

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 20th February 2024

In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken (ZA), Ray Tew (RT), Nicki Maclean (NM), Maureen Smith (MS), Paul Matcham (PM)

Apologies: Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH)

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:

FT to look at initial actions of setting up 'educational' sub-group to take educational actions on Minehead Plan forward

Update: PM is happy to look at Minehead Plan for People and Place Action Plan to see how action points fit with new Connect Somerset initiative.

FT to take Walkers are Welcome project forward

Update: No update.

FT will pull together immediate Blue Flag Award 'quick win' actions that will enable a fast start next year.

Update: Awaiting response from Jim Whittaker with contact names for outstanding action points.

Minehead Cultural Festival

Update: FT spoken with Butlins, and they have shared plans for 2025. To discuss at next meeting.

Action: ZA to add 'Cultural Festival' to March meeting agenda.

FT to create comms plans for MPAPP

Update: Facebook group created. NM suggested all members of the group to like and share Facebook page.

FT to work with GS and BJ to develop LSIP meeting in Minehead.

Update: Both BJ & GS feel current LSIP isn't relevant to businesses in Minehead. Next LSIP in 2025 which will include skills related to hospitality and tourism industry will be more relevant. Agreed to pick this back up in 2025.

2. Individual Updates

i. Somerset Council – Nicki Maclean

No Minehead specific updates.

ii. Minehead and Coast Development Trust (MCDT) – Ray Tew

RT gave brief update on Esplanade shelters.

RT advised that he had met with 3 individuals who were keen to pursue a tidal pool. RT suggested inviting them to April meeting to present their ideas.

Action: RT to arrange attendance at April meeting with 20 min agenda item.

Action: ZA to arrange next 3 MPAPP meetings for April, May and June.

iii. West Somerset Green Forum (WSGF) – Maureen Smith

WSGF are looking for funding for a Project Worker role.

Community Land Trust has made 18 recommendations to the government for how to tackle the housing crisis. Government has responded with some guidance around second homes.

3. Connect Somerset

Agenda item brought forward due to PM needing to leave meeting early.

PM gave update on Connect Somerset project of which he is the 'Champion' for West Somerset. The project seeks to work with PCNs/Health Visitors, Education, Local Community Networks, Somerset Council, and community groups (such as MPAPP) which are considered 'spokes' in the community.

MS raised issue around retrofitting skills gap. Currently, anyone in Minehead who wishes to train in green construction/retrofitting must travel to Bridgwater. PM advised that, to raise this with educational establishments, he would need specific information around which courses are required, length of course, how many days required, current demand etc.

Discussion ensued around possibility of using Hinkley Point workers in a 'train the trainer' type scheme.

Magna and Live West may also want to be involved as they are struggling to find the skills needed to retrofit homes.

NM queried if any discussions occurring around use of the empty farm unit at West Somerset College (WSC). PM is not aware of any discussions.

Action: PM to make contact with Hinkley Point.

Action: PM to determine number of students currently from Minehead enrolled at Bridgwater college.

Action: FT to send Jim Whittaker's WSC farm plan to PM.

Action: MS to determine what the training requirement is.

4. Membership

Youth - FT has spoken with PM prior to the meeting. PM has suggested Senior Youth Worker at Minehead EYE, Andy Westcott, would be available to join the group as youth representative. MPAPP will extend a formal invitation to Andy.

Action: PM to email FT and copy Andy Westcott in, to allow FT to extend formal invitation to join MPAPP.

Education - PM to remain as MPAPP member in an 'Educational' capacity due to new Connect Somerset role.

5. Clanville Gardens

FT queried groups interest, capacity, and ability to take forward a Clanville Garden's project. MS feels a very complex plan would be needed. WSGF do not have capacity to take the project forward. MS suggests putting on hold. RT and ZA agree MCDT also have lack of capacity currently, although this may change in future.

6. Esplanade Shelters

Shelters are nearing completion. MCDT are planning to organise a celebratory opening of shelters.

7. Beach Fish

FT advised the beach fish project had been postponed until May-June 2025 due to struggle finding an accountable group. FT advised a temporary group was being formed, which may become a permanent group if feedback from the community indicates a permanent sculpture is wanted. Main outstanding issue is emptying of rubbish from the fish. FT advised WSGF had agreed to allow use of their bank account for funding transfers.

8. AOB

- a. NM queried if a plaque would be arranged for the esplanade shelters. NM feels logos of funders should be included if so.

Action: NM to check which logos need to be included.

- b. ZA advised MCDT will know the outcome of the funding bid to the National Lottery Community Fund by the end of February.