

## **MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken (ZA), Maureen Smith (MS), Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Nicki Maclean (NM), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP)

Apologies: Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Paul Matcham (PM)

### **1. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising/action log review**

Minutes from last meeting approved. A review of action points from previous meeting undertaken and action log updated.

Action log updates:

All actions in action log completed and closed, except for 'FT to raise Coastal Productivity Plan at next LCN' which will be completed at October LCN meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

### **2. Individual Updates**

#### **i. West Somerset Green Forum**

AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> November. They will officially change their name from Western Somerset Forum 21 to West Somerset Green Forum.

Having difficulty with energy efficiency project as lots of people involved. MS feels a Somerset-wide hub will be required.

Job advert drafted for retrofitting project. Keen to find younger people but finding this difficult. MS may discuss with PM and will contact West Somerset College.

MS gave update on report released on affordable housing. MS putting a summary together and will share with group. RT suggested MS links with Watchet housing group to avoid duplication, although MS advised some links do already exist.

#### **ii. Somerset Council**

No Minehead-specific updates from Economic Development Team. MK advised finances are a priority for Somerset Council currently. MK is ensuring Hinkley Point priorities include tourism as Hinkley workers will be increasing from 10,000 to 12,000.

#### **iii. Minehead and Coast Development Trust (MCDT)**

RT advised MCDT are working on financial sustainability for Minehead Tourist Information Centre.

ZA gave update on upcoming BioBlitz project on 28<sup>th</sup> October. More structured event with 35 limited spaces. Fungi and lichen focused. Includes talks from fungi and lichen experts, a fungi foray onto North Hill, arts and crafts using fungi as inspiration.

Action: ZA to send BioBlitz digital flyers to NM and MTC to sharing.

### **3. Trash Trail – Future Ideas**

FT attended Trash Trail auction. £3000 raised with the sale of 24 items. Money donated to Somerset Community Foundation. Ideas discussed for a future project for Minehead, such as an art and culture trail or festival. Group agreed it could be a 2025 goal. NM suggested an off-season event to increase tourism offer outside summer months. Group agreed to investigate ideas and potential.

Action: FT to develop a few ideas to start this off

### **4. Business Representation on MPAPP Update**

Chamber of Commerce on hold currently. New business group led by Ben Jewell is meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October to discuss constitution and set up of organisation. Invitation to join MPAPP on hold until new group is set up and formally constituted.

### **5. Education Actions on MPAPP Plan**

FT met with Jim Whittaker (JW) to discuss education actions on Minehead Action Plan. JW feels a number of actions will not be taken forward. JW suggested speaking to local businesses to determine what they need, what assets we have and what we can influence delivery on. RT feels advocacy is important part of work in addition to delivery. FT proposed forming sub-group of local interest groups to include JW if available. Separate meeting of sub-group to be planned to discuss goals, identify stakeholders, and then issue invitations to interested groups. ZA suggested utilising Understory map to identify stakeholders in education sector.

Action FT to take forward.

### **6. Walkers are Welcome Proposal**

Group agreed this project should be moved forward.

Action: FT will take forward with ZA support.

### **7. MCDT Project Coordinator Role Funding**

ZA gave update on funding for MCDT Project Coordinator role. Awaiting outcomes from bids to National Lottery Community Fund, Steel Charitable Trust and Ashley Family Foundation. Funding bids being submitted to Swire Charitable Trust and others. MK advised Minehead Town Council (MTC) are currently setting budgets.

Action: MCDT to speak with MTC.

### **8. Minehead Esplanade Shelters Update**

Contracts for shelters project will be signed within next few days. Work scheduled to begin on 30<sup>th</sup> October with a run time of 4-6 weeks. FT advised a charity fun run will take place on Minehead Seafront on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

NB There is also the weekly Saturday Park Run – these organisers need to be advised.

Action: ZA to speak to organisers to make them aware of the work taking place.

## **9. Teenagers in Minehead Engagement**

ZA due to meet with Teenagers in Minehead group today (16<sup>th</sup> Oct) to discuss Minehead Bay Festival and start engagement with the group with a view to engaging young people on MCDT projects more widely. However, this meeting was cancelled due to staff sickness.

Action: ZA to rearrange meeting date and give update at next meeting.

## **10. AOB**

### **i. Poetry Competition**

ZA gave update about poetry competition. Winning poems selected. Wording from each poem selected, and to be shared with Somerset Council Assets Team to ensure council is happy with wording selected.

Action: ZA - Final permission to be obtained from Somerset Council before having wording printed on eco-friendly transparent transfers.

### **ii. Flooding**

MK raised the issue of recent flooding and queried if any forward planning was taking place to mitigate against this in future. ZA advised this would be part of the 'Place Plan' for which MCDT had bid for funding. However, this would need MTC backing and support to take forward. RT feels a meeting with MTC is required to discuss this.

Action: ZA to arrange meeting

### **iii. Minehead Swimming Pool**

In light of recent press articles, RT queried way forward for Minehead swimming pool project. CP advised information given in press articles is incorrect. CP and MK advised that MTC have offered use of MTC owned land, but MTC will not deliver the project, so a community charity vehicle would be needed to deliver project.

### **iv. Visit Somerset Partnership**

ZA gave update that Visit Somerset partnership has been extended from November 2023 to March 2024.

### **v. Plastic Waste Project**

FT recently saw a metal fish sculpture in another community that could work well on Minehead seafront. Sculpture collects plastic waste which can then be taken away. Group agreed to investigate further potential.

Action: FT to develop idea further

### **vi. Blue Flag Award Project**

FT queried who this project sits with, and who would need to sit on the Beach Management Group that is required to take this project forward. MCDT keen to take project forward but currently no immediate capacity. RT suggested picking it back up in March 2024.

Action: FT will pull together immediate 'quick win' actions that will enable a fast start next year.