

## **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 14 November 2023 at 6.30 pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)**

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

**Officers Present:** Kerry Grabham – Clerk and Ian Hughes – Committee Support Officer (CSO)

**C02311-01**

**Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Pamela Erasmus and Michael Parkin.

**C02311-02**

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C02311-03**

**Public Participation**

Two members of the public were present at the meeting, but no representations were made. Cllr Rhian Evans joined the meeting at 6.34pm This incorrect 2 members of the public were admitted at about 7pm.

**C02311-04**

**Outcome of Complaint Submitted by Cllr R Marshall.**

The Clerk, Kerry Grabham read out the report prepared in relation to the complaint submitted by Cllr Rob Marshall, which included recommendations concerning a review of practices and procedures relating to the conduct of councillors.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations in the above report concerning practices and procedures relating to the conduct of councillors.

**C02311-05**

**To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 as a true record.

**C02311-06**

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk read out a draft press statement relating to proposed permanent security locking gate for Langland Tennis Court together with details of hiring fees. In answer to questions from councillors The Clerk confirmed that bilingual signs will be displayed at the court. In addition, The Clerk confirmed that the locking and hiring procedures only apply to the tennis courts and

that the basketball court will be unaffected, there was also a discussion over whether the individual tennis courts should be named after local notable tennis players.

**RESOLVED** to agree to the wording of the press release.

#### C02311-07

#### **Chair's Report**

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which focused on a recent discipline/complaint hearing at which he gave evidence. This process proved enlightening to the chair who outlined the need for policy and procedures in relation to discipline to be reviewed as agreed at agenda item **C02311-04**.

Additionally, the chair again requested that Councillors direct requests for officers to carry out assignments through the Clerk and not approach the officer in question directly.

Cllr Martin Jarvis left the meeting at 7.04pm

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### C02311-08

#### **Financial Reports for November**

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, the Clerk in the RFO absence outlined key elements of these reports. There were no questions from Councillors' concerning the reports.

**RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve payments and urgent payments as made by the RFO and to approve the budget monitoring report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### C02311-09

#### **Footpaths Underhill Park – Cllr Will Thomas – supporting documents attached.**

Cllr. Will Thomas outlined that he had received a number of complaints (including the head of Oystermouth Primary School and a yoga instructor) concerning the footpaths adjacent to the new all-weather pitch at Underhill. In particular the path leading from the new path running alongside the pitch to the car park area. In addition, the need for lighting along this path was raised. Cllr Thomas made the point that Underhill has a state-of-the-art all-weather pitch together a new hub complex but a dilapidated adjoining footpath leading to the car park. Due to the contractors still being 'on-site' a reduced quote of £14,00 had been provided to upgrade the paths in question. Additionally, Cllr Thomas estimated that the cost of providing lighting would be £5,000. Should a quote be requested following the departure of the contractors it is likely to be considerably more. Cllr Thomas offered to provide £500 from his personal allowance, as did Cllr Rob Marshall reducing the sum required to £13,000.

A discussion ensued and Cllr Thomas addressed the following points: -

- The original budgeting costs did not include the path(s) between the all-weather pitch and car park. This will need to be confirmed, **ACTION** to Cllr Thomas to do so.

- Cllr Thomas outlined that following complaints he visited Underhill Park and discussed the concerns with a MCA representative. Cllr Thomas established that whilst there were plans to upgrade the paths this would not be for some years due to financial restraints. Cllr Thomas stressed that the idea of requesting a £14,000 had been entirely at his instigation. He believed that MCA had no money for this additional work and that it would not be carried out without the grant.
- Cllr Thomas whilst accepting that a great deal of money had already been spent on Underhill Park believed that this benefited the whole of the community within MCC and beyond.
- Cllr Thomas agreed to explore the options of using SCC Councillor budgets to fund additional costs such as lighting. In addition **(ACTION)** to obtain quotes for lighting.
- In answer to Cllr Ian Scott's suggestion to leave the floodlights on following training sessions to assist with lighting, Cllr Thomas agreed to consult with MCA **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Ian Scott also indicated a willingness to contribute towards the cost from his personal allowance.

Cllrs Angela O'Connor and Francesca O'Brien left the meeting at 7.25pm

**RESOLVED** to approve the spending of up to £13,000 from the Contingency Budget. A contribution of £500 being made from the personal allowances of Cllrs Thomas and Marshall.

## C02311-10

### Go Underhill Grant – Final Drawdown

A final payment of £238,208.45 required to be paid in relation to Underhill Re-development. The surveyors have approved the work carried out.

