

## **Minutes of the Special Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.30 pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)**

**Members Present:** Will Thomas (Vice Chair), Rob Marshall, Angela O'Connor, Carrie Townsend Jones, Francesca O'Brien, Ian Scott, Tim Ziou, Rhian Evans and Richard Jarvis

**Officer Present:** Kerry-Leigh Grabham - Clerk, Paul Beynon - RFO, Diane Athernought - Customer Services Officer and Ian Hughes CSO

Prior to the meeting commencing the Vice-Chair, Cllr. Will Thomas explained that The Chair, Cllr. Martin O'Neill's father had recently passed away and that the thoughts and prayers of all MCC Councillors and staff were with him.

**C02407(S) - 1 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Martin O'Neill (Chair), Sara Keeton, Mike Parkin, Phil Keeton, Pam Erasmus and Helen Nelson

### **C02407(S) - 2 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were received.

1. Cllr Will Thomas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minutes C02407(S)-17 and C02407(S)-18 due to his involvement with MCA as an observer, representing MCC.
2. Cllr Rob Marshall declared a personal interest in Minute C02407(S)-11 as he knows the applicant in relation to Mumbles Movers and Groovers Grant Application.

### **C02407(S) - 3 Public Participation**

Members of the Public may take this opportunity to ask questions, make representations and give evidence on any item on this agenda.

No members of the public were present and no prior representations to any Councillor or MCC Officer had been made.

### **C02407(S) - 4 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 as a correct record.

**C02407(S) - 5 Joint Statement from Chair & Clerk of Council**

The Vice-Chair, Cllr Will Thomas read out a prepared statement which had been circulated to all committee members prior to the meeting. The statement, on behalf of The Clerk and Chair, Cllr Martin O'Neill focused on the behaviour of Councillors under the guidance of the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life. The statement also included gratitude for all the hard work provided by members and staff of MCC.

No questions were raised in relation to the statement.

**RESOLVED** the statement was accepted.

**C02407(S) - 6 Chairs Report**

No additional Chair Report further to that provided on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Cllr Will Thomas requested that the chairs of the committees provide a brief verbal update in relation to their committees and that they restrict their time to under 3 minutes.

**C02407(S) - 7 Report from Chair of Finance & Compliance Committee**

Cllr Rob Marshall stated that a number of grant applications at the July meeting had been postponed until September for additional information. One query from the committee meeting concerned whether Barclays Bank paid MCC for renting a room at Ostreme, this had since been confirmed by The RFO who again confirmed this during the meeting.

No questions were asked of Cllr Rob Marshall.

**C02407(S) - 8 Report from Chair of Community & Social Committee**

Cllr Ian Scott confirmed that Cllr Rhian Evans had been appointed Vice-Chair of the committee. One recommendation had been made for Full Council [C02407\(S\) - 11](#) refers.

Cllr Scott was asked for an update on the fence around Langland Tennis Court. The Clerk stated that the matter was in hand with one quote having been received and a second pending. A third contractor was unable to provide a quote due to the work being on too small a scale.

**C02407(S) - 9 Report from Chair of Environmental Committee**

Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones had provided a written report which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Townsend Jones drew Council's attention to key points notably the need for Councillors to encourage everyone residing within MCC to participate at volunteer days through day-to-day contact being made. Other aspects of Cllr Townsend Jones' report included Summer Fun Days, Litter Pick Events and the need for sharing information via social media.

No questions were asked of Cllr Townsend Jones

**C02407(S) - 10 Report from Chair or Culture, Tourism & Communications Committee**

Cllr Angela O'Connor outlined future key events including The Essence of Mumbles Competition for which Cllr Tim Zhou was taking the lead and The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations for VE Day in 2025, which will be marked by MCC.

A clash of dates became apparent between volunteer days arranged through Culture, Tourism & Communication and The Environmental Committees.

**AGREED;** any clashes of dates involving the two committees to be resolved between the respective chairs outside of Full Council.

**C02407(S) - 11 To consider recommendations from Committees**

The following recommendations from committees were considered: -

**To consider recommendations from the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 15 July 2024.**

**1. Gower CIC Grant Application**

The Finance Committee had recommended that a grant of £500 or £2,000 be made towards a Welsh Heritage Festival, bringing together local schools and the community from Budget FC1, subject to confirmation of the amount in question being obtained from the applicant.

The Clerk confirmed that the applicant had been contacted and had applied for £2,000. The application related to an event at Oystermouth Castle on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Although this application was being made retrospectively the application had been made prior to the event taking place. A change in processes connected to grant applications, in particular grants being vetted and considered on a three-monthly basis was now reflected in guidance for applicants.

**RESOLVED** to agree that a grant of £2,000 be made towards a Welsh Heritage Festival, bringing together local schools and the community from **Budget FC1**.

**2. Mumbles Movers and Groovers Grant Application**

Cllr Rob Marshall had previously declared a personal interest in this grant application due to being a friend of the applicant.

The Finance Committee had recommended not to provide a Grant Application for £936, to provide elderly residents of MCC with fitness exercises.

Prior to this item being discussed at The Finance Committee, The CSO had read out a briefing note relating to yoga activities prepared by The Clerk

A discussion ensued at Full Council and The Clerk reminded Councillors of the new guidelines.

Cllr Rob Marshall provided some background and suggested that following new guidelines and vetting procedures being introduced this application should not have been judged or compared to previous unsuccessful applications. Instead, Cllr Marshall suggested that this application be judged in isolation on its own merits against the Seven Nolan Principles.

