

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 28th May 2024

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

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

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

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Actions Log Update:

i. Swimming Pool Project

FT queried if RT had spoken with MCDT trustees regarding the swimming pool project. RT advised that MCDT will support the project, and this may mean being the accountable body, or other ways of supporting.

MTC has confirmed that the land at the Recreation Ground is designated for the swimming pool.

MS expressed concern that if both swimming pool and tidal pool went ahead, Minehead would end up with two outdoor pools, and no indoor pool.

FT has a meeting with Alex Lawrie next week who is a consultant for an existing swimming pool group that has been established and are almost ready to proceed with the launch of a share (co-operative) based launch to residents to fund a pool design and subsequent build. FT queried whether MPAPP should create a steering group for both the swimming pool and tidal pools proposed in our April meeting, to provide support and guidance to the projects and work with the existing groups. RT agrees that it is imperative that all groups work together to ensure a positive outcome.

FT feels next steps are to have a meeting with Alex Lawrie and the current swimming pool group to determine next steps.

FT queried what level of involvement MTC would want in the project. CP feels MTC would want a final overview of proposals to confirm they are happy with what's being proposed.

CP added that there is a caveat on the land from the Luttrell Estate – there is a covenant on the land that states the land must only be used for recreation purposes.

Action: FT to meet with Alex Lawrie and swimming pool group and report back to MPAPP in June.

ii. Business Representative

FT welcomed BJ to MPAPP as the formal business representative. BJ confirmed that the Minehead Chamber of Commerce (COC) had shared the relevant information that Minehead Together needed. Minehead Together has

decided that they will not accept a donation from Minehead Chamber of Commerce.

Action: FT will send a note back to Minehead COC to confirm Minehead Together will not accept a donation.

iii. Blue Flag

ZA shared that Jim Whittaker felt it was inappropriate to share contact details for the stakeholders who participated in the Blue Flag Scoping Report due to time that has elapsed. FT feels we still need to follow up on the actions that were identified and assigned to specific people as this will form the start point for the formation of the new Beach Management Group.

Action: ZA / MC to revisit actions and determine if they have any current contact points we can reach out to ascertain action taken for each action point.

iv. Old Hospital

FT has messaged Bill Howard to try to set up a meeting.

Action: BJ will speak to Bill Howard to try to find out when he is next in Minehead. If Bill Howard won't be coming to Minehead, FT will try to set up a phone call.

2. Individual Updates

i. Marcus Kravis, Somerset Council

Dogs on beach ban was well publicised. FT queried if notices on beach haven't been updated with regards to dogs on beach ban as some may continue to take dogs on beach if notices haven't been updated.

Issues around harbour slipway fees ongoing.

Somerset Council have balanced budget for this year but still need to balance next year but may depend on change of government.

MK advised there are issues around bins not being emptied when it's busy. Feedback has been given to Cllr Dixie Darch.

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

RT welcomed Maya Clayden (MC), MCDT's new Project Assistant.

RT and MC provided an update on Spark event that they attended regarding community research. Lots of discussion around research that will be undertaken regarding health and wellbeing, with £4.9 million ringfenced for the research.

iii. Ben Jewell, Minehead Together

Currently in process of opening a bank account for Minehead Together.

Agreed on a logo which BJ shared with the group. Group agreed the logo was very similar to the Minehead Bay logo.

The social media page and website are under development. Working on an interim short-term measure for a shopper's guide and mapping out community events they might be able to bring together but will be looking to obtain feedback from businesses and community regarding what they want.

Membership fee proposed is £100 per annum.

iv. Maureen Smith, West Somerset Green Forum

MS and HW attended event in Taunton run by West Somerset Community Action Groups. MS will share information re this event with MPAPP group.

MS advised that Watchet are expressing interest in having a wire fish sculpture of their own. MS advised that WSGF have applied for a grant from Wessex Water via Somerset Community Foundation, but WSGF have realised that they need to undertake safeguarding training.

MS provided an update on funding for Project Worker but they have discovered they need considerable income to obtain funding for a 2 year contracted post.

Action: ZA to send Safeguarding Course that MCDT use.

v. Cllr Craig Palmer, Minehead Town Council (MTC)

MTC in month 2 of a foam stream trial which is a method of killing weeds around streets using boiling water with plant oils and starch. This creates a foam which means the hot water stays on the weeds and kills the plants. Trial is going OK, but some issues have come to light. Unlikely to be the only solution but would be part of a bigger strategy. The trial is being closely observed by several other town councils.

Have been holding community engagement events with the idea that the public can come along to community centre and give in-person feedback to councillors. All sessions have been during the day and some feedback has been provided re having sessions outside of work hours, i.e. evenings and weekends. The sessions are being advertised on MTC's website and Facebook page, and also on noticeboards.

CP advised that MTC have a virtual noticeboard which is open to other groups to advertise events.

3. Education into Business Subgroup

FT feels MPAPP has a number of actions around education but don't have a focus for how to move those forward. FT proposed setting up a subgroup to try to move actions forward and queried whether anyone would be interested in working with FT to set up a subgroup or determine if there is already a group that MPAPP could work with who is already active to avoid duplication or having to start from scratch.

MS contacted Gary Drew, a local solar power and heat pump provider who has said he would be happy to be involved.

NM advised that West Coast 360 will continue with a virtual website presence for the next 4 years.

Action: FT will share actions to group members so they can volunteer to join the sub group if relevant to the group they report sent.

4. AOB

i. Zara Aitken, MCDT

ZA gave update on June Naturewatch event happening on seafront on June 8th.

MCDT will be holding a fundraising event on 6th July in the Adventure Centre which will include live music, an art exhibition and a bar.

ZA advised 4 trees had been planted on the grass behind the Adventure Centre which meant the format and site plan for the Minehead Bay Festival circus zone would have to be amended. ZA queried if anymore trees would be planted by Somerset Council. MK and NM unaware of the plans to plant trees and suggested ZA contact Somerset Council's Assets Team.

ii. Ray Tew, MCDT

In the process of signing over shelters to Somerset Council. Met with architect and found two very minor faults to fix. Once defects have been resolved, ZA will speak to Somerset Council's Assets Team re maintenance and handover of shelters.

Poetry lines from Minehead Poetry Competition to go into shelter windows.

RT advised that MCDT has spoken with various people about the rock garden and been told that it was unsuitable for planting. NM suggested looking into plants from the Lister Gardens Dry Garden theme.

Action: FT and ZA to discuss plants for rock garden.

iii. Nicki Maclean, Somerset Council

NM suggested contacting the employment hubs in Minehead for education subgroup.

NM advised she has been supporting the Destination Marketing Organisations (DMOs) with the Somerset and Exmoor LVEP application to Visit England. An initial application was Submitted in Feb. Since then, Visit England has provided feedback for some additional work to be completed, and with a deferred re-submission deadline of September. Visit Somerset and Visit Exmoor are working together with Somerset Council to resubmit the application in September. It is expected that Visit England should provide a decision on whether it approves/or not the Somerset and Exmoor LVEP within a couple of months following the re-submission.

iv. Fiona Toms

Some Somerset Councillors raised issues around sale of Clanville Gardens. Auction is now scheduled to take place on 19th June.

FT suggested that to help solve the problem of dogs on the beach during the tourist season, perhaps a dog park could be created (she has seen these in the US). CP advised that there had recently been a successful planning application to create one on the Seaward Way land opposite the hotel.

Action: FT to investigate.