

## **MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Ben Parker (BP), Zara Aitken (ZA), Maureen Smith (MS), Ray Tew (RT)

Apologies: Paul Matcham (PM), Andy Westcott (AW), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Nicki Maclean (NM), Ben Jewell (BJ)

Guests: Peter Wellstood (MSL) Rob Ewers ( S.West Co-op) Development Ltd

### **1. Presentation by Minehead Swimming and Leisure (MSL) Ltd**

Meeting attended by Peter Wellstood (PW) and Rob Ewers (RE). PW gave update on swimming pool project that MSL have been working on. PW advised 2 sites were under consideration – Minehead Town Council owned land at Irnham Road, and land on Seaward Way, owned by Somerset Council. Irnham Road land still available, but the status of the Seaward Way land is currently unknown. It is thought that the Seaward Way land would prevent increased traffic in town. Options analysis is nearing completion, and this will determine which land is most suitable.

PW advised the planned pool would be 25m and have 6 lanes, which would allow for the pool to be used for national competitions, generating income. PW advised the roof would contain solar panels, and water collection points would be used to collect rain to save water. There is a potential for ground source heat and eco-friendly boilers. MS advised there were already two woodchip boilers in the local area that had been redundant for a while due to high maintenance and running costs.

It is understood that the pool would be used by local schools, general public, water aerobics classes and training providers for kayaking etc. A café would be included on site. There may also be space for a small ice rink, but this would be a phased approach, rather than included from the outset.

PW advised they have spoken to several contractors experienced in building pools, including Cresta Leisure, Troy and Devon Pools & Spa.

RE advised MSL has been registered as a community benefit society since 2015 (confirmed as 2017) and will be run as a cooperative. They are almost ready to go live with a membership share offer which would offer 1 vote to each member regardless of how many shares were purchased. RE advised the community consultation shows a strong preference for an indoor pool. ZA queried how many people were consulted. FT found the number in the consultation document to be 376.

The membership offer has been designed to engage the local community and is not being viewed as a fundraising activity. MSL have a couple of grant applications awaiting a decision and would also be looking into social investment opportunities.

RT queried if an outdoor pool with a retractable roof is an option, however RE advised this would add £2-3m onto the final cost.

RE advised that MSL are happy to circulate any information and documentation that MPAPP members would like to see. FT to collate a list and send to RE.

*PW and RE left the meeting.*

Discussion around the various pool options ensued with some expressing concerns that the two existing swimming pool groups seemed to be in opposition and struggling to work together. BP advised a Swimming Pool Advisory Group had previously been set up by Minehead Town Council, but this was unsuccessful in bringing the two groups together. Members expressed concern that Minehead could end up with two separate pools (indoor/outdoor/tidal), or no pool at all if the groups were unwilling to work together.

CP advised the Swimming Pool Advisory Group had determined that a retractable roof would be the best option. BP to attempt to locate any documents that highlight this.

Action: BP to try to source the recommendations/report from the MTC SPAG

BP requested an update on the Tidal Pool proposal.

Action: ZA to share minutes of April meeting with BP which contain an overview of the Tidal Pool presentation by John Reed.

Action: FT to request a progress update on the Tidal Pool project from John Reed.

Action: All group members present to consider what documents or questions they have of MSL that would get them into an informed position (requested after the meeting by FT) please send to FT by COP on Friday 21 June.

## **2. Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising/Action Log Review**

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

### **Actions Log Update:**

#### **i. Business Representative**

FT advised she has emailed Minehead Chamber of Commerce to inform them that Minehead Together would not be accepting a donation.

#### **ii. Blue Flag**

No update. Actions from May meeting to be carried forward. (ZA)

#### **iii. Old Hospital**

BJ has contacted Bill Howard but there has been no reply as yet.

Action: FT to follow up and attempt to make contact with Bill Howard.

#### **iv. Safeguarding**

ZA has shared details of safeguarding course with MS.

#### **v. Education into Business Subgroup**

FT has invited any interested MPAPP members to join a subgroup to take forward education action points.

Action: ZA to add to July agenda

**vi. Shelters**

FT advised that she was liaising with ZA to identify some plants that will hopefully work well in the shelters rock garden. FT suggested it would be better to plant from September onwards after the summer period.

**vii. Dogs on Beach**

CP shared the proposal for the dog compound with FT. FT advised that it appears to be a commercial venture in which dog walkers will be charged to use the facilities. BP feels the best course of action will be to discuss at the Amenities Advisory Group with the potential for a Section 106 application, for the creation of a fenced area for dog walkers.

Action: BP to progress

**3. AOB**

**i. Ray Tew, Minehead and Coast Development Trust**

RT advised MCDT have been approached by a community group in Penarth, Wales. They are seeking to speak with MCDT to determine how plans have been successful in Minehead with the formation of the MPAPP group. FT suggested this may present a suitable opportunity to perform a “temperature check” on the group and determine what is working well and what could be improved.

Action: ZA to circulate a brief Google survey for MPAPP members to provide feedback.

**ii. Cllr Craig Palmer, Minehead Town Council**

No update.

**iii. Ben Parker, Minehead Town Council**

Some discussion around the West Somerset Free Press article concerning the lack of D-Day anniversary celebrations in Minehead. BP advised he has been trying to work with the newspapers. He advised that MTC do not take the lead on community events but are happy to help facilitate if there is a desire in the community for specific events.

BP advised MTC have been holding community engagement events at various times throughout the week to enable residents to provide feedback, ask questions and engage with MTC.

MTC will be taking the Britain in Bloom applications forward on behalf of Somerset Council from this year onwards. BP would like to see engagement and partnership working amongst groups. The 2024 judging will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> July. FT advised that BP could request a future agenda item to discuss requirements.

BP informed the group that MTC have physical and virtual noticeboards and are happy to advertise any community events.

**iv. Maureen Smith, West Somerset Green Forum (WSGF)**

MS advised that two board members will be attending the Climate Adaptation Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June, run by MCDT. They will also have a stand at the Watchet Street Fayre on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and will be holding a Climate Fayre on 14<sup>th</sup> September, for which stalls are available.

MS informed the group that WSGF had attempted to plan a hustings prior to the election but were unable to arrange it due to calendar conflicts.

MS advised that a grant application to Somerset Community Foundation via the Wessex Water Environment Fund for the Nellie the Fish project has been submitted with a grant decision due on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**v. Fiona Toms**

FT is no longer planning to bid on Clanville Gardens (auction 19 June), however FT advised that the Minehead Conservation Society were interested in securing the gardens for the community's benefit.

**vi. Zara Aitken, MCDT**

Poetry transfers have been printed and are due to be put into shelter windows in coming days.

Climate Adaptation Workshop is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June. There are some spaces still available. ZA requested that members circulate amongst network.

Fundraiser for Minehead Bay Festival will be held in Adventure Centre on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Action: ZA to send link to purchase tickets to MPAPP members