

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 12 December 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, Pamela Erasmus, Francesca O'Brien, Rhian Evans, Richard Jarvis, Ian Scott, Rebecca Fogarty, Sara Keeton, Carrie Townsend Jones, Emilia Cox, Rebecca Fogarty, Angela O'Connor, Tim Zhou and Helen Nelson

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

C02312-01

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Phil Keeton, Emilia Cox and Michael Parkin.

C02312-02

Declarations of Interest

The Clerk declared an interest in agenda item [C02312-22](#).

C02312-03

Public Participation

Michael Eames was the only member of the public and asked the following questions when invited to do so by The Chair, Cllr O'Neill:-

1. Mr Eames asked the cost of Christmas decorations in Mumbles.
Cllr O'Neill informed Mr Eames that he did not have that information to hand but would provide it in a written response.
2. Mr Eames whilst acknowledging that Swansea Council were responsible for drains, potholes, footpaths and other infrastructure believed that MCC should be more pro-active in addressing these concerns.
Cllr Thomas informed Mr Eames that Swansea Council had a good record in repairing and maintaining drains and potholes but many roads within MCC are privately owned and despite the owners being contacted, little further action can be taken wither by MCC or Swansea Council. In addition, Cllr O'Neill confirmed that MCC do request such repairs to be carried out on behalf of residents but that MCC only have an advisory function in this area.
3. Mr Eames raised concerns that benches purchased at public expense including memorial benches are in a dilapidated condition, being stored at The Nature Reserve Car Park.
The Clerk detailed how the relocation of benches had been an ongoing issue for MCC and that she had been, together with certain councillors seeking to address the issue. The reallocation of benches had been hindered through a number of issues not least Covid and the removal of benches for the sea defence programme.

Prior to the next question The Clerk reminded Mr Eames and Committee that questions should only pertain to agenda items. The Clerk outlined how she would be happy to facilitate any questions in the future through adding appropriate agenda items and that she would welcome prior contact from Mr Eames and other members of the public.

4. Mr Eames enquired what recommendations on behalf of local residents had been made by MCC to the contractors responsible for constructing the sea defence programme in Mumbles. Cllr Thomas explained that there had been lengthy consultation with all parties concerning the new sea defence programme. The Chair (Cllr O'Neill) confirmed that there had been regular public consultation meetings between the public and contractors.

Cllr Nelson joined the meeting at 6.35 when Mr Eames was asking the above questions.

C02312-04 To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 14th of November 2023.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023 as a true record.

C02312-05 New Cllr Welcome

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill welcomed the newly elected councillor Hannah Hunter to her first MCC committee meeting. Cllr O'Neill introduced himself and invited all Councillors and Staff of MCC to do the same before inviting Cllr Hunter to provide a brief introduction. Cllr Hunter gave a brief overview of her close connection to Mumbles and West Cross and looked forward to making a valuable contribution to MCC and the local community.

C02312-06 Clerk's Report

The Clerk read out her report which had previously been circulated to committee members. The report included details of funding that had been received from various bodies to support activities and programmes within MCC. The Clerk also detailed nominations to be recommended. Following her report, the Clerk was thanked by the Chair and other councillors for her endeavours in securing the funding.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's Report and accept the nominations.

C02312-07 Chair's Report

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which commenced by apologising for the lack of a 'Teams' link at the previous Full Council Meeting. Cllr O'Neill stated that this was a genuine mistake and that all efforts had been made to rectify the situation and improve future communication between MCC and the public.

Cllr O'Neill stated that following concerns previously raised he had written to both the owners of The Mumbles Pier and The RNLI in relation to Mumbles Lifeboat Station not being operational from Mumbles Pier. Cllr O'Neill had been informed that Mumbles Pier was currently unsafe but that he would be updated on future developments and update the committee accordingly.

Cllr O'Neill believed that 2023 had seen major achievements for MCC. In addition to the completion of Mumbles Skatepark, Underhill Park had seen the opening of The Hub, changing facilities and a new all-weather pitch all supported by MCC. Cllr O'Neill looked forward to Ostreme Centre being redeveloped and benefitting all the community within MCC. Lastly Cllr O'Neill praised The Clerk in organising a recent 'team building' get-together of MCC Officers and Councillors at Ostreme, many of whom had been recently appointed and hoped that similar events will take place in the future.

RESOLVED to note the report.

C02312-08 Financial Reports for November

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, the Clerk in the absence of the RFO offered to take questions in relation to these reports. There were no questions from Councillors' concerning the reports, although Cllr Townend Jones noted that The Lottery Fund had paid in full its contribution for Mumbles Skateboard Park.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO for November 2023.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31st October 2023.

