* A tree fallen across public footpath Mevagissey 9 (Portmellon Cove to Galowras) was cleared within a week following the Ward Member’s intervention;
* The monthly update on works from Ocean Housing had been received and circulated and a date for the promised site meeting at Wesley Court was awaited;
* St Andrew’s Church Secretary had advised that the employer of the proposed Parish Nurse would be the St Austell Methodist Circuit and not St Andrew’s Church as stated in the previous minutes;
* An anonymous letter (signed but no address or printed name) had been hand delivered complaining about the accumulated clutter in the lower part of Cliff Street;
* Cllr. Barham had reported that there had been a call out for the defibrillator and it had been marked as out of use with a request for it to be checked. The manager of Boots had confirmed that it had not been used and Cllr Barham had registered it as back in use.

9. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that the Highways Manager be asked to address the accumulated clutter in Cliff Street. Carried.

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

11. To approve the monthly finances.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Staff training (paid) | £ | 84.00 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/02/25 - 01/03/25 (paid) | £ | 34.38 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/02/25 - 01/03/25 (paid) | £ | 45.52 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC water 04/02/25 - 03/03/25 (paid) | £ | 244.66 |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC water 04/02/25 - 03/03/25 (paid) | £ | 139.57 |  |  |
|  | IT support March | £ | 54.86 |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC March | £ | 1,407.88 |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Road PC March | £ | 1,432.89 |  |  |
|  | Valley Road PC hygiene services 29/03/25 - 28/06/25 | £ | 315.82 |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 05/02/25 | £ | 279.36 |  |  |
|  | Balance of cost of PC winter maintenance | £ | 2,770.00 |  |  |
|  | February staff costs | £ | 1697.24 |  |  |
|  | Office supplies | £ | 61.54 |  |  |
|  | Replacement salt bin at Cliff Street | £ | 303.94 |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 8871.66 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 121,661.94 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 5,850.20 |  |  |
|  | plus Grant to Mevagissey Feast Week Committee | £ | 1,500.00 |  |  |
|  | February meeting room hire | £ | 68.70 |  |  |
|  | Grant to Mevagissey Activity Centre | £ | 6,000.00 |  |  |
|  | Film licence for Climate Action Group | £ | 130.00 |  |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ | 8.55 |  |  |
|  | Grant from The Tree Council for hedge laying course | £ | 500.00 |  | Received |
|  | Business contribution (Cubs Coffee) to seasonal litter bins | £ | 450.00 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 109,054.49 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (28/02/2025) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 95.88 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 108,958.61 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 109,054.49 |

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

Carried.

12. Public Toilets Working Group.

12a. Cllr. Facey reported that the winter maintenance works had completed. The Valley Road toilet block was now fully open and the West Wharf block will open fully on 1st April.

12b. Cllr. Facey then referred to a letter which had been received from the Clerk to the Harbour Trustees regarding the conveyance between CC and the Trustees on the West Wharf toilet block. Cllr. Roberts declared an interest and withdrew for the remainder of this item; Cllr. Facey took the Chair. Following lengthy discussion, it was Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that the Council should establish CC’s position on this and should advise the Harbour Trustees accordingly. Carried.

12c. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the Harbour Trustees should be invited to send a representative or representatives to address the Council at the next meeting regarding the current status of the harbour resilience project. Carried.

[Cllr. Roberts returned to the meeting and retook the Chair]

13. To receive a report from the Housing Working Group. Cllr. Gann noted that the Council’s response to CC’s ‘call for sites’ had been submitted. He expressed concern that the Parish Council’s response to two of the sites was not aligned with the position that the Parish Council's Housing Working Party had taken, with the agreement of the Parish Council, during previous conversations with the owners of those sites.

Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that letters should be sent to the two landowners showing what the Council’s response had been in each case. An Amendment was Proposed by Cllr. Simpson, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the letters should be delayed until the information had been put into the public domain, but this was Defeated by 5 votes to 4. Against the strong advice of the Clerk and the Chairman, the original Proposal was Carried by 6 votes to 4.

[Cllr. Mustoe left the meeting at this point.]

