

## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 10 February 2026 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

**Members Present:** Cllrs Will Thomas (Chair), Francesca O'Brien, Dave Lewis, Rebecca Fogarty Martin O'Neill (Vice Chair), Rob Marshall, Ian Scott, Laura Gilbert, Angela O'Connor, Helen Nelson, Tim Zhou and Carrie Townsend Jones

**Officers Present:** Kerry Grabham – CO, Paul Beynon – Deputy CO & RFO, Hannah Hunter – Facilities Manager and Ian Hughes – CSO.

<b>C02602-01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllrs- Phil Keeton, Sara Keeton, Trevor, Carr and Richard Jarvis.
<b>C02602-02</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b></p> <p>Cllrs Fogarty, O'Connor, O'Brien and Thomas declared personal interests as SCC Councillors in relation to agenda items pertaining to SCC items. In addition Cllr Fogarty declared a personal and prejudicial interests in relation to agenda item <b>C02602-17</b> during which item she left the meeting.</p> <p>Hannah Hunter also declared a personal interest in the Underhill Recommendations <b>C02602-02</b> refers.</p>
<b>C02602-03</b>	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <p>(In accordance with Section 48 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Standing Orders of Mumbles Community Council. Members of the Public may make representations only on published agenda items. Members of the Public who wish to make representations must inform the Chief Officer at least 3 working days before the meeting. For further guidance, please refer to the Public Participation Policy on the Council's Website.)</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the procedures for public participation. No members of the public were present.</p>

<b>C02602-04</b>	<p><b>To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as a true record.</p>
<b>C02602-05</b>	<p><b>To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b></p> <p>During the discussion on the minutes, it was highlighted that the resolution to approve the budget also included approval for the Council’s precept for the 2026/2027 financial year, based on the approved budget.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CO to amend minutes of meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as a true record subject to The CO amending minutes to reflect the above.</p>
<b>C02602-06</b>	<p><b>Chair’s Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Thomas outlined staffing changes, thanking Natalie, Molly and Craig who had recently left their employment at The Hub, for their contributions. Cllr Thomas also congratulated Hannah Hunter on her appointment as the Facilities Manager at The Hub.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas stated MCC had received six positive audit report which will be discussed later <b>C02602-08</b> refers.</p> <p>Cllr O’Connor arrived at the meeting at 6.36pm</p>
<b>C02602-07</b>	<p><b>Chief Officers Report</b></p> <p>The CO paid tribute to MCC Officers for their contributions during a period of staff shortages.</p> <p>The CO informed Full Council that she had attended a conference for Council Clerks in January and will be promoting good practice gathered from her attendance.</p>
<b>C02602-08</b>	<p><b>Financial Report for February 2026</b></p> <p>Recommend That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The payments made by the RFO in January 2026 are retrospectively approved.</li> <li>b) The budget monitoring report to 31/12/2025 is approved</li> <li>c) To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council bank accounts for January 2026</li> <li>d) To receive and approve the outcomes of the external audits undertaken by Audit Wales for the financial years 2019/20 to 2024/25 (six financial years).</li> </ul> <p>Financial reports had been prepared by RFO Paul Beynon who had previously provided copies to Councillors</p>

	<p>The CO and the RFO addressed questions from Councillors having outlined key aspects form each of the documents. The external audit reports covered a six-year period due to the manner of Audit Wales conducting and compiling their reports. Many of the issues and concerns covered in these reports arose form members of the public raising matters. The development of Underhill Park and Mumbles Skatepark were discussed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO in January 2026.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To approve The budget monitoring report to 31/12/2025</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council bank accounts for January 2026</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To receive and approve the outcomes of the external audits undertaken by Audit Wales for the financial years 2019/20 to 2024/25 (six financial years).</p>
<b>C02602-09</b>	<p><b>Report from the Chair of Finance Committee</b> Cllr Marshall stated that he had no items to report, other than recommendations, agenda item <b>C02602-13</b> refers.</p>
<b>C02602-10</b>	<p><b>Report from the Chair of Environmental Committee</b> Cllr Townsend Jones had previously circulated an environmental report prior to the meeting. Apart from committee recommendations (to be outlined in agenda item <b>C02602-13</b>) Cllr Townsend Jones highlighted key aspects of the report included welcoming Mari Potter, the new ESEO to January's Committee Meeting. She also wished Ashley, the grounds person well following his leg fracture. Other updates and upcoming events included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Repair Café (next meeting 13.3.2026)</li> <li>• Picnic Tables</li> <li>• Buzz and Bloom</li> <li>• Water Quality Testing</li> <li>• Mumbles Gardeners Question Time on 21.3.2026</li> <li>• Bus shelters, with potential sites being provided to Cllr Townsend Jones prior to 28.2.2026</li> </ul> <p>Following Cllr Townsend Jones report' a discussion took place on how best to maintain Ashley's work during his absence through injury. In particular Jubilee Gardens and the raised beds at Underhill Park. A number of options were considered including the use of volunteers and paying a contractor on a temporary basis.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> In the event of payment being required to carry out urgent maintenance work, this will be managed through the devolved powers provided to CO and RFO.</p>
<b>C02602-11</b>	<p><b>Report from the Chair of Culture, Tourism &amp; Communication Committee</b> Cllr Marshall stated that following January's meeting, recommendations will be outlined in agenda item <b>C02602-13</b>. Cllr Marshall also provided updates on St David's Day Celebrations and Mumbles Folk/Blues Festival.</p>

