

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 13 February 2024 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

Members Present: Cllrs Martin O'Neill (Chair), Rob Marshall, Richard Jarvis, Ian Scott, Carrie Townsend Jones, Emilia Cox, Angela O'Connor, Emilia Cox, Michael Parkin, Hannah Hunter and Helen Nelson

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham – Clerk, and Diane Athernought – Customer Services Officer

C02402-01 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Will Thomas (Vice-Chair), Tim Zhou, Rebecca Fogarty, Pamela Erasmus, Francesca O'Brien, Sara Keeton and Rhian Evans.

C02402-02 Declarations of Interest

None

C02401-03 Public Participation

Mr Ray Jones a local litter collecting co-ordinator was in attendance and at the invitation of The Chair, Cllr O'Neill, he outlined how together with six or seven other volunteers he collected litter in the Mumbles Area. Mr Jones explained that he and the other volunteers had their own litter picking equipment and worked separately to the events organised by Lydia on behalf of MCC. He explained that certain streets including Queens Road and Chapel Street appeared to be disproportionately impacted by litter although litter within Mumbles as a whole had improved over the past 25 years. He invited suggestions on how to progress litter picking in Mumbles.

All councillors were enthusiastic about the aims of reducing litter and a discussion including how best to update local residents ensued.

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill desired that his formal thanks for the dedication shown by Ray and the other volunteers be noted. Following the discussion Mr Jones left the meeting at 6.41pm

ACTION: The issues on how best to take litter picking forward, including updating local residents through a newsletter or other means to be discussed at the Environmental Committee and ideas to be brought back to Full Council for updating purposes.

C02402-04 To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 09th January 2024.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024 as a true record.

C02402-05 Clerk's Report

The Clerk read out her report which had previously been circulated to committee members. The report centred on the suggestion of moving as a council from chairs being questioned at Full Council to providing reports prior to Full Council Meetings. There would be a number of benefits arising from this process including greater preparedness for councillors resulting in streamlined discussions and pertinent questioning of issues arising from the report. This streamlined process would improve accountability, decision-making and transparency. Additional benefits would include the professional development of councillors including their report writing and presentation skills.

Following The Clerk providing her report there was a general discussion on the merits of moving to a report-based system. Councillors were enthusiastic about moving to a report based system and were reassured that The Clerk would be providing support to the respective chairs initially, including the provision of template reports.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's Report and adopt a new report-based system for committee chairs.

C02402-06 Chair's Report

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which focused on the behaviour of councillors, in particular their rude conduct. Cllr O'Neill detailed how MCC had progressed, taking on new responsibilities and that such behaviour whether to the public, officers or other councillors is unacceptable. Councillors must abide by their Code of Conduct and whilst robust debates are to be expected, respect must be maintained, and rudeness must not be mistaken for assertiveness.

No questions were asked of the chair following the reading of his report.

RESOLVED to note the report.

C02402-07 Waste In Mumbles

The Clerk outlined how she had been in liaison with Mr Ray Jones, who had already provided an input to Full Council at agenda item [C02401-03](#). The Clerk stated that discussions relating to Waste in Mumbles were ongoing and would be further discussed at The Environmental Committee Meeting.

No questions were asked.

RESOLVED to further discuss Waste in Mumbles within The Environmental Committee.

C02402-08**Financial Report for January**

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.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO for January 2024.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31st December 2023

C02402-09**To consider Draft Vexatious Request Policy.**

The Clerk outlined that the draft vexatious request policy is one of number of policies that requires updating. The policy had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and relates to circumstances where an individual or company repeatedly complains in a vexatious manner. The Clerk answered a number of questions from councillors and confirmed that whilst One Voice Wales did not possess such a policy, she had been advised to seek guidance from other community councils. Other potential sources of information included the Information Commissioners. Other areas of concern related to the appointment of an appeals panel being made up of MCC Councillors where vexatious claims were being challenged. However, it was accepted by councillors that opportunities to appoint suitable independent candidates from outside of the councillor 'pool' may be limited.

RESOLVED to approve the draft vexatious request policy with a view to conducting a review after a twelve-month period. This would provide an opportunity for One Voice Wales to consider the draft policy and for The Clerk to seek guidance from other community councils and statutory bodies including the Information Commissioners.

