

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 16th July 2024

In attendance: Ben Parker (BP), Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken (ZA), Maya Clayden (MC), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Maureen Smith (MS), Ben Jewell (BJ)

Apologies: Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Andy Westcott (AW), Nicki Maclean (NM), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Paul Matcham (PM)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising/Action Log Review

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Actions Log Update:

i. Swimming Pool

BP couldn't locate any documentation regarding the swimming pool advisory group outcomes from Minehead Town Council.

FT found some documents that may be a feasibility study from the MSL group.

ii. Tidal Pool

Jon Reed is away for a while, will meet when he returns.

Action: FT to arrange meeting in August

iii. Old Hospital

FT spoke to Bill Howard who didn't feel it would be appropriate for MCDT to proceed with the feasibility study funding.

He is currently having a conversation with a private buyer, and if that doesn't proceed to a sale, he may take it to auction in 8 months' time when [the](#) overage clause is up.

iv. Dogs on Beach / Dog Park

BP advised that the Advisory group meeting is tomorrow (18th July) and this is on the agenda. AH has chased this with officers at Somerset Council as signage on the beach has still not been put up.

v. Google Feedback Survey

ZA to circulate during the month of August.

2. Swimming Pool

FT has been pulling together information from both 'groups' although Colin Johnson (CJ) doesn't have a formal group currently. CJ would like MCDT to take on the project, rather than simply acting as an umbrella group as previously thought.

MSL group is made up of local residents, but FT feels the MSL Board is weak in terms of skills and experience. FT feels the MSL group are not ready to go out to the community with a share offering. There are still many questions to be answered, such as what type of pool will be built, the location, whether they will include a café, health and wellbeing facilities etc.

FT feels MPAPP should do some up-to-date independent community consultation. Members feel an independent MPAPP-led community consultation would be beneficial. BP suggested using the MTC community engagement events to 'roadshow' the consultation.

AH suggested the best way of paying for a swimming pool may be a 'referendum' of funding through council tax, i.e. put council tax up by £3-5 per month for everyone in TA24 postcode, and this means free swimming for all, with payment from tourists or people coming in from outside the area.

A discussion ensued around the pros and cons of each site at Irnham Road and Seaward Way. There are some concerns around Seaward Way being a flood plain, limitations caused by the size and accessibility of site. Whereas, Irnham Way has limitations of in terms of access.

MS disclosed the West Somerset Community Land Trust is a member of the 'Somerset Coop Services' but haven't attended meetings for a while.

BP feels collaboration between the two groups is crucial, although MTC tried to facilitate this previously unsuccessfully.

MC updated the group on Minehead First School's swimming pool. Roof has been condemned this term, so school can't currently use it.

FT queried how MPAPP wants to proceed with supporting the swimming pool project. MS queried whether we can only provide support once MSL have commissioned an independent feasibility study.

Agreed that MPAPP will make an offer to carry out the community consultation piece as an independent arbiter, and that we will not support any particular Group until an independent assessment of the most appropriate type of pool has been completed.

3. Review of Minehead Action Plan

i. Old Hospital

Awaiting progress with sale of Old Hospital (as above), and then determine whether funding can be sourced for the purchase of the building if it goes to auction.

ii. Green Economy Skills Development

MS has advised the WSGF model means they cannot source funding easily. FT queried whether MPAPP's role in this is simply sign-posting people to where they can access support for retrofitting, if MPAPP is not able to actively influence-

ZA/MC raised the potential for skills bootcamp funding to develop a retrofitting course. AH advised that Minehead is too small a town to justify its own Apprenticeship scheme and that Bridgwater or Taunton are likely to remain as preferred locations.

FT queried if Minehead has a trades directory. Potentially this could sit along the information (example provided by MS) shared with the community. BJ agrees this is needed.

Action: BJ to create a trade directory for Minehead.

iii. **West Coast 360**

Action: ZA to request an update from NM.

iv. **BID Retail Mentoring Scheme**

FT gave brief overview regarding the BID mentoring scheme. FT has results of the feedback from the retail mentoring scheme and the proposal from the consultant (based in Taunton) who conducted this coaching for the hospitality sector.

Action: FT to send the information to BJ to take forward.

v. **Community Employment Hub Funding**

MC shared she had seen a post on Facebook regarding the community employment hubs at the Beach Hotel.

Action: ZA to request update from NM.

vi. **Youth Mentor and Local Achievement Ambassador**

Group agreed a Minehead Youth Award would be a positive celebration of our local young people. BJ advised Head Teacher at West Somerset College has mentioned she is keen to engage with community. AH suggested this could be split into age ranges.

Action: ZA to obtain update from AW.

vii. **Minehead Masterplan**

FT queried whether MTC had update on Masterplan progress. ZA advised formal owner was never agreed but general feeling was that MTC would be the natural owners and lead on this project. FT felt she had seen it discussed in MTC minutes from a previous meeting.

Action: FT to dig out which minutes she saw it in and send to BP.

Pausing review of Plan review until the next meeting, with request for all members to prepare updates for their action points as requested previously.

4. **AOB**

i. **Cllr Andy Hadley, Somerset Council**

FT queried Post Office progress. AH hasn't heard anything for a while. FT raised potential for a banking hub, but the group felt this might push out the remaining banks. AH to chase up a response from Post Office.

ii. **Maureen Smith, West Somerset Green Forum**

Funding bid for beach fish successful but needs to update the safeguarding policy by September as the funder has requested this.

iii. **Ben Jewell, Minehead Together**
Bank account opened which means they can put a membership plan together and engage with businesses again.

iv. **Ben Parker, MTC**
MTC community engagement event from 7-9pm on 16th July. BP advised MTC are keen to build on these events to open up to more community groups and projects, workshops etc.

Tree survey on trees at Marsh Common carried out which has highlighted some work needs to be carried out due to danger to public. Due to start at end of July which will be done by arboriculturists after a proper environmental survey. If any birds present, the work will not go ahead. MTC has information on their website to advise people and be transparent about the work.

Minehead Christmas Lights Switch On will be 29th November with MTC leading on this. In progress.

v. **Zara Aitken, MCDT**
Shelters transfer of ownership from MCDT to Somerset Council proving difficult to finalise.

Action: AH to email Assets team for a response.

BJ followed up with an update on Britain in Bloom judging. Judge loved the plan for the shelters. BP would love to build future plans around the community.