

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 9 September 2025 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

Members Present: Cllrs Will Thomas (Chair), Martin O'Neill (Vice Chair), Rob Marshall, Angela O'Connor, Francesca O'Brien, Ian Scott, Rebecca Fogarty, David Lewis, Trevor Carr, Laura Gilbert, Sara Keeton, Phil Keeton, Pam Erasmus, Richard Jarvis, Zanthé Keeton and Carrie Townsend Jones

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham (Chief Officer 'CO'), Diane Athernought -Customer Services Office, and Ian Hughes – CSO.

C02509-01 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Tim Zhou and Helen Nelson

C02509-02 Declarations of Interest:
Cllrs Rebecca Fogarty, Sara Keeton, Will Thomas and Francesca O'Brien all declared a personal interest in relation to the Underhill in their capacity as Swansea City Councillors (agenda items **C02507-14 to 17** refers). In addition, Cllrs Will Thomas, Angela O'Connor and Laura Gilbert also all declared a personal interest in relation to Underhill Park due to their connections with Newton Rangers Football Club.

C02509-03 Public Participation
Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at this meeting in respect of the business on the agenda.

No members of the public were present. No representations from the public had been made prior to the meeting commencing.

C02509-04 To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 15th April 2025
To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 15th April 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2025 as a true record.

C02509-05 To approve the minutes of the Full Meeting held on 8th July 2025

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 8th July 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025 as a true record.

C02509-06 To approve the minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on 16th July 2025

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 16th July 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2025 as a true record.

C02509-07 Chair's Report

Cllr Will Thomas had circulated his report prior to the meeting which included welcoming a newly appointed councillor, Zanthé Keeton. Details of The Hub's reopening and developments within Underhill Park were also included together with details of recently organised 'Family Fun Days'.

C02509-08 Financial Report for August 2025

RECOMMENDED that

1. The payments made by the RFO for July & August 2025 be retrospectively approved
2. To approve the budget monitoring report for July 2025
3. To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council's bank accounts from April 2025 to August 2025.

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors and The CO addressed questions from Councillors.

Cllr Townsend Jones noted that MCC are invoiced on a monthly basis by Npower in relation to Christmas Lights at West Cross

ACTION CSO to email RFO requesting further information.

RESOLVED To retrospectively approve the payments made by the RFO for July and August 2025

RESOLVED To approve the budget monitoring report for July 2025

RESOLVED To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council's bank accounts from April 2025 to August 2025.

C02509-09 Community Consultation

The CO had circulated a document on Community Consultation prior to the meeting and highlighted key aspects from the report before addressing questions from councillors.

The collection and analysis of information gleaned was discussed and The CO detailed how specific data would be retrieved through targeted questioning. It was also noted that when primary school children are being questioned, specific child-focused question will be required.

RESOLVED To approve the proposed consultation framework and engagement methods outlined in this report.

RESOLVED To confirm the timeline to ensure results are available by December 2025, in advance of the January 2026 Full Council budget-setting meeting.

RESOLVED To instruct the Chief Officer to prepare and launch tailored surveys for schools, traders, and households, and to arrange appropriate engagement sessions (including school-based 4r sessions, drop-in sessions, and workshops).

RESOLVED To agree that a Consultation Results Report will be brought to Full Council in January 2026, with findings published to the community via the Council website, social media, and newsletters.

C02509-10 Management of Ideas and Suggestions for Underhill

1. To consider a structured process for receiving, recording, and reviewing improvement suggestions and ideas relating to the facilities and operations at Underhill.

The CO and Chair, Cllr Will Thomas outlined how best to progress suggestions in relation to Underhill Park. The consensus of the Full Council was that due to the number of potential suggestions/recommendations there would be insufficient time to discuss such ideas at Full Council or even at committee level.

It was agreed that this agenda item related only to the management and structure of progressing ideas and that details of proposed suggestions should not be discussed.

RESOLVED That any ideas and suggestions in relation to Underhill be forwarded to a working group, initially to consist of The CO, the newly appointed Booking Officer and Natalie Williams of The Hub. Following an initial assessment of the ideas, those deemed to have reached the necessary standard will be forwarded to The Community and Social Development Committee for recommendations to be made. An appeal process will be created.

C02509-11 To receive an update on Underhill Reopening

The CO had previously circulated a report to update Council on the reopening of the Underhill Park facilities. The CO highlighted key aspects from the report before addressing questions. Whilst no questions were asked it was noted that The Hub and other facilities within Underhill would benefit from greater use of advertising and marketing.