**RESOLVED** to approve the spending of the final payment of £238,208.45

## C02311-11

### Cllr Remuneration Policy

The Chair outlined key points from the yearly remuneration policy following a review. The following points from the report were discussed and voted upon:-

- 3.3 Council is asked to decide whether the payment of £52 per councillor is to be made or whether the full reimbursement of costs is to be made.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above remuneration.
- 4.4 Council is asked to confirm that the Chair of each Committee mentioned above are to receive the £500 Senior Role payment and whether the additional 3 Senior Role payments permitted are to be allocated in 2023/24 and indicate who else is to receive the payment.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above remuneration.
- 5.6 Council is asked to confirm that the option to pay Travel and Subsistence costs is to be approved for 2023/24.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above remuneration.

- 6.3 Council is asked to confirm that the option to pay Financial Loss Compensation is to be approved for 2023/24.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above remuneration.
- 8.4 Council is asked to confirm that the option to make a payment of £1,500 to the Chair and £500 to the Vice Chair is to be approved for 2023/24.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the above remuneration.
- 9.3 Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to introduce attendance allowance and make a recommendation to Council. The RFO will then develop a scheme for approval should Council support the introduction of attendance allowance.  
**RESOLVED** not to approve the above remuneration at the present time but to be given future consideration.

**C02311-12****Virement request to vire £250 from Floral Displays to Communities Events for Newton Christmas Party.**

Following a discussion, it was proposed that each of the four wards receive £250 towards Christmas parties. The money being provided from an underspend in the Floral Displays Budget

**RESOLVED** to approve a vire of £1000 from The Floral Displays to the four wards (£250 each) for the purpose of contributing towards Christmas Parties.

Cllr. Emelia Cox left the meeting at 8.05pm

**C02311-13****To consider Grant Application – Mumbles Traders Association – Christmas Trees**

A discussion took place on the budget(SLA) provided for Mumbles Traders and why a request for Christmas Trees was made at such short notice before Christmas. There was also some uncertainty over the precise amount of money requested due to an underspend within the budget.

**RESOLVED** To delegate the payment of a grant for Christmas Trees to The Clerk. The Councillors also resolved that a receipt/invoice be produced for the trees and that a greater breakdown of expenditure be provided by Mumbles Traders in the future.

**C02311-20****Questions for the Chair of the Culture, Tourism, and Communications Committee**

Due to Cllr. Rob Marshall needing to leave the meeting, agenda item number **C02311-20** was brought forward to provide the opportunity for questions to be asked of him. No questions were asked and Cllr. Marshall left the meeting at 8.16pm

#### **C02311-14 To Recommendations from Skatepark Steering Group**

The discussion concerning recommendations about Mumbles Skatepark were suspended pending the exclusion of the press and public due to the commercial sensitivity of the items in question.

Upon the exclusion of the press and public the discussion concluded.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations of The Skatepark Steering Group.

#### **C02311-15 Recommendation from Ostreme Centre Working Group – Kerry Grabham**

Again the discussion concerning The Ostreme Centre Working Group's recommendations were suspended pending the exclusion of the press and public due to the commercial sensitivity of the items in question.

Upon the exclusion of the press and public the discussion concluded.

**RESOLVED** To approve the recommendations of The Ostreme Centre Working Group.

#### **C02311-16 Recommendation from Environmental Committee – Report attached.**

**Recommended** that following the Environmental Committee meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, Councillors consider the virement suggested by the RFO to cover overspends.

**RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation as outlined in the report presented.

#### **C02311-17 Recommendations from Finance & Compliance Committee – Report attached.**

**Recommended** that following the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 16 October 2023, Councillors consider the following recommendations:-

1. **RECOMMENDED:** that the current practice of making payments by Direct Debit and Standing Order by The RFO be approved at Full Council for a further 12 months.
2. **RECOMMENDED:** that that a grant for £1,150 be provided to Mumbles Netball to assist with court fees for Yr 6 and Yr 8 participants.
3. **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of £425 be made to Sunday Tea to assist in the prevention of elderly people from becoming isolated.

**RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation.

**C02311-18**

**To elect the following member to the following committee**

**Cllr Dr M O'Neill – Environmental Committee.**

It was proposed that Cllr O'Neill be elected to the Environmental Committee.

**RESOLVED** to agree to the above proposal.

**C02311-19**

**Questions for the Chair of the Community Social Development Committee**

No questions were asked.

**C02311-20**

**Questions for the Chair of the Culture, Tourism, and Communications Committee**

This agenda item was addressed after agenda item **C02311-13**

**C02311-21**

**Questions for the Chair of the Environmental Committee**

No questions were asked.

**C02311-22**

**Questions for the Chair of the Finance & Compliance Committee**

No questions were asked.

**C02311-23**

**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.

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

**Standing Orders suspended at 8.30pm to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2 hours.**

**C02311-24**

**To Approve Recommendations made by The Personnel Committee**

Discussion took place regarding recommendations made by The Personnel Committee.

**RESOLVED** to approve recommendations made by The Personnel Committee

The meeting ended at 8.44pm.



