

## **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 9 January 2024 at 6.34pm (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, Emilia Cox Michael Parkin and Helen Nelson

**Officers Present:** Kerry Grabham – Clerk, Ian Hughes - Committee Support Officer (CSO) and Diane Athernought – Customer Services Officer

**C02401-01**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Tim Zhou and Hannah Hunter

**C02401-02**

### **Declarations of Interest**

The Clerk declared an interest in agenda item [C02401-18](#).

**C02401-03**

### **Public Participation**

Three members of the public joined at the commencement of the meeting. Doug Peachy and his wife Joan, an elderly couple who wished to raise concerns over the curtailed bus service in Mumbles. Mrs Anna Parton also joined the meeting remotely.

At the invitation of The Chair, Cllr O'Neill, Mr and Mrs Peachy outlined how cutbacks to bus services in Mumbles had significantly hampered their lifestyle. There were contributions from a number of councillors and Mrs Parton, in addition Cllr O'Neill read out a letter from their local MP Tonia Antoniazzi which detailed some of the background, including a reduction of funding from Welsh Government to the bus operator First Cymru.

Cllr Thomas agreed to liaise with Mr and Mrs Peachy and assist in making recommendations to First Cymru.

Mr and Mrs Peachy left the meeting after the issue of bus services had been discussed at 6.51pm  
Mrs Anna Parton remained at the meeting until 7.40pm

**C02401-04 To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 as a true record.

**C02401-05 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk read out her report which had previously been circulated to committee members. At the end of the report, Cllr Erasmus raised concerns over the behaviour of a councillor at Coffee With Friends earlier that day.

**ACTION:** The Clerk offered to forward relevant information to Cllr Erasmus for her to make a complaint if necessary.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's Report.

**C02401-06 Chair's Report**

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which included his thanks to Kerry, the Clerk who had made an invaluable contribution to the running of MCC. In addition Cllr O'Neill praised the contribution of Diane Athernought who as the Customer Services Officer had been professional and engaging with members of the public. Cllr O'Neill also referred to Diane recently obtaining a certificate of achievement in The Introduction to Local Government Authority. Cllr O'Neill also made reference to a recent voluntary litter pick event in Oystermouth that had been well attended.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**C02401-07 Delegation of Powers to Clerk & RFO**

The Clerk offered to answer questions regarding the delegation of powers to the Clerk and RFO which had been outlined in a previously circulated document. No questions were asked.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Cllr Nelson joined the meeting at 7.02pm when The Clerk was outlining her report.

**C02401-08 To approve the purchase of Scribe Booking Software**

The Clerk outlined how a Scribe Booking System would replace the current 'paper' diary for Ostreme Centre bookings. The system would also be compatible with existing accounts software and would be a 'smarter' way of operating and running Ostreme. In answer to questions from councillors The Clerk explained that bookings could be made a year ahead unlike the current system which is only booked on a term by term basis. In addition, members of the public would

have access to the website to make bookings, and other venues within the area of MCC could use the booking system. The Clerk made reference to other issues connected to Ostreme bookings being discussed in the 'closed session'.

**RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of Scribe Booking Software.

#### **C02401-09 Financial Reports for December**

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 questions regarding the cost of repair to the grounds person's van of £408.65 and with regard to the circulation of MCC Newsletter.

Concerning the ground person's van The Clerk in answer to a number of councillors question explained that this would be a 'one off' payment and that the grounds person had not claimed any mileage or expenses for using his own equipment.

The consensus of opinion was that the ground person, having joined MCC at a difficult time together with expenses concerning the use of his van and other equipment not been fully explained. Whilst councillors were happy to accept this as a one-off payment, arrangements needed to be put in place for future claims in relation to both the van and any equipment used.

**AGREED:** The Clerk to consider a suitable monthly allowance/mileage claim for grounds person in future.

With regard to the distribution of The MCC Newsletter to residents and concerns from councillors that not all residents had received it, The Clerk detailed how 8,000 newsletters had been printed but that delivery by Royal Mail had been patchy due to insufficient numbers. It was also noted that the Newsletter was of a very high standard and had been well received.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to conduct a review on the delivery of the newsletter to MCC residents.

