MEVAGISSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.15 pm

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

P Simpson, J Whatty.

In Attendance Cllr. J Mustoe (Ward Member), P Howson (Clerk to the Council), 1 member of the public.

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 *UNRATIFIED UNLESS SIGNED*

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Gann, Morgan, Williams and Collins.

2. There were no Declarations of Interest or Gifts.

3. Public participation. No member of the public wished to speak.

4. To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2025.

The Clerk pointed to an omission from the minutes. Proposed by Cllr. Facey, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the following should be added following minute #16 (Climate Action Working Group report): ‘Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Barham that spend of up to £90 from the Climate Action WG budget be approved for a guest speaker at the climate awareness film show in the Social Club. Carried.’, and that the minutes should then be accepted. Carried.

5. The Clerk reported that:

* Cornwall Council had notified that they now have tenants for the chapel and the workshop at the closed cemetery. They have offered the chapel to the previous tenant, and the shed will be used as storage and ancillary office;
* He has notified BT that the Council wishes to adopt the phone box in Market Square for use as a book exchange. BT will now carry out a 90 day consultation to ensure there are no objections to the adoption. Once it's been transferred, Emma Hunkin has kindly volunteered to curate the facility;
* The normal monthly update was received from Ocean Housing and circulated to the Housing WG;
* A further letter (drafted by Cllr. Brown) was sent to the Harbour Trustees as agreed at the last meeting and circulated to members. A reply is awaited;
* He had asked the Ward Member to arrange for the footway alongside the B3273 to be cut between Tregiskey crossroads and where the path climbs to meet the SWCP. Highways had replied 'Our verge safety cutting programme is to commence imminently'.

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

7. To approve the monthly finances.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bills to Pay | Replacement sign for Portmellon slipway (paid) | £ | 58.33 |  |  |
|  | Valley Rd PC electricity 02/04/25 - 01/05/25 (paid) | £ | 41.85  |  |  |
|  | West Wharf PC electricity 02/04/25 - 01/05/25 (paid) | £ | 48.69  |  |  |
|  | IT support May 2025 | £ | 54.86  |  |  |
|  | Service bottle bank 03/02/25 and 14/04/25 | £ | 408.00  |  |  |
|  | Operate Valley Rd PC May 2025 | £ | 1,457.97  |  |  |
|  | Operate West Wharf PC May 2025 | £ | 1,432.88  |  |  |
|  | April staff costs | £ | 1,854.12  |  |  |
|  | Office costs | £ | 18.28  |  |  |
|  | Annual insurance | £ | 1,050.15  |  |  |
|  | Wild Wonder & Wisdom CIC (grant) | £ | 1,000.00  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL | £ | 7,425.13 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accounts | Amount available to spend as of last meeting | £ | 99,581.01 |  |  |
|  | Expenditure last month | £ | 7,096.10 |  |  |
|  |  plus Guest speaker at Climate Awareness film show | £ | 86.77 |  |  |
|  |  First cut of coast path | £ | 486.66 |  |  |
|  |  Room hire for April meetings | £ | 34.35 |  |  |
|  |  Bank charges | £ | 9.15 |  |  |
|  | Precept (first payment) | £ | 65,000.00 |  | Received |
|  | 2024/25 VAT refund | £ | 3,066.88 |  | Received |
|  | The Fish Grill (2024 contribution to seasonal litter bins) | £ | 600.00 |  | Received |
|  | Available to spend | £ | 160,534.86 |  |  |
|  | Bank Statements (30/04/2025) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Current Account |  |  | £ | 79.09 |
|  | Deposit Account |  |  | £ | 160,455.77 |
|  | TOTAL |  |  | £ | 160,534.86 |

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

 Carried.

8. To receive a report from the Public Toilets Working Group.

 Cllr. Facey reported that there was an ongoing problem with the handles on the West Wharf Ladies toilet which was being addressed, and that the floor in the Valley Road toilets may need resurfacing soon. He also wants to arrange a further meeting with the Harbour Trustees, which Cllr. Mustoe will be happy to chair. The Clerk noted that the April water bill for the Valley Road toilets was surprisingly high, apparently because the automatic flush rate had been increased to avoid trap blockages and bad odours. Cllr. Facey will monitor this following the next bill.

9. To receive a report from the Housing Working Group. Cllr. Whatty said there was nothing to report.

10. To receive a report from the Climate Action Working Group (Cllr. Burdett).

 *Cornwall Climate Care Films – Conducted / Completed double-bill screening of #Climate Scam? & Living on the Edge films at Social club on 5th May. Some stats: Our FB Post during the final week leading up to event had reach = 3,376 / Post engagement =286 / and we are pleased to report Attendance of 11 during the evening of our event, especially considering the timing was a bank holiday.*

*o An enjoying and informative evening overall with impactful content & valuable sign-posting to resources during the Q&A session that followed, according to some post-event feedback.*

*o Next Films – Fishing community focused films - Plenty More Fish & Under the Surface during Net Zero Week (5th–11th July – exact date tbc @ 7pm).*

*o Plan for greater collaboration with other local community groups, and as part of this we’d like to provide all films to all local pubs & the Museum to allow their own “subtitled” film screenings whenever they like (with acknowledgement shown under license from us & ccc). e.g. could be on loop when football is not showing) - To make this as simple as possible we like to provide USB Flash drives pre-loaded with all films, allowing simple “plug & play”. To be distributed via Jon Gann’s Local business together Group.*

