

## **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 11 June 2024 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)**

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

**Officers Present:** Paul Beynon - RFO, Lydia Graham - Environmental Officer and Ian Hughes - CSO

**C02406-01 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Hannah Hunter, Mike Parkin, Sara Keeton, Pamela Erasmus, and Carrie Townsend Jones,

**C02406-02 Declarations of Interest:**  
None

**C02406-03 Public Participation**  
No members of the public were present other than Mr Sonny Khan who gave a presentation on The Big Climate Leap, agenda item **C02406-06** refers. There were no representations from the public prior to the meeting commencing.

**C02406-04 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 as a true record.

Cllr Angela O'Connor joined the meeting at 6.32pm

**C02406-05 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 as a true record.

**C02406-06 Presentation from Sonny Khan - Big Climate Leap**

Mr Khan is project manager employed by Swansea's Environmental Centre and funded through The National Lottery. Mr Khan explained how he was already working with MCC's Environmental Officer, Lydia Graham and had been invited to Full Council to familiarise all Councillors with his work in reducing the Council's carbon footprint. He explained that there were a number of tiers in the process

of analysing the impact of the Council's actions, and that the starting point consisted of considering the Council's expenditure. From these initial assessments hotspots will be identified.

Cllr Helen Nelson joined the meeting at 6.47pm

A discussion took place over the parameters of the work which in general would be restricted to ongoing and future projects. The majority of councillors were enthusiastic over this initiative which not only would provide a fresh pair of eyes in identifying short comings but equally provide support and praise for good working practices.

MCC declared an acknowledgement to The Climate Emergency in 2019 and whilst addressing environmental concerns through projects such as The Ostreme Redevelopment and activities including MumblesFest would benefit from this free advice.

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill thanked Mr Khan for his contribution on behalf of the whole Council. At 6.53pm Mr Khan finished his presentation and left the meeting.

#### **C02406-07 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk was unable to attend the meeting and an update will be provided at July's Full Council Meeting

#### **C02406-08 Chair's Report**

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which focused on the recent 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations of D Day at Oystermouth Castle on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This included the lighting of a beacon and the event was organised through the Friends of Oystermouth Castle. MCC was well represented by the Chair, Cllr O'Neill and other Councillors at this event.

Cllr O'Neill also detailed how MCC was currently celebrating a 'twinning' event with Hennebont in Brittany. Representatives from Hennebont will be participating in a number of activities locally and the importance of twinning was emphasised by Cllr O'Neill originating as it did in the aftermath of D Day and the conclusion of World War Two.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **C02406-09 Financial Reports**

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, who after providing a brief outline, offered to take questions in relation to these reports.

A discussion ensued relating to the expenditure including The Ostreme Development, Warm Hub Events and MumblesFest.

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

**RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report for April 2024.

**RESOLVED** to approve the use of delegated powers by The Clerk & RFO in relation to the treatment of the Mumbles Skatepark surface. The cost of this being £1,500 was covered by the Mumbles Skatepark Association with no cost to MCC

**RESOLVED** to approve the use of delegated powers by The Clerk & RFO in relation to providing flags locally and lighting the beacon at Oystermouth Castle on 6<sup>th</sup> June to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Day, at a total cost of no more than £400 to be funded from the contingency.

#### **C02406-10**

##### **Report from Chair of Finance and Compliance Committee.**

The Chair, of this committee, Cllr Marshall provided a verbal report. The update included Cllr Erasmus being appointed vice-chair and arrangements being in hand for Mr Alan Thomas to meet the chairs within MCC. Cllr Marshall also detailed that arrangements were in hand to establish a policy working group for MCC with all Councillors being e-mailed with a view to participating. Liaison is also taking place with One Voice Wales.

Cllr Marshall was asked about picnic benches and other benches within MCC. This resulted in a discussion of costs involving transportation and installation particularly where a concrete base is necessary.

**AGREED:** that any Councillor wishing to have a picnic bench/bench within their ward should write to the Clerk.

#### **C02406-11**

##### **Report from Chair of Community & Social Committee**

The Chair, Cllr Scott read out his report which included the presentation by Kimberley Littlemore of Mumbles Yacht Club in relation to their proposed re-development of facilities. The appointment of vice chair had been deferred to July 2024 to allow all members of the committee to be considered. Other items including the proposed asset transfer in relation to Hennebont Gardens and exercise equipment at Mumbles Seafront which are still being addressed and will again be considered at July's Meeting.

#### **C02406-12**

##### **Report from Chair of Environmental Committee**

The Chair, of this committee, Cllr Townsend Jones was not present due to hosting commitments with Hennebont representatives during their twinning visit. However she had previously circulated her report which was read out by Cllr O'Neill. Lydia Graham addressed queries from Councillors. In relation to Jubilee Gardens the new Grounds Person was actively taking an interest in this project and an update will be provided at July's Meeting. With regard to litter pick events only being on Sundays this is in the process of being addressed.

#### **C02406-13**

##### **Report from Chair of Culture, Tourism and Communications Committee**

The Chair, Cllr. O'Connor had previously circulated her report and outlined key aspects from it which included the appointment of Cllr Marshall as vice chair and detailing a number of events including 80<sup>th</sup> D Day celebrations, MumblesFest 2024, A Blues and Folk Event for Mumbles and The Essence of Mumbles Competition.

A discussion ensued primarily around MCC contributing to the Raft Race in 2025 with individuals still able to make a contribution to the 2024 event.

**C02406-14 To consider Draft Annual Report 2023-24**

Deferred to July's Meeting of Full Council

**C02406-15 Annual Accounts 2023/24**

To approve the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The following documents are attached for this item

- Annual Return 2023/24
- Income and Expenditure Account 2023/24
- Balance Sheet as at 31/03/2024

Documents had previously been circulated and The RFO briefly covered the documents detailed above and invited Councillors to provide feedback. A discussion took place over whether MCC's bank account should be moved to a higher yielding interest account if possible. This also had to be set against the ethics of an alternative bank.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.

**C02406-16 Annual Audit 2023/24**

To approve the Annual Audit for the year ending 31 March 2024

The following documents are attached for this item

- Internal Auditor's Letter to the Chair
- Internal Audit Report 2023/24
- Annual Return 2023/24 – Annual Internal Audit Report

Documents had previously been circulated and The RFO outlined the process of how MCC's accounts had been internally audited, concluding in a positive conclusion. Recommendations were made all of which have been listed in the attached detailed report. Both The Chair of MCC and RFO are pleased with the reports and agreeable to the recommendations being carried out. The RFO will report progress in implementing the recommendations to the Finance and Compliance Committee in September 2024 and March 2025.

In addition to the auditing report The RFO explained that MCC undergoes an annual review from Audit Wales. This is part of a three year cycle and this is the third year in that cycle which sees a comprehensive, in depth examination of all aspects of accounting.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Audit for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Meeting Finished at 7.58pm

Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

DRAFT