It was suggested that Cllr Marshall should not be promoting this grant application due to his friendship with the applicant, however this was rejected by The Committee as there was no prejudicial conflict of interest.

In addressing concerns that previous Full Council Recommendations had requested yoga activities to be agreed across all four wards on a collective basis The Clerk explained that arranging yoga across each ward had created insurmountable obstacles and that each booking request should now be considered separately.

**RESOLVED** not to agree with The Finance Committee's recommendation. Full Council then voted against the recommendation.

In light of the above resolutions The Chair, placed a new proposal, namely that Full Council vote on whether to approve the grant to Mumbles Movers and Groovers

**RESOLVED** to agree to a Grant Application for £936, to provide elderly residents of MCC with fitness exercises from **Budget FC1**.

**To consider recommendation from the Community & Social Committee held on 17th July 2024**

That £5,000 be made available for the purchase of two pieces of exercise equipment to be installed at West Cross Seafront. The £5,000 includes the cost of the two items, carriage and any installation fees with any remaining money being returned to budget.

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

**To consider recommendation from the Environmental Committee held on 22 July 2024**

That at least one Councillor from each of the wards to be identified at Full Council for the purpose of liaising with Ashley Haynes, including site visits in order to identify suitable planting areas for bulbs and seeds.

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

Further to the above recommendation being approved it was suggested that due to no further Full Council Meetings taking place until September 2024 the councillors who will be liaising with Ashley Haynes should be identified as a matter of urgency.

In addition it was the consensus that all Councillors should be appraised of developments in relation to seed and bulb planting and not just the appointed liaison councillors.

**ACTION:** CSO to write to all councillors on 31<sup>st</sup> July requesting volunteer(s) from each of the wards to liaise with Ashley Haynes. In the event of no volunteers becoming available by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 The Clerk will nominate Councillors.

**To consider recommendation from the Culture Committee held on 26 June 2024**

The Culture Committee recommended that the date for MumblesFest 2025 be set and agreed for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**RESOLVED:** to agree to the above recommendation

**To consider recommendation from the Culture Committee held on 24 July 2024**

The Culture Committee recommended that £500 from the £2000.00 underspend identified in Mays meeting to support Cllr R Evans with hosting the Boarspit Bash.

**RESOLVED:** to agree to the above recommendation

**C02407(S) - 12**

**To consider grant funding applications – Cllr R Marshall**

Documents pertinent to this application had been circulated to Full Council prior to the meeting. Cllr Rob Marshall set out briefly the background to this application which would be made to SCC and how he had liaised with Paul Ralph and others in relation to it.

No questions were asked of Cllr Marshall.

**RESOLVED:** to agree to the above grant application being progressed.

**C02407(S) - 13**

**To receive update on Mumbles Sea Defences**

The Clerk provided an update on Mumbles Seafront following a meeting with SCC Officers. In particular SCC representatives wished to know whether following work being completed on the sea defences whether MCC wished to apply for water bottle fillers to be installed.

Members of Full Council agreed that water bottle fillers had been a great success at other venues such as The Mumbles Skatepark and Oystermouth Castle but that a water fountain in addition to a bottle filler should also be considered. Although the infrastructure for water fillers to be installed

would be arranged through SCC there was surprise amongst Councillors that a need for a grant application for the water fillers was necessary.

**ACTION:** Cllr Will Thomas to write to SCC seeking clarification on this point.

**RESOLVED;** to agree to MCC applying for a grant for a water bottle filler to SCC.

In addition, The Clerk provided a further update on benches. SCC had now agreed to re-install 25 benches along the seafront. SCC will be paying the full cost of transportation, installation, and any repair work.

At 7.22pm both Cllrs Rob Marshall and Angela O'Connor left the meeting.

#### **C02407(S) - 14 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.

At 7.27pm Cllr Marshall returned to the meeting and Standing Orders were suspended.

#### **C02407(S) - 15 Report & Recommendation on Ostreme Centre Redevelopment**

An update was provided by The Clerk which included the difficulty in obtaining grant money from the National Lottery and other providers. Liaison had taken place with SCC and Welsh Government and other options are being considered by The Ostreme Steering Group which has met regularly including obtaining the necessary funding through loans. Should the development not proceed consideration will need to be given to renovating the current Ostreme Centre. When considering how best to proceed with The Ostreme Centre and the high-cost implications it was agreed by Full Council that due diligence be given to the various options available and that consideration should be given to employing an external consultant to provide a professional view on expenditure options, including loans.

In addition, due to The Clerks imminent absence it would be desirable for additional devolved powers currently only applicable to The Clerk be provided to RFO during The Clerk's absence.

**RESOLVED** that up to £5,000 be made available to an external consultant to review financial options relating to the Redevelopment of Ostreme including loan options.

**RESOLVED** those devolved powers currently only applicable to The Clerk be provided to the RFO during The Clerk's absence.

Prior to the remaining agenda items being discussed Cllr Will Thomas outlined his involvement with MCA.

At 7.55pm Standing Orders were re-instated and Cllr Will Thomas left the room. Cllr Townsend Jones proposed that Cllr Richard Jarvis be the acting chair for the remainder of the meeting, this was agreed by all Councillors.

At 7.57pm Cllr Rhian Evans left the meeting.

Following the departures of Cllrs O'Brien, Thomas and Evans the meeting was not quorate. Although Cllr Evans may have been able to rejoin the meeting subsequently it was agreed by all councillors that the meeting should finish with the remaining agenda items being addressed at the next Full Council Meeting.

**Meeting Ended** at 8.01pm

**Next Meeting** 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024