*o To aid the purchase of USB Flash drive I’d like to request budget spend approval for £32.97, which is based on 3 x Pack of 2 USB drives:*

*o We’ve selected what will be the newly refurbished MAC sports hall as the venue for our next film screening. To cover the room hire I’d like to request budget spend approval for £38, which represents Total event costs. Based on Main hall – 100 people - £19 per hour (local community rates, 2hrs).*

*• Immersive Experiences – Marketing / Event Promotion now started & will continue / accelerate over the coming weeks for the Climate film showing within 360 degree Mobile planetarium dome to be held on Mon 9th June at Mevagissey primary school in 30 min slots from 3.30 onwards.*

*o A4 Posters now in the MAC & Social club, with more to follow*

*o Main Event now live online on Facebook, with booking via Eventbrite ticketing*

* *Event now also live on National Great Big Green Week website -* [*https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/meva\_climate\_action/immerssive\_experiences\_dome\_360\_film\_-\_climate\_change\_-\_what\_future\_are\_we\_facing*](https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/meva_climate_action/immerssive_experiences_dome_360_film_-_climate_change_-_what_future_are_we_facing)

*• Currently our climate group members have been personally bearing the printing costs (electricity, ink, paper & laminating) related to the various and fairly extensive A4 color posters used to promote our events within the local community. However we believe this is not the correct approach, so we like to request that the Parish Council provide (via the clerk) either a quality colour laser printer & laminator facilities to all Council working groups & all Cllrs to aid event promotions or other print related costs OR the council obtains a Print account at a local printers, such as St Austell Print.*

10a. Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that spend of up to £35 be approved for the purchase of USB flash drives for the showing of climate films by local pubs and the museum. Carried.

10b. Proposed by Cllr. Burdett, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that spend of £38 be approved for hire of the MAC sports hall for screening a climate film. Carried.

10c. Following discussion, it was agreed that an account with a local print company would be advantageous. Cllr. Brown will make enquiries.

11. To receive a report from the Asset Working Group. Cllr. Shephard had nothing to report.

12. To receive a report on the seasonal litter bins. Cllr. Facey reported that the bins were now in operation, with lockable bins on site in the River Street car park being lifted twice weekly. Business contributions were expected.

13. To receive an update on negotiations for a devolution package. The Clerk will be meeting Cornwall Council’s devolution team next week to agree a schedule of regular meetings. Formation of a Devolution Working Group would be considered at the next Council meeting.

14. To consider actions to address the problem of highway obstructions in Cliff Street and Fore Street.

 It was agreed that letters would be produced for delivery to offending properties. Cllr. Brown offered to draft the letters.

15. To receive a report on the use of AI tools by local councils. Cllr. Brown gave a technical description of the available technology and examples of its practical use, and members debated the pros and cons of introducing such a tool.

 Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the Council continues as at present without the use of AI tools in the good natured spirit of a Parish Council doing its best for the community. Carried.

 [8.30 pm: Cllr. Mustoe left the meeting at this point.]

16. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Facey that the Council accepts the amendment to para. 15 of Standing Orders recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and adopts the new version. Carried.

17. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that retrospective approval be granted for a claim of £120 for plants installed by the junction of Valley Road and Trevarth. Carried.

18. Proposed by Cllr. Barham, Seconded by Cllr. Brown that under powers granted by LGA (Misc. Provisions) 1976 s 19, Mevagissey Youth be granted the sum of £1,000 towards the cost of providing youth services at the Mevagissey Activity Centre, and Mevagissey Youth Football Club be granted the sum of £1,000 towards the cost of maintaining three youth teams and the necessary equipment. Carried.

19. Planning and Enforcement.

19a. Planning decisions (for information).

 PA25/00219 : Garage conversion into ancillary annexe accommodation, one main room and one bathroom. 51 Portmellon Park Mevagissey St Austell Cornwall PL26 6XD

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS, incl. The annexe hereby permitted shall only be occupied by members of the family or non-paying guests of the occupiers of the dwelling known as 51 Portmellon Park, Mevagissey, St Austell, PL26 6YD and shall not be used at any time as a separate residential unit of accommodation.

PA25/00654 : Construction of single storey extension and roof replacement. 14 Lower Well Park Mevagissey St Austell Cornwall PL26 6UZ APPROVED

19b. PA25/01859 : Extensions and refurbishment to existing semi-detached house and grounds. 19 Kiln Close Mevagissey St Austell Cornwall PL26 6TP. Following a site visit with the planning case officer on 29th April, members had voted to support the application.

19c. To consider the appearance of the listed well on Olivers Quay. It was agreed that no action could be taken because the well is on private property.

19d. A brief update was given on current Planning Enforcement cases.

20. The Chairman reported that he had been asked to raise the issue of the apparent discriminatory practices by Cornwall Council regarding free bus travel for pupils at secondary schools in St Austell. Proposed by Cllr. Brown, Seconded by Cllr. Simpson that the Council should support local objections to these practices, and would be advised by Cllr. Mustoe on how to respond most effectively. Carried.

21. Following the recent commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, Cllr. Facey said that there were four wreaths to be paid for, and invoices would be presented in due course; and that letters of thanks should be sent to organisers and contributors, namely Simon and Paula Dunn, Jackie Bugler, the Mevagissey Ladies Choir, and the Harbour Trustees; and this was agreed.

22. The meeting ended at 8.55 pm. Date of next meeting: 19 June 2025.

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