Mumbles Community Council

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

**Members Present:** Cllrs Will Thomas (Chair), Rob Marshall, Martin O'Neill (Vice Chair), Ian Scott, Helen Nelson, Rebecca Fogarty, Laura Gilbert , Hannah Willams Dave Lewis, Tim Zhou, and Richard Jarvis

**Officers Present**: Kerry Grabham – CO, Ceri Willcox – RFO and Ian Hughes - CSO

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| CO2611-01 | **Apologies for Absence**: Cllrs Trevor Car, Carrie Townsend Jones, Phil Keeton, and Sara Keeton |
| CO2611-02 | **Declarations of Interest:**<br>Cllrs Rebecca Fogarty, Hannah Williams and Will Thomas declared personal interests as SCC Councillors in relation to any agenda items pertaining to SCC matters.<br><br>Cllr Will Thomas declared a personal interest in relation to the AWP Bookings Policy (agenda item CO2611-17 refers) through his connection with Mumbles Rangers FC.<br><br>Cllr Fogarty declared a prejudicial interest in relation to the AWP Bookings Policy (agenda item CO2611-17 refers) as a cabinet member of SCC. Arrangements connected to the 50/50 proposals are still subject to future decisions. Cllr Fogarty left the meeting when the agenda item was discussed.<br><br>Cllr Gilbert also declared a prejudicial interest in relation to the AWP Bookings Policy (agenda item CO2611-17 refers) as a senior committee member of Newton Athletic FC. Cllr Gilbert left the meeting when the agenda item was discussed.<br><br>Cllr Williams declared personal interest in relation to the AWP Bookings Policy (agenda item CO2611-17 refers), due to family memberships of Newton Athletic FC and Mumbles Rugby Club.<br><br>Cllr Nelson declared personal interest in relation to the AWP Bookings Policy (agenda item CO2611-17 refers), due to a family membership of Mumbles Rugby Club. |

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| CO2613-03 | **Public Participation**<br>(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.)<br><br>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the procedures for public participation, and no questions had been raised by the public prior to the meeting.<br><br>Although no member of the public was present at the start of the meeting, Mark Hosking joined the meeting at 6.46pm and participated during the agenda item relating to The Mumbles Life Grant Application, CO2611-13 refers. Following this agenda item Mark Hosking left the meeting at 7.13pm. |
| CO2611-04 | **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2026**<br><br>**RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th October 2026 as a true record subject to the above amendment being made.<br><br>Cllr Jarvis joined the meeting at 6.33pm |
| CO2611-05 | **To approve the minutes of the special meeting held on 3rd November 2026**<br><br>**RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 3rd November 2026 as a true record subject to the above amendment being made. |
| CO2611-06 | **Chair's Report**<br><br>Cllr Thomas circulated his report prior to the meeting, which he then outlined during the meeting, a number of significant events included: -<br>• His attendance at Remembrance Sunday commemorations on 8th November together with Vice-Chair, Cllr Martin O'Neill<br>• Regarding Remembrance Sunday special thanks to The Royal British Legion, South Wales Police and All Saints Church<br>• A contractor has been appointed regarding the new bollard lighting at Underhill Park (Langland Road to The Hub)<br>• Thanks to Mari Potter for organising the very successful Peoples Emergency Briefing at West Cross.<br>• On behalf of all Councillors. Cllr Thomas wished to thank all MCC Officers for their contributions to making the many projects and initiatives within MCC such a success. |

