

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 23rd September 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams

Councillors Present: Carrie Townsend Jones (Chair), Phil Keeton, Sara Keeton, and Rebecca Fogarty

Co-opted members present: Eddie Hall

Officers Present: Ian Hughes – CSO

EN2509-01 Apologies: Cllr Helen Nelson

EN2509-02 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Townsend Jones and Eddie Hall both declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item **EN2509-06** due to their membership of a local allotment society.
Cllrs Fogarty and S. Keeton declared an interest in agenda items **EN2509-06** and **EN250908** due to their roles as SCC Councillors. Cllr Fogarty further declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item **EN2509-06** due to being an employee of The Linden Church Trust. In addition Cllr Fogarty declared a further personal interest with regard to the same agenda item, due to a close relative being a member of an allotment society associated to a potential budget proposal.

EN2509-03 Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2025 as a true record.

EN2509-04 Actions arising from Previous Meetings
The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of outstanding 'actions' to committee members. Discussions took place on a number of outstanding and proposed new actions.

RESOLVED: Outstanding actions updated and shown as complete where appropriate; details recorded in 'action' report, together with newly created actions.

Signed by Chair

EN2509-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/07/2025

Reports attached.

Financial reports prepared by RFO, Paul Beynon had previously been distributed to committee members. No questions relating to the budget reports had been provided either to the CSO or the RFO prior to the meeting.

The reports were discussed by the committee

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31 July 2025

EN2509-06 Budget 2026/27

The RFO had previously circulated the Budget Timetable 2026/27 report to the Committee, the report outlined the actions required to be taken by Council and Committees leading up to the approval of the budget and precept by Council by 31/01/2026. The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones stated that proposals be discussed using the July Budget Monitoring Report as a framework for future expenditure. The following points were raised for future action involving liaison with the RFO or future discussion at October's Meeting. Details have not been recorded where no changes have been proposed:-

- **ENV1 -Civic Amenities** The installation of a bus shelter was discussed (a basis shelter would cost £4,800 rising to £5,200 with additional side panels). To be discussed at October Meeting. Spending on posters for local events was also debated. The use of posters displayed prominently would increase participation at local events, to be discussed at October Meeting.
- **ENV2 – Bulbs and Wildflower Planting** The use of both bulbs and wildflower planting discussed. No future proposals made but to be discussed at October Meeting
- **ENV3 – Jubilee Gardens.** Following virement of budget money this budget item to be closed.
- **ENV6 – E & SEO Resources** Consideration to be given to raising budget to £5,000
- **ENV11 (Paths) and ENV14 Norton Nature Reserve.** Consideration to be given to amalgamating both budgets into one new budget which will also incorporate The Orchard
- **ENV16 Climate Emergency** Debate took place on whether to rebrand this budget to a more locally focused term such as Environmental Events Budget. Consideration was given to including other items within this budget including Mumbles Buzz and Bloom, Mumbles Gardeners Question Time and Mumbles Green Heroes. The potential budget for this new grouping would ideally be in the

region of £6,000. Alternatively an events budget of £1,500 was suggested purely for Mumbles Buzz and Bloom, Mumbles Gardeners Question Time and Mumbles Green Heroes.

- **ENV30 Biodiversity Crisis** Deferred to October Meeting pending input from Cllr Chris Evans
- **ENV31 Biodiverse Schools Pilot** Following the departure of Robert Hernando and clarification of the future Environmental Officer's role being sought consideration as given to postponing the launch of this project **ACTION** Cllr Townsend Jones to seek an update from the Mayals Primary School who were due to be the first school involved.
Cllr Fogarty left the meeting at 7.22pm
- **ENV32 SUDS and Flooding Awareness** A discussion took place on how best to incorporate this budget within the theme of 'Climate Emergency' suggestions included the use of a speaker to enlighten local residents. No change to budget requirements for the forthcoming year.
Cllr Fogarty returned to the meeting at 7.27pm
- **ENV33 Mumbles Crop Collective Grant** A discussion took place on how best to incorporate other projects within the current budget. Following Robert Hernando's departure, Ashley Haynes has taken a key role in this project. October Meeting to be updated on role of future Environmental Officer/Ashley within this scheme.

RESOLVED that the budget timetable be noted and resolved at October's Meeting

Budget proposal forms circulated to committee members prior to the meeting were discussed.

RESOLVED that any budget proposals be discussed and agreed upon at October's Meeting with the forms being submitted to The RFO before 31st October 2025.
Cllr Sara Keeton left the meeting at 7.52pm and Eddie Hall left the meeting at 7.59pm

EN2509-07

Future Environmental Event to include Climate Change Item and presentation of Mumbles Buzz in Bloom Awards

Whilst the majority of this agenda item was deferred until October's Meeting, The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones stressed the need for a date to be set for the Mumbles Buzz and Bloom Awards to be presented.

ACTION Cllr Townsend Jones to obtain a provisional date for Mumbles Buzz and Bloom Award Ceremony and liaise with relevant parties.

EN2509-08 Review of Current Projects and Plans:-**a) Grass Verge Scheme (planting to be deferred to Spring 2026)**

Deferred to April 2026

b) Water Quality Testing – Public Engagement & Schedule

In light of Robert Hernando, the Environmental Officer's departure, the participation of schoolchildren testing the quality of water to be explored. The testing kits have been received by MCC and will be stored at The Ostreme Centre.

ACTION Cllr Townsend Jones to explore the use of water testing kits with other councillors prior to the appointment of a new environmental officer.

c) Litter Picking Hub

The function of MCC's participation as a litter picking hub to be simplified.

RESOLVED To be considered as an agenda item at October's Meeting.

d) Schools Project

Discussed under Budget 2026/27 agenda item ([EN2509-06](#) refers)

e) Repair Café

A pilot event has been arranged for Friday, 24th October 2025 at The Hub, Underhill Park, and will be supported by The Environmental Centre. If successful it is anticipated that the event will be held every two months.

f) Bee Friendly Streets

Discussed under Budget 2026/27 agenda item ([EN2509-06](#) refers)

Meeting ended at 8.14pm.

Next Meeting 28th October 2025

DRAFT

DRAFT