C02312-09 Recording of Meetings Update

The Clerk outlined various options for the future recording of meetings which was introduced following The Covid Pandemic. The aim of recording includes aiding accurate minute taking and 'opening up' the various meetings to the wider public who might not otherwise view proceedings. Options discussed included the removal of the 'live' watch option, a link being sent to those wishing to participate and the deletion of recordings after a certain period. It was also noted that since the untimely passing of the previous clerk, access to the relevant YouTube has proved problematical due to all passwords being in his name. The CSO has been in contact with SA1 and a new YouTube Account has been created for all Officers to access. In addition, SA1 will be attending Ostreme on 19.12.23 to discuss recording options.

AGTEED that the clerk will consider all options and consult with other councils on their relevant policies, whilst taking into account guidance from The Welsh Government and One Voice Wales.

C02312-10 Virement request: To vire £2,080.00 from Clubspark Gate to Family Fun Days

RESOLVED to approve a vire of £2,080.00 from Clubspark Gate to Family Fun Days.

C02312-11

To consider recommendations from Environmental Committee – Report attached.

Recommended that following the Environmental Committee meeting held on the 27th November 2023, the Environment Committee is authorised to spend up to £1,000 organising the Mumbles Gardener's Question Time event to be funded from the Mumbles Gardener's Question Time budget (ENV 27).

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Environment Committee.

C02312-12

To consider recommendations from Finance & Compliance Committee – Report attached.

Recommended that following the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 20th November 2023, Councillors consider the following recommendations:-

RECOMMENDED that the revised quote received from Alain Thomas of £2,117.51 to undertake an evaluation of the outcomes arising from the recommendations made in his 2020 report to be funded from the Evaluation (FC6) budget be accepted.

RECOMMENDED: that a grant of £8,250 be provided for the installation of defibrillators within MCC Area from the Small and Medium Grants budget (FC1).

RECOMMENDED: that the defibrillator situated outside Ostreme Centre be re-located to the Skatepark as suggested by the applicant.

RECOMMENDED: that the grant of £2,149.46 for the maintenance of the Mumbles Bowls Green be provided from the Small and Medium Grants budget (FC1).

RESOLVED to agree to the above recommendation.

C02312-13

To consider recommendations from Community & Social Development Committee – Report attached.

Recommended that following the Community and Social Development Committee held on 15th November 2023, Councillors consider The RFO arranging a survey on the pavilion and other structures contained within the grounds of Mumbles Bowls Club.

RESOLVED to agree to The RFO arranging a survey on the pavilion and other structures contained within the grounds of Mumbles Bowls Club.

C02312-14

To consider recommendations from Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee

- Report attached.

Recommended that following the Culture and Communications Committee held on 22nd November 2023, Councillors consider approving a Spring Cheese and Wine Event.

Committee members discussed the pricing of such an event and whether it would be inclusive for the wider community. Cllr Marshall explained that due to ticket pricing for entry the event would be self-funding with minimal cost to MCC Budget.

AGREED: Cllr Marshall will obtain quotes from relevant local businesses including off-licenses and obtain an estimate for ticket prices for the January Full Council Meeting.

C02312-15

Questions for the Chair of the Community Social Development Committee

No questions were asked.

C02312-16

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

No questions were asked.

C02312-17

Questions for the Chair of the Environmental Committee

No questions were asked.

C02312-18

Questions for the Chair of the Finance & Compliance Committee

The issue of how grant applications are selected and options for appeal against unsuccessful applicants was raised. The Clerk explained that the current process is under review and that it will be discussed at the January Meeting of The Finance and Compliance Committee to which all councillors will be invited.

C02312-19

Office Opening Hours - Christmas

The issue of staff hours over the Christmas Period was discussed. The Clerk stated that the amount of leave entitlement is currently under review, however it appears that MCC Officers are at least three days short per year of their counterparts working in Swansea Council

AGREED: that the staff office will be closed during the week commencing 25th December. As a good will gesture all staff will have paid leave from Wednesday 27th December till Friday 29th December (if these days fall on their normal working days). This arrangement does not set a precedent and is to be regarded quite separately from any on-going review of leave entitlement.

This means all staff will be off from 25th -29th December and the office will be closed.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting during the above agenda item at 8.08pm

C02312-20

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.

C02312-21

Underhill Motion

Discussion took place regarding recommendations made by The Underhill Park Working Group.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations by The Underhill Park Working Group.

Cllr Marshall returned to the meeting at 8.12pm whilst the Underhill Motion was being discussed.

C02312-22

To Approve Recommendations made by The Personnel Committee

The Clerk left the meeting at 8.22pm at the start of the agenda item.

Discussion took place regarding recommendations made by The Personnel Committee.

RESOLVED to approve recommendations made by The Personnel Committee

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.



