



Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 11 December 2023 at 6.40 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams

Councillors Present Helen Nelson (Chair), Rebecca Fogarty, Martin O'Neill, Carrie Townsend Jones, and Emelie Cox.

Co-opted member present: Eddie Hall

Officers Present: Paul Beynon - RFO, Lydia Graham - Environmental Officer, Martin Russell - Grounds person and Ian Hughes - Committee Support Officer (CSO)

Prior to the meeting commencing The Chair, Cllr. Nelson introduced Martin Russell the MCC Grounds person to all committee members.

EN2312-01 Apologies: Cllrs. Sara Keeton and Michael Parkin

EN2312-02 Declarations of Interest: None

EN2312-03 Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 27 November 2023 as a true record which was proposed by Cllr. Townsend Jones and seconded Cllr. O'Neill.



EN2312-04 Actions from previous meeting update

The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of 'actions' to committee members.

RESOLVED: Outstanding actions updated and shown as complete where appropriate; details recorded in 'action' report, together with newly created actions arising from outstanding actions.

EN2312-05 Budget Monitoring Report to 31/10/2023 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Paul Beynon, the RFO stated that the Budget Monitoring Report would be circulated to committee members in due course and will be outlined during the January 2024 Meeting.

EN2312-07 Update Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:

Due to November's Committee Meeting only taking place two weeks previously Lydia Graham, The Environmental Officer had updated the November Report and circulated to committee members.

Lydia updated the committee on key points and developments, including the budget proposal for Jubilee Gardens.

Lydia will be meeting with Cllr Nelson before April to discuss plans for a MCC 'Gardeners Question Time' and Mumbles Buzz and Bloom. It is hoped that there will be a number of categories and that committee members together with other suitable judges will preside over proceedings.

ACTION; Cllr Nelson and Lydia to compile a final list of categories, suitable judges and approach external judges such as Clyne Gardens Head Gardener Teifion. Another project for 2024 discussed was Mumbles Green Heros, and how recycling together with the participation of Plastic Free Mumbles could be included.

ACTION: Cllr Fogarty to contact Ennea Smith of Plastic Free Mumbles regarding participation.



As part of her update Lydia provided an update on her action to contact primary schools within MCC to utilise the Environmental Grant Fund of £500 per school. Despite numerous previous attempts Lydia had only received positive responses from three primary schools, (Oystermouth, Mayals and Whitestone) two of which have yet to supply relevant bank details.

AGREED that all primary schools within MCC to be informed that unless schools take up the offer of the Environmental Grant it will cease to be provided in the future.

With regard to the current Environmental Grant Fund the following schools to be 'chased up' by the following councillors:-

ACTION: Cllr Fogarty to request Cllr Erasmus to chase up Whitestone

ACTION: Cllr Sara Keeton to chase up Grange

ACTION: Cllr Fogarty to chase up St David's

ACTION: Cllr Nelson to chase up Llwynderw

ACTION:CSO to request either Cllr Thomas or Cllr Marshall chase up Newton

AGREED that Lydia's updated report be accepted.

Cllr Townsend Jones left the meeting at 7.33pm whilst Lydia updated the committee.

EN2312-08

Update Grounds Person - Report on current projects and overview-Martin Russell

Martin Russell provided a detailed account of his work since commencing work as MCC's Grounds Person in April 2023. His main areas of work currently involve Castle Orchard, the Nature Reserve, Jubilee Gardens, and Langland Tennis Courts. The work carried out by Martin has been varied and ranges from regular low maintenance at Langland Tennis Courts to planning a full restoration of Jubilee Gardens. The re-pathing of footways with bark chippings in Castle Orchard is just one project involving volunteers and it was **AGREED** that selective photographs should continue to be used in advertising the work of MCC and the participation of volunteers. It was also **AGREED** that Lydia will provide monthly round ups on the MCC Website of the environmental work carried out by MCC, to highlight such work and attract additional volunteers.



During the discussions on how best to develop the various areas around MCC the following actions were created: -

ACTION: Cllr Nelson to liaise with Claire Anderson over highlighting work of Environmental Committee and volunteers in forthcoming MCC Newsletters.

ACTION: Lydia Graham to liaise with Claire Anderson over signs.

ACTION: Martin, Lydia and RFO to liaise over purchase of signs and noticeboards.

ACTION: Martin to obtain quotes on picnic benches, benches and wood carvings for January Meeting.

The Committee found Martin's contribution very informative.

AGREED Martin Russell to provide an update to Committee bi-monthly

EN2312-06 Budget 2024/25 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Paul Beynon, the RFO outlined the budget spreadsheet to committee members detailing current and proposed budgets. The draft budget for 2024/25 was discussed in detail.

RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2024/25 shown in Appendix 1 be recommended to Council at the budget meeting to be held in January 2024.

Meeting concluded at 8.05pm



Appendix 1

Environmental Committee – Draft Budget 2024/25

Item	Amount £	RFO Auth
Civic Amenities – Street Furniture	7,500	
Bulbs and Wildflower Planting	1,200	
School Environmental Projects	3,500	
E&SEO - Resources	4,000	✓
Grass Verge Scheme	2,100	
Castle Woods Paths – Grant Match Funding	20,000	
Norton Nature Reserve	1,000	
Climate Emergency	5,000	
Groundsperson – Maintenance Resources	4,000	✓
Mumbles Buzz and Bloom	500	
Mumbles Gardener's Question Time	1,000	
Clyne Gardens – Play Equipment and Gazebo	6,000	
Mumbles Green Heroes	600	
Children's Marine Environmental Events	800	
Electric Van for Groundsperson	6,500	
Jubilee Garden	5,000	
Fairwood Park – Pond Project	1,500	
Total Expenditure	70,200	
Less Earmarked Reserves from 2023/24		
Castle Woods Paths – Grant Match Funding	-20,000	
Climate Emergency	-4,000	
Mumbles Buzz and Bloom	-500	
Clyne Gardens – Play Equipment and Gazebo	-6,000	
Total Earmarked Reserve	-30,500	
Environmental – Draft Budget 2024/25	39,700	