The whole Council wished to express their gratitude for the CO's contribution to the re-opening of the Underhill facilities.

RESOLVED To note the progress made to date at Underhill. It supports ongoing joint working arrangements with SCC, along with the developments of an Option Appraisal to identify the most sustainable model for the facility's future operation.

C02509-12 To consider Committee Recommendations

Following a meeting that she had attended earlier that day, Cllr Fogarty provided a further update on Washinghouse Brook Project. Cllr Fogarty provided context to the application and detailed how the issues had been ongoing for many years. She had discovered that a limited development of Washinghouse Brook would not be possible without the installation of a ramp. Such a ramp would provide access not only for disabled/pram users but enable other developments within the area to take place. Cllr Fogarty stated that the installation of the ramp would require an additional £10,000 to the original recommendation.

A discussion took place in relation to the benefits to the local community and how MCC would be providing a minority stake in the project's funding. The ramp will be DVA compliant. There would be long-term benefits for the local community although lighting would not be appropriate as it is anticipated that the area will be designated a nature reserve in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve an additional £15,000 from the Contingency Fund to contribute towards the Washinghouse Brook Project.

C02509-13 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that the press and public be excluded from the following items of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Chair outlined that the remainder of the meeting needed to be in a 'closed session' due to the sensitive nature of information, in particular financial matters.

RESOLVED that due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

The recording of the meeting was suspended at 7.00pm.

C02509-14 To Approve and Sign the Short-Term License to Occupy between Swansea City Council and Mumbles Community Council for Underhill Sports Facility.

RESOLVED; That the Short-Term Licence be approved and signed once confirmation from SCC is obtained in relation to their collaborative role with MCC is confirmed in writing.

Cllr Jarvis left the meeting at 7.38pm

C02509-15 To agree and approve the submission of an EOI to the Community Investment Fund for the Football Pitch Reinstatement at Underhill Park.

The Chair, Cllr Will Thomas highlighted key aspects from his previously circulated report before addressing questions.

RESOLVED To approve Mumbles Community Council's participation in the match funding arrangement for Expression of Interest.

RESOLVED To confirm the level of MCC's financial contribution to be committed.

RESOLVED To authorise the Clerk to notify Swansea Council of the resolution and provide the relevant Council minute as evidence of support.

C02509-16 To agree and approve the submission of a planning application for a viewing area within the 3G pitch at Underhill Park.

The Chair, Cllr Will Thomas had previously circulated reports in relation to a proposed planning application and outlined key aspects of the report before addressing questions. A discussion took place on the merits of applying for planning permission at this particular time.

RESOLVED To defer a decision to apply for planning permission until January 2026.

Cllr Fogarty left the meeting at 8.13pm

C02509-17 To consider quotations from Consultants – Underhill Options Appraisal

The Council discussed the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The CO highlighted key areas from the report.

RESOLVED Council to note that six organisations were approached, and two valid quotations were received.

RESOLVED Council to consider both submissions, recognising that both are within budget and deliverable by the required timescales.

RESOLVED Council determined that RPT Consulting best met its priorities for Underhill Park, balancing the choice between the bidders.

RESOLVED That The Clerk be authorised to notify the successful and unsuccessful bidders following Council's decision.

C02509-18 To consider quotations for Langed Basketball Resurfacing

RESOLVED To defer this agenda item until October's Full Council Meeting

C02509-18 To receive a confidential report from the Chief Officer and consider recommendations contained in the report.

The CO detailed key aspects of her confidential report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED To note which questions fall under the scope of FOI and therefore require a formal response under FOI procedures.

RESOLVED To agree whether a single consolidated FOI response should be prepared to cover all relevant requests, or whether responses should be provided separately.

RESOLVED To note that the remaining questions, while not FOI matters, still warrant a considered response from MCC to maintain transparency and public trust.

RESOLVED To instruct the Clerk to prepare responses.

RESOLVED Council to issue a statement on Underhill from the start of the project to date, ensuring not to breach confidentiality or information discussed in closed session. The statement should include the following: staff support, recognising that:

The HWB project has been clerked by two different officers.

Officers have acted consistently under the instruction of Council.

Meeting Finished at 8.25pm

Next meeting: Full Council 14th October 2025

ANNEX A

To be added