14. Climate Action Group.

14a. Cllr. Burdett presented the following report:

* On Monday 10th March Cornwall Climate Care (in partnership with Plymouth University) delivered a workshop on Climate Change and farming to Mevagissey Primary School’s Seals class. This is something we mentioned we’d arranged in our PC report a few months back. The children explored what Climate change is and how it impacts their daily lives. The children also looked at how they could make a change. This links to their current Geography topic around Agriculture. See related FB post.
* Following on from above we’ve arranged a follow-on session next term with Cornwall Climate Care & the school on the topic of Climate change & Oceans. This is also expected to link in with a repeat session from Jeremey @ 3Bays Wildlife group, as they’ve both expressed an interest to continue what we started last term during the summer term beach school days.
* Date set for next “Ask an expert” event – Wed 23rd April,,6pm at MAC (save the date) – Format to be a broad spectrum overview of local & National Planning policy for Community Energy, to be presented by Duncan Tilney (Partner of Planning) & Stephens Scown LLP. Look out for posters / advertising flyers soon.
* Any interested local groups are invited to arrange their own showing any of the 8 x Cornwall Climate Care Films during “after their event” screening sessions. We could then supply any interested parties with the film resources links for them to download & screen themselves, on the basis that they acknowledge the showing is provided by our Climate Action Group’s Unlimited Screening License (for 1 year from date of invoice paid), fully funded by the PC.
* As mentioned last month (re-cap): Inspired by Ben Ringrose’s (head teacher) recent PC speech, which focused on creating a truly memorable experiences, we’re been working with the primary school on providing a whole school event during ‘Climate Change Awareness day’ on Fri 13th June, to coincide with the national Great big green week. This event will be provided via Immersive Experiences, who’ll provide 360 degree Climate film showing within their Mobile planetarium dome, which is to be hosted within the school hall.
* Films: Earth & Me (KS1) / Climate Change (KS2 & Adults)
* As part of ‘Climate Change day’ Teachers will also be putting on different activities in their class rooms.
* Link to Education Workshops (inc. dome visual): https://immersive-experiences.co.uk/education-2/
* Link to trailer (KS2 & adults): https://immersive-experiences.co.uk/climate-change/ or https://vimeo.com/327341491.
* The Immersive Experiences event (dome hire & popcorn) will be available to Mevagissey pupils during the school day & open to wider public after school from 15:30 - until 18.30 (6 showings; booking required).

14b. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that approval be given to the spending of £950 from the Climate Action Group’s budget on the hiring of a 360° dome for climate change film shows. Carried.

15. To receive a report from the Asset Working Group. Cllr. Shephard established that the Clerk and Members with responsibility for particular assets had all confirmed that there was no change to the status of those assets.

16. To receive an update on negotiations for a devolution package. The recent meeting with CC’s devolution officer was reviewed. Proposed by Cllr. Gann, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the chapel in the closed cemetery, Jubilee Hall and both public toilet blocks should all be brought within scope for further discussion, but kept separate from the negotiations over the Church Street car park and the six sites agreed for grass cutting. Carried.

17. To make a final decision regarding the replacement or scrapping of the memorial bench on the harbour (deferred from February). Three quotes had been received together with an ‘off the peg’ solution which closely matched the existing bench. Proposed by Cllr. Shephard, Seconded by Cllr. Burdett that £900 be authorised for the ‘off the peg’ bench, complete with plaque and carved engraving. Carried.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Collins that the Mevagissey Museum should have ‘first refusal’ on the old bench . Carried.

18. To consider holding an event to commemorate ‘VE Day 80’ on 8th May, along the lines of the successful ‘D-Day 80’ event held last June (deferred from November). Cllr. Facey will ask the couple who organised last year’s event if they would be prepared to do something similar.

19. To consider a response to BT’s consultation on the proposal to close the public payphone in Market Square.

Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Prynn that the Council should indicate that it wishes to adopt the payphone. Carried.

20. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Morgan that the sum of £300 be granted to St. Andrew’s Church towards the cost of the Flower Festival being planned as part of Feast Week. Carried.

21. The meeting ended at 9.20 pm. Date of next meeting (to include planning): 17 April 2025.

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