<b>C02602-12</b>	<p><b>Report from the Chair of Community and Social Development Meeting</b> Cllr Scott provided updates on the on-going concerns over graffiti at Mumbles Skate Park and the resurfacing of the Basketball Court at Langland Tennis Courts.</p>
<b>C02602-13</b>	<p><b>To consider Committee Recommendations</b> To consider any recommendations to Council made by the Committees in January 2026.</p> <p>No recommendations made at The Finance and Compliance Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026</p> <p><b>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from The Community &amp; Social Development Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</b></p> <p><b>1)</b> That Prof. Nouri and her colleagues address Councillors prior to the Budget Scrutiny Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Full Council to recommend and approve any proposals arising from Prof. Nouri's presentation and from any subsequent debate by Councillors.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The above proposal was acted upon at The Full Council Meeting held on 26.1.2026.</p> <p><b>2)</b> That an underspend of £1,700 on the Underhill Bollard Lighting budget be vired to the Basketball Court Fencing and Resurfacing budget. If the virement of the underspend was approved by Council, this would reduce the call on the Contingency Budget for the Basketball Court from £9,200 to £7,500.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED:</b> That an underspend of £1,700 on the Underhill Bollard Lighting budget be vired to the Basketball Court Fencing and Resurfacing budget.</p> <p><b>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from The Environmental Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</b> Cllr Townsend Jones the Chair of the Environmental Committee elaborated on both recommendations. Neither recommendation would have any financial implications for MCC but were proposed in order to provide support to the organisation in question, including any future application being made to SCC.</p> <p><b>1) Bicycle Hub Update</b> Cllr Townsend Jones, outlined a request to create a cycle repair hub in Mumbles. This is being initiated through Wheelrights. It is hoped that the hub will incorporate a repair shop and will also provide support for users of skateboards and scooters.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> That MCC provide support for an application to locate a bicycle support hub in Mumbles.</p> <p><b>2) Bethany Gardens</b> Cllr Townsend Jones outlined a request from volunteers associated with Ripples Café who maintain an area known as Bethany Gardens. The volunteers have requested that MCC</p>

	<p>support an initiative that Bethany Gardens be maintained in conjunction with the adjacent Jubilee Gardens.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> That MCC support volunteers in the joint maintenance of Bethany Gardens and Jubilee Gardens.</p> <p><b>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from The Culture, Tourism and Communication Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</b></p> <p>1) <b>Christmas Card Design 2026</b> That Full Council approve a competition for local children to design a Christmas Card on behalf of MCC for Christmas 2026.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> That MCC approve a competition for local children to design a Christmas Card on behalf of MCC for Christmas 2026.</p> <p><b>2) MumblesFest 2026</b></p> <p>Following the date for MumblesFest 2026 being confirmed as 6th June 2026, that all arrangements be delegated to The Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee.</p> <p>Following this original proposal at January's Meeting it was further proposed that in the absence of an events officer the management for MumblesFest should be outsourced to a private company.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed members of Full Council desired that they be regularly updated on developments.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That the management for the running of MumblesFest 2026 be outsourced to a private company and that arrangements for booking the acts and other events be delegated to The Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee.</p>
C02602-14	<p><b>Environmental Committee Bird &amp; Bat</b></p> <p>Cllr Townsend Jones the Chair of the Environmental Committee outlined that £400 had previously been approved for the installation of bird and bat boxes. Due to Ashley currently being unavailable through injury for some weeks and Mari, the Environmental Officer only having recently been appointed additional costs will need to be incurred through an ecologist needing to survey suitable habitats. Any additional cost would be within the existing budget of £1,000.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> That additional funding be approved for funding to create bird and bat boxes from within the existing budget</p>

<p><b>C02602-15</b></p>	<p><b>One Voice Wales – Covid 19 National Day of Reflection Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p> <p>One Voice Wales would like to mark this day in a simple and respectful way by recognising the contribution that community and town councils in Wales, made during that period.</p> <p>Recommended that:</p> <p>a) To receive and approve the request from One Voice Wales</p> <p>b) To formulate a one-paragraph response outlining the initiatives/support MCC provided, what the Council is most proud of, and how this supported the community.</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas and a number of other councillors approved of One Voice Wales commemorating the work carries out within communities during The Covid Pandemic. In addition the good work of councillors and staff within MCC during this period was also highlighted.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive and approve the request from One Voice Wales</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To formulate a one-paragraph response outlining the initiatives/support MCC provided, what the Council is most proud of, and how this supported the community.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Cllr Fogarty will formulate the one-paragraph response on behalf of MCC during the week commencing 16.2.2026. Any contributions from councillors to be provided to Cllr Fogarty before 15.2.2026.</p>
<p><b>C02602-16</b></p>	<p><b>Exclusion of Press and Public</b></p> <p>Following the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that the press and public be excluded from the following item of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> <p>The Chair outlined that the remainder of the meeting needed to be in a 'closed session' due to the sensitive nature of information.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.</p> <p>The recording of the meeting was stopped at 7.34pm, and Cllr Fogarty left the meeting due to her previously declared personal and prejudicial interests at <b>C02602-02</b>.</p>
<p><b>C02602-17</b></p>	<p><b>Underhill Park – Chief Officer Report and Update</b></p> <p>Recommended that:</p> <p>a) To receive and accept the report and update from the Chief Officer relating to Underhill Park.</p> <p>b) To approve the recommendations contained within the report.</p> <p>c) To instruct the Chief Officer to implement the recommendations arising from the report and report back to Council on progress.</p>

	<p>The CO outlined key aspects relating to this report and addressed questions from Councillors.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive and accept the report and update from the Chief Officer relating to Underhill Park.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the six recommendations as contained within the above confidential report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To instruct the Chief Officer to implement the recommendations arising from the report and report back to Council on progress</p>

**Meeting Finished** at 8.13pm

**Next meeting** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**ANNEX A**

To be added