

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 11 July 2023 at 6.30 pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Zoom)

Members Present: Cllrs Martin O'Neill (Chair), Will Thomas (Vice-Chair), Rob Marshall, Helen Nelson, Francesca O'Brien, Rhian Evans, Tim Zhou, Richard Jarvis, Ian Scott, Pamela Erasmus, Sara Keeton, Carrie Townsend Jones, Emilia Cox, and Phil Keeton

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham - Clerk, Paul Beynon - RFO and Ian Hughes - Committee Support Officer

C02307-01

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Gary Burkhardt, Angela O'Connor, Michael Parkin and Rebecca Fogarty

C02307-02

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C02307-03

Welcome to New Clerk

Formal introduction to the new Clerk, Kerry Grabham, who provided a background into her previous work experience, focusing on local government and her financial/accounting experience.

C02307-04

Welcome to New Councillors

Cllr Gary Burkhardt was unable to attend the meeting but Cllr Emilia Cox was welcomed and provided a short background to her appointment. Emilia teaches mathematics and computer science in Merthyr and is looking forward to representing her Mayals Ward on the Council.

C02307-05

Public Participation

There were three members of the public represented at the meeting including Mr and Mrs Anderson who made representations in relation to item **C02307-06**

C02307-06

RNLI Raft Race

Standing Orders were suspended for this agenda item.

Mr and Mrs Anderson who had previously e-mailed MCC gave their views at Council on the RNLI Raft Race being held on 6 August 2023 at Knab Rock. Mrs Anderson in particular made representations that due to The RNLI lifeboat being moved to the vicinity of Swansea Marina and the Lifeboat Shop being closed since January 2023 this had caused a negative impact on the local community in relation to tourism and local businesses in particular. A great deal of money (£14M) had been raised much of it locally by volunteers including Mrs Anderson's father. A dispute

exists between the owners of Mumbles Pier and the RNLI and it was proposed by Mrs Anderson that suspending support for The Raft Race by MCC may help to resolve the dispute. A number of councillors made contributions.

The meeting was reconvened under Standing Orders

RESOLVED that further information needed to be obtained over the dispute by the Clerk. The Chair will then write to both The RNLI and the owners of Mumbles Pier voicing their concern in e-mails previously agreed by all councillors. It was noted that MCC did not have authority to cancel the Raft Race which is organised by the RNLI.

C02307-07 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 13 June 2023 and Special Meeting held on 27 June 2023

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13 June 2023 and 27 June 2023 as true records. .

C02307-08 Clerk's Report

No report for June 2023

Cllr Marshall requested that the Internal Resolution Panel complete their report in relation to himself before the end of July 2023.

A number of councillors including the Chair noted the sterling work carried out by Paul Beynon (RFO) in difficult circumstances covering the post of Clerk in addition to his own workload prior to the appointment of the new Clerk.

C02306-09 Chair's Report

The Chair read out his report which included his gratitude to all those connected to the launch of the new Mumbles Skatepark.

RESOLVED to note the report.

C02307-10 Financial Report for June 2023

The RFO outlined the financial report for June 2023 and proposed that the electronic payments and the urgent payment authorised by the RFO in respect of the drilling of the stage at the Ostreme to identify what is underneath the raised area be retrospectively approved.

RESOLVED to approve the electronic payments made prior to July Meeting shown in Appendix A and the drilling of the stage at the Ostreme be retrospectively approved.

C02307-11

Underhill Joint Working Group

Due to other commitments, Cllr Rebecca Fogarty has submitted her resignation as a member of the Underhill Joint Working Group. A number of councillors volunteered to be a member of the Underhill Joint Working Group and a discussion ensued on the merits of a secret ballot.

RESOLVED Helen Nelson was appointed by the councillors to be a member of the Underhill Joint Working Group.

C02307-12 Relocation of MCC Benches at Southend Gardens

The Council discussed the picnic benches at Southend Gardens.

RESOLVED that Cllrs. Fogarty and O'Connor would look into the issues of benches at Southend Gardens.

C02307-13 Benches on Seafront.

A discussion took place on re-siting the single benches that have been impacted upon due to the current development of the Mumbles Seafront Sea Defence Programme.

RESOLVED that any councillors with suitable vacant positions for benches in their ward, particularly where a concrete plinth already exists to e-mail Cllr O'Brien as a matter of urgency.

C02307-14 Langland Tennis Courts

Discussion took place concerning young people and adults using the unlocked tennis courts for activities, particularly football and basketball, and the damage being caused to the courts including recently installed apparatus.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would look into all the options connected to the locking of the tennis courts.

C02307-15 Communications

It was noted that the Marketing and Events Officer should be provided with advanced notice of events to prepare press releases etc.

RESOLVED to note the advice.

C02307-16 Questions for the Chair of the Community and Social Development Committee

No questions were asked.

C02307-17 Questions to the Chair of the Culture, Tourism and Communications Committee

As Cllr. Marshall is also chair of the MumblesFest Task and Finish Group he provided an update on the event. This included the issue of the school choir and that a number of schools would not be participating due to the event taking place in the holiday period. Cllr Marshall confirmed that all the artists for the 'line up' had been confirmed and that eating and drinking stalls had been arranged together with a number of options for children's entertainment including a free bouncy castle.

C02307-18 Questions to the Chair of the Environmental Committee

No questions were asked.

C02307-19 Questions to the Chair of the Finance and Compliance Committee

No questions were asked.

C02307-20 Ostreme Centre Initial Feasibility Study

It was confirmed by Council that documentation had been circulated by Paul Beynon (RFO) in relation to development of Ostreme had been received.

RESOLVED Council to consider initial plans.

C02307-21 Ostreme Centre Sustainability Requirements

It was confirmed by Council that documentation had been circulated by Paul Beynon (RFO) in relation to sustainability requirements had been received, and that these would be considered.

C02307-22 Environmental Committee Recommendations

a) It was discussed that six recycled plastic benches be purchased, five to be located at the new Mumbles Skatepark and the sixth at Jubilee Gardens. Quotes being provided by Ian Hughes to Council prior to the meeting.

During this discussion Standing Orders were suspended to allow the meeting to continue beyond 8.30pm

RESOLVED that five benches be purchased for Mayals to replace those that had been moved from there to Mumbles Skatepark. Jubilee Gardens not to be provided with a bench. The benches will be purchased from budget ENV1 – Civic Amenities.

b) It was discussed that as part of the programme to support glyphosate reduction (**Bee Friendly Street Project**) a professional video recording should be made as part of a communication strategy to highlight environmental issues.

The video will include the participation of schoolchildren and councillors in their gardens.

RESOLVED that the funding of the video at a cost of £300 be approved from budget ENV16 – Climate Emergency.

C02307-23**Exclusion of Press and Public**

A discussion centred on the need to exclude the public in relation sensitive information connected to the Underhill Park Development and the Ostreme Development.

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

C02307-24**Progress of Underhill**

Discussion on Underhill progress and development

C02307-25 **Ostreme Centre Redevelopment**

Discussion on Ostreme Centre redevelopment.

RESOLVED that Ecology Wales be appointed to undertake a Preliminary Ecology Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment,

The meeting ended at 9.02pm.

