

## **MPAPP Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024**

In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Ray Tew (RT), Ben Parker (BP), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Zara Aitken (ZA), Nicki Maclean (NM)

Apologies: Paul Matcham (PM), Andy Westcott (AW), Ben Jewell (BJ), Maureen Smith (MS), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP)

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

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Actions log update:

Swimming Pool and Tidal Pool – agenda item for further discussion.

Dogs on Beach signage – AH still chasing, signage still not up. Action: Still open

West Coast 360 – NM updated action plan and sent to ZA. WC360 website is online until 2028, but unlikely to roll out across county due to Somerset Council financial emergency.

Retail Mentoring – BJ provided update. Retailers feedback was mixed. BJ reported that some of the businesses have more pressing concerns such as anti-social behaviour in town, high cost of energy and fluctuating trading conditions. Discussion ensued around the retail mentoring scheme. Group felt there is potential for developing this in the future. Action: Review again at next meeting

Community Employment Hubs – These are ongoing.

Youth Mentor and Local Achievement Ambassador – no update from AW and PM. Action: ZA to chase.

Masterplan – No progress from Minehead Town Council yet. BP is eager to push this forward whether it's a Masterplan or a Neighbourhood Plan as he feels the Council could play a bigger role in the promotion of the town as a place to live, work and visit. BP unable to give a deadline to progress this due to workload, but it is a higher priority.

Post Office – AH spoke to Post Office 2-3 months ago and they advised they had received an enquiry but wouldn't divulge any specifics. Action: AH to follow up for an update.

Shelters – Shelters have been transferred into Somerset Council ownership.

### **2. Swimming Pool Update**

Discussion ensued regarding the progress of Minehead Swimming and Leisure (MSL) share offer, financial concerns and possible sites/locations. FT proposes MPAPP should ask South West Co-op the questions regarding finance, as part of due diligence to determine whether MPAPP as a group formally supports MSL or not.

Action: FT to approach MSL and update at next MPAPP meeting in October but will disclose information before the meeting if there's anything to share.

NM advised she has not seen a needs assessment or financial costings. FT advised she has suggested to MSL that they should do a renewed consultation, but MSL feels this is not needed.

### **3. Action Plan Update**

#### **i. Encourage Investment in Local Health Services**

Seahorse Centre is being developed currently. Bought by police and partially used by the Health and Social Care Training Facilities as part of the Bridgwater Levelling Up Fund to develop Bridgwater Old Hospital.

NM advised the Head of Regeneration Team at Somerset Council would be the person to contact moving forward for updates on this.

FT queried whether this means this action point is now marked as delivered as the Seahorse Centre is going ahead. RT feels there are other actions to be addressed surrounding the outcomes of the training at the Seahorse Centre. Action: Further discussion required to confirm what the actions related to this need to be.

#### **ii. West Somerset Railway Track Improvements**

FT advised that prior to the election, there were some positive news coming out of West Somerset Railway, however potential funding may have been withdrawn by new government.

Action: FT will contact Steve Williams at West Somerset Railway for an update.

#### **iii. Pursue Blue Flag Award**

ZA emailed Wessex Water to determine whether the actions assigned to them in the Blue Flag Scoping Report had been actioned. No update.

Action: ZA will chase up a response from Wessex Water.

#### **iv. Walkers are Welcome**

BJ to update at next meeting.

### **4. AOB**

#### **i. Cllr Marcus Kravis, Somerset Council**

MK raised issues around bus services locally, especially the lack of buses going to Bridgwater. MK feels we need to lobby and push for improvements with funding from new Gravitas battery factory or Hinkley Point, highlighting the public transport issues as a major barrier to economic development and education in Minehead.

NM raised the 'Digital Hub' project in the Action Plan that could ease issues with buses with students working in Minehead from a satellite facility, or potentially lobbying EDF for support with this. FT proposed using HPC

'employer' buses to support with bus services to Bridgwater, as they mostly run empty.

FT proposed group reflect on bus issues and how we as a group might take this forward to support.

NM suggested taking a multi-pronged approach, including raising at the Local Community Network and with EDF, possibly speaking to Andrew Cockcroft, EDF Communications Officer.

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

BP advised MTC are planning several events over the next few months.

Dates for diary:

- 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30pm - MTC Community Engagement Event at the Community Centre.
- 29<sup>th</sup> November – Minehead Christmas Lights Switch On.
- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - EAT Festival.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May - VE Day celebrations with a community picnic in Blenheim Gardens.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May – VE Day celebrations with a drumhead service in Wellington Square.

AH raised Blenheim Gardens centenary year, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. BP advised MTC are looking to hold an event to celebrate this.

**iii. Fiona Toms**

- 1) FT raised issues around engagement of group and progress of the Minehead Action Plan. FT queried whether there are important and urgent actions that need to be taken, such as dealing with anti-social behaviour and other issues that are on the minds of residents and businesses. FT feels the action plan needs to be more dynamic to be flexible to current and changing needs of Minehead, as well as having short-term, medium-term and long-term goals.

Action: Add as an action point for October's meeting to discuss further.

- 2) Current anti-social behaviour issues in Minehead – Cllr Hadley advised that he and Cllr Chilcott are working together on this issue.

FT to share copy of letter from local resident circulating on a Minehead Businesses Facebook Group for information and reference