C02402-10**To consider Draft SLA Agreement for Mumbles Traders Grant Agreement.**

The Clerk outlined the draft agreement which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and offered to answer questions from councillors. The committee agreed that the SLA between Mumbles Traders and MCC required updating and monitoring. The Clerk outlined how future grants will be tracked and that Diane Athernought, the Customer Services Officer will be proactive in checking the progress of grants as part of her new role.

RESOLVED to approve the draft SLA Agreement for Mumbles Traders Grant Agreement.

C02402-11**To agree MublesFest date 2024**

Cllr. Rob Marshall, the chair of the Culture, Tourism, and Communications Committee proposed the date of 15th June 2024 for MublesFest.

RESOLVED to agree the date of 15th June 2024 for MublesFest.

C02402-12**To agree delegated powers for Culture, Tourism & Communications for Mublesfest decisions.**

A discussion took place between councillors on the merits of delegating decision making and in particular approving costs. It was noted that a number of costings (under £1,000) are already devolved to the committee in question and to The Clerk/RFO. Concerns by councillors that opportunities to lose potential bookings through delays in seeking Full Council approval needed to be balanced against procedural concerns. The concerns of councillors were therefore incorporated into the resolution detailed below. It was also noted by councillors that the efficient running of the committee would be constrained in the event of approval being required for decisions at Full Council. In relation to the choice of acts, all councillors, officers, and the public as a whole should forward proposed acts to a committee member.

AGREED: Whilst making a booking too far ahead may result in a 'clash' with another event such as The Wales Airshow, the consensus of opinion amongst councillors was that MublesFest should be booked earlier to provide the opportunity to book a greater variety of acts.

RESOLVED to approve delegated powers for Culture, Tourism & Communications for Mublesfest decisions subject to the following criteria: -

- At least one Welsh-speaking act to contribute at MublesFest
- The 'headline' act to be paid a maximum of £3,500 (to include travel & accommodation)
- All councillors to be provided with the opportunity of assessing acts at a future Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee Meeting(s).

C02402-13**To consider recommendations from Community & Social Committee**

The Clerk outlined the following recommendation from the Community & Social Committee.

Recommended that following the Community & Social Committee held on 17th January 2024, Councillors consider the following recommendation:-

That an expression of interest form should be submitted to SCC to facilitate the transfer of assets in relation to the £5,000 approved for Mubles Bowls Club.

RESOLVED to agree to the above recommendation.

C02402-14 To consider recommendations from Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee

The Clerk outlined the following recommendations from the Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee:-

Recommended that following the Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee held on 24th January 2024, Councillors consider the following recommendation:-

That Full Council should vire £1,400 from Warm Hubs to Coffee with Friends

RESOLVED to agree to the above recommendation.

Recommended that whilst it was originally agreed by the Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee on 24th January 2024, that a Welsh Event should take place at Ostreme on 1st March 2024, that this is no longer feasible due to volunteers not being available on that day. Instead, a Welsh Event for St. David's Day is to be incorporated into the Coffee With Friends held the day beforehand, on 29th February 2024.

RESOLVED to agree to the above recommendation.

C02402-15 Questions for the Chair of the Culture, Tourism, and Communications Committee.

In answer to a question concerning a dedicated event for St David's Day, Cllr Marshall outlined a combination of factors including the unavailability of volunteers, budget restraints and school commitments.

AGREED to discuss options for 2025 St David's Day at a dedicated 'future events' meeting in April 2024.

C02402-16 Questions for the Chair of the Environmental Committee

In answer to questions, Cllr Nelson outlined the following: -

- The inauguration of MCC's Gardener's Question Time will take place at Newton Hall on Tuesday 26th March 2024 between 5.30 and 7.30pm with space for sixty members of the public. At the end of this event the launch of Mumbles Buzz in Bloom will be made.
- The next Green Heroes will take place on 22nd February 2024 between 5.30 and 7.30pm at The Hub, Underhill Park.

C02402-17 Questions for the Chair of the Finance & Compliance Committee

No questions were asked.

C02402-18 Questions for the Chair of the Community & Social Development Committee

No questions were asked.

Meeting concluded at 8.04pm

Next meeting 13th March 2024



