

**Minutes of Meeting of the  
Environmental Committee  
held on 26 June 2023 at 6.30 pm  
(Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Zoom)**

**Councillors Present:** Helen Nelson (Chair), Rebecca Fogarty, Mike Parkin and Sara Keeton

**Co-Opted Members:** Chris Evans

**Officer Present:** Lydia Graham and Ian Hughes

**EN2306-01 Apologies:** Carrie Townsend Jones and Ed Hall

**EN2306-02 Declarations of Interest** None

**EN2306-03 Election of a vice chair** Cllr Rebecca Fogarty proposed Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones as vice-chair, this was seconded by Cllr Mike Parkin

**RESOLVED** it was agreed that Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones be appointed as vice-chair.

**EN2306-04 Committee Budget** the budget was discussed including the carrying over of budgets into the current financial year from 2022/23. Helen explained that Paul Beynon RFO will know the amounts that have been carried forward to 2023/24 once the annual accounts have been completed.

**RESOLVED** it was agreed to pick this up in the July Committee meeting, if the figures are ready from Paul.

**EN2306-05 Committee Work Plan** Helen and Lydia outlined the Committee Work Plan which had previously been supplied to those present; emphasising the need to have greater accountability between the budget and individual councillors being 'signed up' to implement the actions in question.

A discussion ensued regarding the addition of a column within the Committee Work Plan Table that would provide a deadline for councillors to complete actions. This would also enable officers, particularly Lydia to monitor deadlines. It was also suggested that a sustainability plan be created in relation to MCC's 'carbon footprint' e.g. use of power within Ostreme; which could be incorporated into The Committee Work Plan or as a separate document.

Lastly Helen outlined the importance of the key 'Big Issues' within the Committee Work Plan.

**ACTION** – it was agreed by all that Helen had prepared an excellent Committee Work Plan. Helen to include a carbon reduction line in the work plan and Lydia to follow up with 'sustainability plan' on how MCC could run and improve the environmental management of the office and activities.

**EN2306-06 Appointing councillors to specific role leads** Discussion on the need for individual councillors to take a lead on issues. In addition, the importance of a three-year rolling budget was emphasised ensuring that all the wards within MCC receive their fair share of resources, irrespective of which councillor is taking the lead on a particular issue. The possibility of holding the next Environmental Committee Meeting at The Wildflower Café was discussed, this would provide an opportunity to invite partners to network, create an opportunity to update MCC website with suitable photographs and purchase wild flower seeds and bulbs.

**ACTION** – Mike, Sara and Carrie to review topics with a view to specific roles being designated at next meeting.  
Helen to lead on The Mayals Litter Pick, Gardeners Question Time, and Mumbles Green Champions.  
Rebecca will show an interest and support the 'lead' councillor in summer of fun and benches.  
Chris Evans to lead on **glyphosate reduction and** bulb & wildflower planting. Rebecca agreed to assist Chris in placing benches on empty plinths at Blackpill Lido.

All councillors to support bulb and wildflower planting for their ward.

Next Environmental Meeting in July to be held at Wildflower Café, with partners and stake holders being invited. Lists of those attending to be forwarded to Lydia.

**EN2306-07 Supporting glyphosate reduction**  
It was discussed that supporting glyphosate reduction should have a title of 'Bee Friendly Streets'. A communication strategy was discussed, highlighting the benefits of not using glyphosate, and incorporating this with weeding days, whilst informing the public of the benefits with weeds including pollinating.  
The use of professional videos to highlight the issues was discussed using both councillors in their gardens and schoolchildren. Any use of schoolchildren would need to be done prior to the end of the Summer Term.

**Recommended** that as part of the programme to support glyphosate reduction (**Bee Friendly Street Project**) a professional video recording should be made as part of a communication strategy to highlight environmental issues.

The video will include the participation of schoolchildren and councillors in their gardens. Cllr Will Thomas will provide Council with an accurate quote which will not exceed £1,000. (From Climate Emergency Budget)

Lydia, Sara and Helen to liaise with local schools regarding availability and willingness to participate in producing a video. Any such arrangements to be arranged before Full Council Meeting due limited time available,

Lydia and Sara to identify six weeds suitable for highlighting in video.

**EN2306-08 Environment Officer – Monthly Report on current projects and overview**

Lydia stated that she had attended a Woodland Management Course and how this was particularly relevant to Oystermouth Castle paths. A discussion took place around an apparent loss of momentum in relation to volunteers assisting. Social media advertising is already sufficient, but volunteers and other environmental issues to be encouraged through the use of a stall/stand at MumblesFest.

**ACTION** – Sara to provide gazebo for Lydia to use at an Environmental Stall at MumblesFest.

**EN2306-09 Mumbles Fest**

Discussion relating to plastic free event and how ten waste bins and one staff member had been arranged for the festival. In addition, a clearing-up operation to be carried out the following day between 6am and 11.30am

**ACTION** – Posters encouraging everyone attending to make use of recycling and waste bins to be displayed during the festival. Lydia to liaise with Claire Anderson and Rob Marshall to get a staff at Mumbles Fest. Make sure that the event MC encourages festival go-ers to use the recycling bins. In addition, encouraging participants to volunteer at the clear-up operation, with parents possibly being contacted through WhatsApp groups requesting that their children assist. Incentives include the provision of badges and free entry for the festival itself.

**EN2306-10 Benches for skatepark**

The merits of retaining the benches currently located at The Skatepark discussed, in addition other venues considered for benches including Blackpill Lido and Jubilee Gardens.

**Recommended** that six plastic benches be purchased, five to be located at the new Skate Park and the sixth at Jubilee Gardens. Quotes to be provided by Ian Hughes prior to the meeting. (From Civic Amenity Budget Budget)

**EN2306-11 Clyne gazebo update** Helen raised that progress was being made on the Clyne Gazebo. Previously MCC had secured 3 quotes for a wooden gazebo/shelter at Clyne Gardens as the plastic tent structures are being destroyed in storms. Three quotes had been sought in 2022 all of which were in excess of £20,000. A fourth quote had recently been provided around £8,000 (roofing materials TBC). Helen noted that £6,000 had been carried forward from the social and development committee to the environmental committee into 2023/24. Helen was working with Friends of Clyne, Teifion the Head Gardener of Clyne and Coeden Fach to finalise plans for the gazebo. The proposed size was 5mx5m and it would be located where the current plastic tents were, on the main path near the toilets. We were finalising the design and materials (timber frame, roofing TBC); planning permission may need to be secured. Helen would bring a final design back to the committee and ask for advice on planning permission which would need to be taken forward under MCC's name. Rebecca shared advice that she'd previously had from Ceri Davies at Swansea City Council about planning permission.

**ACTION** - Rebecca to share with Helen the advice from Swansea City Council. Helen to bring further updates to the Committee once the design and planning permission were clarified. In addition, Helen to liaise with Paul Beynon over finances to ensure that the £6,000 was c/f from social and development into this year's environmental committee.

**Date of next meeting**

**EN2306-12** 24 July 2022 at Wildflower Café.