



Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 25 June 2024 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams

Councillors Present Carrie Townsend Jones (Chair), Phil Keeton (Vice Chair), and Helen Nelson

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham – The Clerk, Lydia Graham – Environmental Officer and Ian Hughes – CSO.

The meeting commenced at 6.39pm upon Cllr Helen Nelson joining, the meeting not being quorate prior to that stage.

EN2406-01 Apologies: Cllr. Sara Keeton

EN2406-02 Declarations of Interest: None

EN2406-03 Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2024 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21st May 2024 as a true record.

EN2406-04 Actions from previous meetings update

The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of 'actions' to committee members. Discussions took place on a number of outstanding and proposed new actions.

During these discussions Cllr Helen Nelson left the meeting at 6.58pm returning at 7pm, during this period the meeting was suspended as it was not quorate.

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



EN2406-05 Budget Monitoring Report to 30/04/2024 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to committee members, and no questions relating to the budget reports had been provided either to CSO or The RFO prior to the meeting.

The CSO made reference to the new design of the reports, devised by The RFO to simplify the understanding of reports for committee members.

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones highlighted the need for any underspends on committee budgets to be utilised and that options on how to spend budgets will be discussed at July's Meeting when The RFO will be present.

Cllr Townsend Jones also noted that grant applications in relation to Castle Woods and Washinghouse Brook Paths will be considered in July by SCC and that MCC will await the outcome of that application prior to allocating any funding.

Cllr Helen Nelson informed the committee that the proposed siting of a gazebo in Clyne Gardens was being considered by The Planning department of SCC.

No questions were raised at the meeting in relation to the financial reports however The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones noted that the new 'colour coded' budgeting reports prepared by The RFO were a great improvement, being more straightforward, quicker and easier to understand. All councillors present agreed. Cllr Helen Nelson left the meeting at 7.04pm returning at 7.08pm, during this period the meeting was suspended as it was not quorate.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 30 April 2024.

EN2406-06 Jubilee Gardens Budget

Lydia Graham stated that an evaluation has been tendered, however, an ecological report too expensive and no one is available to do the work this year. Instead, we will do a "bioblitz" with volunteers to assess "biodiversity" with volunteers to assess biodiversity and ecology of the area on 4th July before clearing takes place



EN2406-07 Mumbles Buzz and Bloom

Lydia Graham stated that take-up on the competition had been disappointing and she outlined her efforts to encourage greater public participation through publicity including the display of banners and the use of social media. Lydia was previously actioned to promote the event and a discussion between councillors ensued on how best to achieve greater participation.

The use of posters at local schools was considered together with information being included within school newsletters. Prizes were discussed with the proposal of a cup for the overall winner suggested.

Cllr Helen Nelson's screen froze between 7.27pm and 7.28pm, during this period the meeting was suspended as it was not quorate.

ACTION: Lydia to email Claire Anderson, the events officer with a view to posters being circulated to schools and a request that school newsletters include this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION: that £30 gift vouchers for Cash Hardware be provided to each of the six category winners together with a certificate and that a cup or shield be provided for the overall winner with the cup/shield being engraved with the winner's name. To be presented on an annual basis.

Funding (£180 plus cost of certificates and shield/cup) to be provided through Mumbles Buzz and Bloom Budget and approved by The Clerk/RFO.

Budget Code - ENV26

EN2406-08 The Big Climate Leap Action Plan

Lydia outlined how Mr Sonny Khan the project manager at Swansea's Environmental Centre had provided a presentation at June's Full Council Meeting. Mr Khan had explained that there were a number of tiers in the process of analysing the impact of the Council's actions, and that the starting point consisted of considering the Council's expenditure. From these initial assessments hotspots would be identified. Lydia stated that there were a number of benefits from Mr Khan's involvement including highlighting good practice and taking forward's MCC's commitment to the climate emergency.



EN2406-09 Promoting volunteer days

Lydia outlined the difficulties in recruiting volunteers to assist MCC with volunteer days.

A discussion took place on options to improve volunteer numbers including greater use of schoolchildren through schools. Parents and children volunteer sessions during the summer period was also suggested

ACTION: Cllr Townsend Jones to address concerns in her monthly chair's report to Full Council.

EN2406-10 Summer Mumbles Green Heroes

Lydia detailed how Gareth Richard of The Gower Seal Society will be the key speaker at the next meeting, which is to be held at The Hub, Underhill Park, 24th July 2024 between 5.50 and 7.30pm. Gareth will be providing some fascinating facts about Atlantic Grey Seals to a maximum of 50 people. Some of Gareth's slides may be unsuitable for younger children as seals are pictured in distressed situations including being trapped in plastic objects such as frisbees.

Although Lydia has a number of future speakers prepared a discussion took place on other suitable speakers. Any suggestions to be e-mailed to Lydia.

EN2406-11 Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:

Summary of previous months activity and next steps for June.

Lydia Graham, The Environmental Officer had previously arranged for the June Report to be circulated to all committee members.

Lydia had provided an update on most aspects of her report in earlier agenda items. Additional items included:-

- SCC being 'chased up' again in relation to waste containers.
- The next litter picking day arranged for the 7th July 2024 will need to be re-arranged to 27th July 2024 due to the original date clashing with the Wales Air Show in Swansea.
- Lydia to meet with Ashley, the new grounds person in the near future to finalise ideas for Jubilee Gardens

**EN2406-12 Environmental Action Plan 2024/25**

Cllr Townsend Jones noted that members of the committee need to consider suitable projects for spending. These should be under the appropriate budget header which will form part of The Action Plan which in turn will be assessed at each monthly meeting. This will be discussed at July's Committee Meeting when the RFO will be present and proposed spending will be given priority when scheduling the agenda.

EN2406-13 MCC Website - SA1

Lydia stated that a feedback form had been inserted onto Teams with a view to suitable recommendations being made in relation to SA1, all committee members to familiarise themselves with the document.

Cllr Phil Keeton made reference to social media posts and SA1, The Clerk confirmed that this aspect was already in hand through a Culture Committee query.

Cllr Townsend Jones commented on the lack of bilingual posters/banners for the recent MumblesFest, again The Clerk stated that whilst the Welsh speaking acts had been very successful issues around bilingual advertisement were being addressed.

EN2406-14 Re-cycling Update, including site visit date to be fixed

A discussion took place on how best to progress a site visit to a recycling plant. The general consensus of the committee was to incorporate a site visit as part of Green Heroes event. No additional action created but a future visit possibly in September to be arranged as part of an ongoing action.

Meeting concluded at 7.59pm

Next Meeting 22nd July 2024