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

**RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report to 30th November 2023

#### **C02401-10 To Consider Skatepark Statement - attached**

The Clerk outlined the attached statement which detailed in a transparent way the expenditure connected to Mumbles Skatepark and how uploading the statement onto the MCC Website would provide further accountability for the public and would be in keeping with Audit Wales's Good Practice.

Cllr Erasmus wished to put on record on behalf of MCC her gratitude to The Clerk and RFO for their hard work in relation to this project.

**RESOLVED** to approve the public circulation of The Skatepark Statement through MCC Website.

**C02401-11**

**To Consider Welsh Government Consultation – Future Spending Purposes for Dormant Assette Funding Wales – Future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales GOV.Wales**

The Clerk had previously circulated a document concerning future spending for Dormant Assette Funding Wales. A number of councillors together with The Clerk discussed how best to progress this matter.

**AGREED:** The Clerk to initiate a one-off Working Group with recommendations being forwarded to Welsh Government. Those interested in participating to contact the Clerk. A willingness to participate in The Working Group indicated by Cllrs Nelson and Fogarty during the discussion.

**C02401-12**

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

The Clerk outlined recommendations from the Finance and Compliance Committee which also included those applications that had not been approved by the committee. In answer to questions and points raised by various councillors, The Clerk outlined the basis on which applications were approved. Any application should be scored using a matrix system; in addition bank statements/accounts should be provided where appropriate to support a claim which should normally be no more than 50% of the overall cost of the project in question.

Some councillors expressed concerns that grant applications were not being considered in an equitable manner. In addition a desire to support local businesses was discussed whilst not placing one local business at an unfair advantage over a local competitor.

**AGREED:** That procedures for future grant applications required robust decision making that adhered to current guidelines available on MCC Website. The Clerk to review current practices and guidelines at the next Finance and Compliance Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to which all councillors are invited to participate.

**Recommended** that following the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Councillors consider the following recommendations:-

**Oystermouth Panto Grant Application**

**RECOMMENDED:** that the grant application for an amount of up to £2,000 to assist in relation to a Christmas Panto be rejected.

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

**Whitestone Primary School Grant Application**

**RECOMMENDED:** that the amount of £1,500 be granted to improve play yard areas.

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

**Mumbles Rugby Club Grant Application**

**RECOMMENDED:** that the amount of £2,000 be granted to contribute towards the community-based annual rugby festival.

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

**Sculpture by the Sea UK Ltd Application**

**RECOMMENDED:** that the amount of £3,300 be granted to contribute towards the annual festival in May and July 2024. Providing healthy mind and body activities.

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

**Sunshine Lotus Yoga Grant Application**

Grant Application for £2,400 to support yoga within the community through Yoga 4 Health. Prior to the meeting both The CSO and Cllr Townsend Jones had updated committee members on contact with the applicant and a Swansea City Council Co-ordinator. Following a discussion on the merits of supporting this application it was decided by a majority of three to two not to support the application. A further application in the future would be appropriate.

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

**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.

During the discussion on the above agenda item Cllr O'Connor left the meeting at 7.53pm and returned at 7.58pm. Cllr Marshall left the meeting at 7.55pm returning at 8.00pm

C02401-13

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

No questions were asked.

C02401-14

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

No questions were asked.

**C02401-15 Questions for the Chair of the Environmental Committee**  
No questions were asked.

**C02401-16 Questions for the Chair of the Finance & Compliance Committee**  
No questions were asked.

**C02401-17 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.

**C02401-18 To Approve Recommendations made by The Personnel Committee**

Discussion took place regarding recommendations made by The Personnel Committee, during the discussion The Chair, Cllr O'Neill thanked The Clerk for her contribution to MCC and professionalism, this was endorsed by all councillors.

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

**C02401-19 To Consider Report – Ostreme Centre Hire Fees**

Discussion took place regarding recommendations made in the previously circulated document in relation to Ostreme Centre Hire Fees.

**RESOLVED** to approve recommendations made within the report.

**C02401-20 To Approve Leave Request by Cllr Phil Keeton**

**RESOLVED** to approve the leave request.

Meeting concluded at 8.15pm

Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

