

## **MPAPP Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024**

In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Zara Aitken (ZA), Maureen Smith (MS), Andy Westcott (AW)

Apologies: Paul Matcham (PM), Ben Jewell (BJ), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Ben Parker (BP), Nicki Maclean (NM) Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK)

### **1. Minutes Of Last Meeting/Matters Arising/Action Log Review**

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Actions log update:

Dogs on Beach signage – AH sent an email to get an update. He was advised that Somerset Council have no funding at the moment, so the signs haven't even been ordered yet. Action remains open.

Retail Mentoring – BJ sent apologies for meeting, but FT is meeting with him on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October so will obtain an update. Action remains open.

Youth Mentor and Local Achievement Ambassador – Teenagers in Minehead group is running every Monday and has a core group of teenagers. FT queried if Minehead EYE would consider the possibility of a Minehead Youth Award for community and sporting achievements. AW feels it may be something that Minehead EYE could pick up. Action: AW to review and discuss with colleagues.

Swimming Pool – FT has spoken with MSL, and they have still not asked the South West Co-op any questions around financials. No updates in terms of any further investments being made by the community in the share offering.

West Somerset Railway Track Improvements – Steve Williams updated that a business case has gone forward to the Transport Secretary.

Wessex Water – Post meeting addendum: Vicky Farwig from Wessex Water has advised she thought a colleague was going to update us on this. She will chase a response. (*Post meeting addendum*).

Public Transport – FT contacted SPS to enquire if any passengers could use the Hinkley Point buses to get to Bridgwater. They advised the number of people working at Hinkley will increase so buses will be utilised more. FT noted that only 2% of Hinkley workers come from Minehead so use of buses won't increase as exponentially as they are saying. SBS has passed FT's query on to further a conversation with the Operations Director.

Anti-social behaviour – FT shared the letter which had been sent to Somerset Council leader, Bill Revans. AH is trying to set up a meeting with Federica Smith-Roberts to find out more information. Lots of rumours around the source of the anti-social behaviour with some mentioning the change of use at Owl's Roost and the YMCA but nothing is confirmed.

Conversation ensued about the best approach to tackling this and whether MPAPP was the correct group to tackle it.

## **2. Action Plan Update**

### **i. West Somerset Coast & Country Tourism**

Somerset and Exmoor Coast project is coming to an end. MCDT are beginning to look at wider promotion of Minehead.

### **ii. Minehead Museum Relocation to New Premises**

RT is the contact point with the museum. They are still looking for suitable premises and will ask for support if a suitable grant application opportunity arises.

### **iii. Minehead Climate Resilience**

ZA shared update on the Minehead Flood Plan that was referred to in the West Somerset Free Press and on Somerset Live. ZA contacted Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), and they forwarded the email onto Somerset Council's Flood and Coast Team as they are taking the project forward with SRA funding. They advised the article was misleading and the Minehead plan has not been released, it is just a snippet from their Annual Report. Minehead Plan is being held up by Somerset Council's financial emergency as they have no funding to undertake the community engagement that the plan requires.

FT queried whether we should raise it at the LCN meeting. RT suggested we invite Brenda Maitland-Walker to the next meeting for an update. Discussion ensued around whether this was appropriate.

Action: FT to raise at LCN meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

ZA also gave update on the Climate Adaptation Plan currently in consultation stage until 31<sup>st</sup> December. The plan will collate actions into a plan to make Minehead more resilient to climate change, including expanding green spaces, protection against flooding etc. MCDT are looking to engage with community, especially young people.

Action: ZA to email AW regarding young people consultation, possibly with the Teenagers in Minehead group.

### **iv. Minehead BioBlitz / Nature Watch**

ZA gave update on Nature Watch event on 26<sup>th</sup> October from 11am-4pm. Fungi and lichens themed event with fungi walks and guided foraging walk. Foraging walk and the first fungi and lichen walk are fully booked. Opened another walk in the afternoon due to popularity.

ZA will meet with Somerset Wildlife Trust and Exmoor National Park to determine if the events will continue next year.

### **v. Minehead Ecology Recovery Network**

No update from MS. RT commented on the fact this is closely related to the Climate Resilience action point.

**vi. Minehead Circular Economy**

Repair Café is starting on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**vii. Minehead Spend Local**

Action: FT will ask for an update on this from BJ.

**viii. Local food production and use**

FT did a review of the allotments and where there were waiting lists. There is a piece of land at Hopcroft Road, approx. 1 acre, that is available for community use. The allotments there are under-utilised, with no waiting list. A proposal is being written by MPaPP with MTC and will be brought to MPAPP and MTC separately for review before surveying residents in Alcombe.

FT also raised a query around why local farmer's market is not supported by more local food producers and traders. MS advised that the farmer's market created their own group. There are a lot of rules around trading and how can have a stand. FT feels it could be expanded to include more local traders.

EAT Festival has been reestablished for next year, funded by Minehead Town Council.

ZA advised Horner Farm are holding a local producers market on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**ix. Plastic Free Minehead**

ZA updated that the group is accredited and retains that status as long as they can evidence that they are an active group.

Nellie the Fish will be delivered next year on seafront. Somerset Council have advised permission from Minehead Town Council must be sought. FT has written to MTC asking for this.

**x. Educational Sub-category**

FT will speak with BJ about this and update at future meeting.

**3. AOB**

**i. Fiona Toms**

FT raised the Somerset Prepared Day and Awards in Bridgwater. ZA has booked to go as it relates to the Minehead Climate Adaptation Plan.

**ii. Ray Tew**

RT advised a contact of his is looking to set up a training centre for retrofitting and decarbonising. MS requested his contact details.

Action: RT will send contact details.

**iii. Cllr Andy Hadley**

Update re Post Office – they have advised that they are continuing to work with a potential applicant.

**iv. Maureen Smith**

MS informed the group of the organisation called Western Gateway, which is a partnership of councillors, businesspeople etc, covering South Wales and South Western England. They are looking at Severn Estuary Tidal Power. Details to be circulated to the group.