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| CO2611-07 | **Chief Officer's Report**<br>The CO, Kerry Grabham circulated her report prior to the meeting, which predominantly focused on work required to assist with funding applications for the Ostreme Centrefunding and delegated authority in relation to the Ostreme Centre.<br><br>Having endorsed the Chair's report, the CO outlined key aspects of her report which was then discussed and agreed upon by Councillors.<br><br>**RESOLVED** To note the work required for the Ostreme Centre Project to assist with funding applications currently being researched by the CO., as set out in the report.<br>**RESOLVED** To approve the transfer of £30,000 from the Ostreme Centre earmarked reserve into the 2026/27 budget, under a dedicated project cost centre.<br>**RESOLVED** To delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Ostreme Centre working group, to commission and spend within that £30,000, in line with the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.<br>**RESOLVED** To receive a progress and spend report at each ordinary Council meeting until the budget is spent.<br><br>Cllr Nelson left the meeting at 6.38pm |
| CO2611-08 | **Financial Report – October 2026**<br>**Recommended that:**<br>a) The Payments made by the RFO in October 2026 are retrospectively approved.<br>b) The bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council's bank accounts in October 2026 are retrospectively approved.<br>c) Budget monitoring reports from July to September 2026 are approved<br><br>The RFO had circulated reports prior to the meeting commencing and addressed questions from Councillors.<br><br>The RFO explained that they were in the process of arranging a 'savings account' for MCC which will accrue greater interest on the money held in the existing bank account.<br><br>**RESOLVED:** To retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO in October 2026.<br><br>**RESOLVED:** To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Bank Accounts for October 2026<br><br>**RESOLVED:** To approve the budget monitoring reports from July to September 2026.<br><br>Cllr Nelson returned to the meeting at 6.40pm |

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| **CO2611-09** | **Report from the Chair of Finance including the following recommendations:**<br><br>Cllr Tim Zhou, the Chair of the Finance and Compliance Meeting set out his report which consisted of two recommendations from his committee in relation to grant applications.<br><br>**1. Shelter Cymru Grant Application**<br>Grant Application for £500 to contribute towards helping people in need of housing<br>The Finance Committee noted that previous applications had been received in 1996, 2008 and 2015. Whilst the application stated that two families in Mumbles would benefit, the committee believed that there was a lack of information and a lack of detail as to how the allocated money would benefit the recipients. However, Councillors were in support of the aims contained within the application and noted the relatively low cost of the application.<br><br>Full Council were supportive of this application and highlighted housing concerns within MCC. It was noted that the applicant is part of a national organisation and funding from other Councils would be desirable.<br><br>**RECOMMENDED** That a Grant of £500 be awarded to Shelter Cymru to contribute towards helping people in need of housing. Council (MCC) requested that other Councils be approached for funding and that the applicant provides feedback on how the money was spent.<br>From **Budget FC1** Small and Medium Grants.<br><br>**2. Story of Mumbles Grant Application**<br>Grant Application for £3, 500 to contribute towards commemorating the 80th anniversary of The Samtampa Disaster.<br>During the discussion at the committee meeting Councillors noted that other awards had been approved to commemorate the 80th anniversary of The Samtampa Disaster. However, it was the consensus of that committee that the commemorating of the Samtampa Disaster is a significant event and that residents of MCC would expect MCC to support the application which, unlike earlier applications will support local communities, particularly schools in recognising the importance of the event.<br><br>Full Council were in agreement with the above views of the committee<br><br>**RECOMMENDED** That a Grant for £3,500 be awarded to The Story of Mumbles to commemorate the 80th anniversary of The Samtampa Disaster.<br>From **Budget FC1** Small and Medium Grants.<br><br>Mark Hosking joined the meeting at 6.40pm |

