



MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

Notes from the Operations Advisory Group Meeting
of Minehead Town Council held on
7th November 2023 at 10.30 am at
the Town Council Offices, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead, TA24 5BP

Present: Councillors B Hodson, C Palmer, M Palmer, A Lawton, B Jewell

Apologies: None

In Attendance: B Parker (Operations Manager), H Nathanson (Town Clerk Via Zoom)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive disclosures of unregistered or other interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the Meeting.

No interests were declared.

3. To receive an update on the annual bedding displays and to discuss future plans

The Operations Manager gave the following update; The bedding displays in the summer saw a number of beds and planters contain an increased number of permanent bedding in order to reduce the number of annual bedding plants used. He felt this had been successful and will be looking into increasing the number of permanent bedding plants in future years. Councillors were informed that even these, may need to be 'refreshed' every 3 – 5 years. The summer bedding remained in place longer than is usual and was replanted with spring bedding only when the summer bedding had 'gone over' Wellington square still needs to be planted but will remain with begonias until week beginning 20/11/23.

Councillors were informed that the Minehead BID stock has been handed over to MTC for disposal. Minehead BID provided an additional 144 hanging baskets, complementing what MTC currently provide. A conversation was had as to whether MTC should offer businesses the opportunity to pay for their own floral hanging baskets for summer 2024 using the MTC fees and charges table for financial year 23/24. The cost of the supply and water of a hanging basket would be £93 per season. It was agreed that the time frame for notifying businesses, taking orders and receiving payment before an order with the supplier had to be placed was too narrow to be achievable. It was agreed that MTC would commit to plan and discuss with businesses how or if MTC would offer additional floral baskets for the town in subsequent years.

It was agreed that MTC will plant up the 4 x cake stands that BID supplied in the town as the additional cost to MTC would be negligible.

4. To receive an update on 2023 Summer band concerts

The attachment was received. Councillors agreed that the live music programme in 2023 had been successful. It was discussed that MTC may look at reducing the performances to go to every other weekend. It was discussed that MTC should staff these events to ensure that someone is on hand to assist. The Operations Manager advised that currently, staffing of these events are not included within the budget and to staff these events would add a substantial extra cost.

It was recommended that the bandstand would be block booked through the summer of 2024 and that MTC would explore reducing the number of summer concerts. The Operations Manager will calculate how much it will cost for staffing events.

5. To recommend approval of electric connection from Warren Road PC's to Coast watch Station

The report was received. Councillors discussed whether this would be a suitable long-term arrangement once the Coast watch Building was built but felt that on the evidence provided, it could be a suitable temporary measure. The Operations Manager was asked if he could investigate how the electricity recharge is calculated for the kiosk. Councillors were reminded that representatives from the National coast watch would be at the next full Council meeting and it was recommended that a final decision would be voted upon after their presentation.

6. To discuss request for MTC to fund an Eat festival in Minehead in 2024

It was discussed that holding the eat festival in Minehead has a mixed review with the businesses in town and it was questioned whether funding such an event would align with the Council's policy on funding town events. It was recommended that the request is rejected on the basis that it doesn't align with MTC grants policy.

7. To discuss enhancement to Rose/Queens Garden

There had been ongoing discussions around refreshing the soft landscaping in the rose garden to make it more attractive but easier to maintain. A costed plan would be submitted to the next OAG for consideration.

8. To discuss Potential acquisition of land at Ellicombe roundabout (Cllr M Palmer)

It was discussed that Ellicombe open space is the only available area of park land in the Ellicombe/Alcombe area and that, as Somerset Council may start looking at selling land in order to balance their books, MTC should express an interest in this land to protect it from potential development. The clerk notified councillors that concerns had been raised via SLCC that the draft SC asset disposal policy doesn't seem to consider that Towns and Parishes may have an interest in or contribution to any decision making. The Operations Manager was asked to contact SC councillors to ask if they are aware of the draft policy and to see if they would support Towns and Parishes having more of a voice on these matters. The Operations Manager is also due to speak to the Head of Operations, Regulatory & Operational Services at SC around MTC's devolution intentions and would mention Ellicombe Open Space.

9. To discuss S106 Funding allocation for future projects

Councillors were notified that there is £102k in various S106 funding for Minehead with some due to expire in the coming years. It was suggested that councillors should start thinking about potential projects that MTC could undertake to apply for S106. The Clerk suggested that MTC approach MPAPP/MCDT to discuss how MTC could be involved in the development of their town plan and that MTC should create their own plan of aspirations to potentially make accessing funds at the planning stage easier.

10. To approve quote for refurbishment of benches at Quay Street Green (Attachment 5 & 6)

It was resolved to approve the quote.

Councillor Hodson
Chair