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| CO2611-10 | **Report from the Chair of Properties & Facilities Committee**<br><br>The chair of the committee, Cllr Will Thomas informed Full Council that no committee meeting had taken place in October 2026 and that there were no updates for Councillors. |
| CO2611-11 | **Report from the Chair of Environmental Committee**<br><br>The CO outlined key aspects from the Chair's (Cllr Sara Keeton) report including the following:-<br>.<br>• Bulb planting underway at West Cross with Councillors and volunteers participating. Special thanks to Mari and Gabriel for their contributions.<br>• Climate Emergency Film screening at West Cross Community Centre on 6th November at 7.30pm was a great success and a viewing of the film is highly recommended. |
| CO2611-12 | **Report from Chair of Culture, Tourism & Communication Committee.**<br><br>Cllr Marshall provided the following updates:-<br>• An events strategy can now be progressed following the appointment of an Events Officer..<br>• 26th November 2026 – MCC sponsored 'Land Train' followed by Mumbles Lights being switched on which will include presentations of Honour of Mumbles awards.<br>• It is hoped to have additional capacity for Land Train event which has been fully booked.<br>• Cllr Marshall noted that there are numerous events being organised within MCC over Christmas, in addition to these being sponsored through MCC and encouraged everyone to support all events. |
| CO2611-13 | **To consider the Grant Application from Mumbles Life**<br><br>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the background to this application which included presentations from Mumbles Life to both the Culture Committee and Full Council. This grant application had previously been deferred pending legal advice as to whether MCC could award grants to private companies. The advice has since been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. In essence the advice allows for grants to be provided to private companies although MCC should be mindful of the guidance provided within the legal advice.<br><br>In addition to acknowledging the legal advice Councillors needed to consider one of the following options:- |

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- **Option 1: Award the grant of £5,000, subject to conditions.** Payment would only be made once a written grant agreement had been signed, as the legal advice recommends. The agreement could cover the permitted use of the funds, delivery milestones (with payment in stages if preferred), evidence of spend, a report on the app's use and benefit to the community, recognition of the Council's support, and repayment of any funds not used for the agreed purpose.
- **Option 2: Award a reduced amount**, subject to the same conditions, for a defined part of the project.
- **Option 3: Decline the application**, giving reasons, for example that Members are not satisfied the direct benefit to the community is commensurate with the expenditure, or that the grant would mainly benefit a private business.

The Chair noted the applicant, Mark Hosking was in attendance and proposed suspending Standing Orders whilst Mr Hosking could address questions from Councillors.

**RESOLVED:** To suspend standing orders at 7.08pm

In answer to Councillors questions Mr Hosking confirmed that he had received information on how to obtain a grant from SCC, however this is a complex and time-consuming process, and that he hopes to apply for a SCC grant in the future.

**RESOLVED:** To re-instate standing orders at 7.10pm

Councillors believed that this is a worthwhile project and that MCC is not currently in a position to undertake such a task themselves. Councillors suggested that should Mumbles Life cease to promote the website, then MCC should be offered an opportunity to take ownership of the project.

**RESOLVED:** To note the legal advice received from One Voice Wales dated 10 September 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That Mumbles Life be requested to transfer their interest in the website to MCC in the event of it closing/not being progressed

**RECOMMENDED** That a Grant for £5,000 be awarded to Mumbles Life, subject to conditions. Payment would only be made once a written grant agreement had been signed, as the legal advice recommends. The agreement could cover the permitted use of the funds, delivery milestones (with payment in stages if preferred), evidence of spend, a report on the app's use and benefit to the community, recognition of the Council's support, and repayment of any funds not used for the agreed purpose.
From **Budget FC1** Small and Medium Grants.

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| CO2611-14 | **To consider a virement of £700 from Culture budget for Essence of Mumbles Photography competition**<br><br>Cllrs Zhou and O'Neill set out how the previously allocated budgets had been spent. This included the printing of the photographs, framing the winning selection, awards being provided together with costs associated with the hiring of venues.<br><br>Over 200 photographs have been printed from the two previous competitions and Councillors discussed how best to make use of these items. Ideas included auctioning/selling the photos and creating a digital archive,<br><br>Councillors considered that The Essence of Mumbles is a highly successful competition and is very good value for the money proposed.<br><br>**RESOLVED:** For any future use of the photographs relating to the exhibitions to be considered by the Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee<br><br>**RESOLVED:** To vire £700 from the Culture budget for the Essence of Mumbles Photography competition<br><br>Mark Hosking left the meeting at 7.13pm |
| CO2611-15 | **To consider Welsh Government's Consultation for Culture & Sports in Wales**<br><br>The CO outlined a report which had previously been circulated to Councillors seeking approval of a brief evidence submission to One Voice Wales in response to the Welsh Government's call for evidence on a new Vision for Culture and Sport in Wales. It proposes Underhill Park and Hub as the Council's case study.<br><br>Councillors were supportive of this report but considered that other events/projects should be included in addition to Underhill Park and The Hub. Items suggested included, Mumblesfest, Wellbeing Festival, Essence of Mumbles, Langland Basketball / Tennis and The Mumbles Folk Festival.<br><br>**RESOLVED** To approve the draft submission at Appendix A, with the amendments proposed above by Councillors, and authorise the Chief Officer to send it to One Voice Wales by 25 November 2026. |

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| **CO2611-16** | **To consider the appointment of a School Governor for Oystermouth Primary School**<br><br>Cllr Fogarty proposed that Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones continue in her role as School Governor at Oystermouth Primary School. This was seconded by Cllr Nelson.<br><br>**RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones as School Governor at Oystermouth Primary School. |
| **CO2611-17** | **To consider & approve the AWP Bookings Policy**<br><br>Cllrs Fogarty and Gilbert left the meeting at 7.21pm due to their prejudicial interest as previously outlined at **CO2611-02**<br><br>The CO set out the background and key factors to this policy which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.<br><br>During the discussion that followed, Councillors considered that whilst it was acceptable to continue the booking process in the short-term to accommodate the existing contingencies further alterations including time slots would need to be considered at December's meeting following further consultation with the clubs in question.<br><br>**RESOLVED** To maintain the existing booking procedure until the end of the current season (April 2027) subject to the following resolution:-<br><br>**RESOLVED** To obtain additional information for clubs using Underhill Park in order to assess future booking policies at December's Full Council Meeting. Additional information includes the numbers of participants, their ages (as the space required this is dependant upon the ages of participants) and frequency of use.<br><br>Cllrs Fogarty and Gilbert returned to the meeting at 7.37pm |
| **CO2611-18** | **Be Ready campaign – Community Emergency Preparedness**<br><br>The CO outlined a report in relation to the UK Government's new Be Ready Emergency Preparedness Campaign. It asks the Council to agree on how it will promote the campaign locally, and whether to set up a Volunteer Community Support Group to help residents prepare for and cope with emergencies in Mumbles. This report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.<br><br>The UK Government published its Be Ready Campaign and checklist on 22 October 2026. The campaign covers the whole of the UK, including Wales, and is available in Welsh. Its message is that simple, low-cost steps can help people cope with emergencies and the disruption they cause. The Government has stressed that people should be "alert but not alarmed". |

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| | Councillors discussed the report and the specific implications for MCC being a coastal area. It was noted that during the recent summer, wildfires and electricity power cuts had impacted on local residents.<br><br>Generally, Councillors were supportive of the report, following the unpreparedness of the COVID Pandemic. Whilst concerns were raised over the aims of the Westminster Government, the general consensus was that it was wise to prepare for an emergency even if the nature and response to such an emergency is uncertain.<br><br>Options were discussed and a number of Councillors including Cllrs Thomas, Marshall and Fogarty offered to participate in any future Working Group.<br><br>**RESOLVED** to note the UK Government's Be Ready campaign.<br><br>**RESOLVED** to promote the Be Ready campaign and set up a volunteer Community Support Group, as set out in this report.<br><br>**RESOLVED** to authorises officers to contact Swansea Council's emergency planning team and Bishopston Community Council, and to prepare role descriptions, terms of reference and a Community Emergency Plan for approval at a future meeting; and<br><br>**RESOLVED** to agree to setting-up a budget of up to £1,500.00 |

**Meeting Finished** at 7.56pm

**Next meeting** 8th December 2026

**ANNEX A**

To be added

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