



## **Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 22 July 2024 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams**

**Councillors Present** Carrie Townsend Jones (Chair), Phil Keeton (Vice Chair), Sara Keeton, Mike Parkin, and Helen Nelson

**Co-Opted Members Present** Chris Evans

**Officers Present:** Paul Beynon – RFO, Lydia Graham – Environmental Officer, Ashley Haynes – Grounds Person and Ian Hughes – CSO.

**EN2407-01 Apologies:** Cllr. Emilie Cox

**EN2407-02 Declarations of Interest:** None  
Co-opted member, Chris Evans arrived

**EN2407-03 Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Committee**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as a true record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as a true record.

**EN2407-04 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.

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

Cllr Helen Nelson arrived at 6.45pm



#### **EN2407-05 Budget Monitoring Report to 31/05/2024 - Paul Beynon, RFO**

Prior to the budget report being discussed, The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones welcomed and introduced Ashley Haynes the new ground person. Ashley provided a brief outline of his life and career to date. Cllr Townsend Jones then paid tribute to Lydia Graham who will be leaving her role as MCC's Environmental Officer in August 2024 to undertake a MSc Course at Cardiff University.

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 RFO highlighted key aspects of the reports including outstanding expenses/invoices appearing in the following budget report. A discussion took place on how any budgets to be vired will be recommended at The September Meeting for Full Council approval. The cost of purchasing seeds and bulbs was discussed and it was agreed that Ashley Haynes, the grounds person will create a list of purchases in the future.

**RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report to 31 May 2024.

#### **EN2407-06 Budget 2025/26**

The RFO had previously set out at Full Council the importance of a budgeting timetable for the remainder of the financial year, looking ahead through planning at committees and the early submission of budget proposal forms which will be circulated by The RFO this week.

The RFO set out key aspects from this timetable. Councillors should prepare and research proposals prior to September's Meeting when a clear indication of proposals should be established, with a view to a budget scrutiny meeting being held in December 2024. A Special Meeting will take place in early 2025 to agree the Precept and budget for the 2025/26 financial year, before being submitted to SCC for approval by 31/01/2024.

A discussion took place on suitable proposals including how projects should be long-term with involvement of the whole community particularly children and young people. The budgeting requirement should be planned in conjunction with Environmental Action Plan for 2024/25.



**AGREED:** to use the current budget for Climate Emergency to fund associated projects including seed and bulb planting.

**ACTION:** Cllr Sara Keeton to prepare a proposal on how children and young people can be involved in current and future projects.

**ACTION:** Cllr Phil Keeton to research 'Bee Friendly Streets' with a view to a budget proposal form being completed prior to September's Meeting.

**ACTION:** Cllr Helen Nelson to research ideas for out of school activities for children aged between 11 and 14 yrs.

**ACTION:** Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones to research identifying relevant interesting areas within MCC for guided walks. Similar to those conducted by Teifion at Clyne Park and Shaun at Mumbles Hill. These walks to be integrated with Green Heroes Field Trips.

**ACTION:** Ashley Haynes, working with Councillors to identify suitable bulbs/seeds for planting in all MCC Wards.

**RECOMMENDED:** At least one Councillor from each of the wards to be identified at Full Council for the purpose of liaising with Ashley Haynes, including site visits in order to identify suitable planting areas for bulbs and seeds.

**ACTION:** Cllr Mike Parkin to complete a budget proposal form in relation to recycling.

**RESOLVED** to approve the budget timetable 2024/25 and commence discussions on the budget at the September 2024 Committee meeting.

#### **EN2407-07 Environmental Action Plan 2024/25**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones noted that Lydia Graham had carried out an excellent piece of work in preparing a comprehensive 52-page Action Plan. The report is well-structured with headings and outcomes which are linked with current budget proposals.



**ACTION:** each of the committee members to scrutinise the report and provide feedback to The Chair.

### **Jubilee Gardens Budget**

**EN2407-08**

Lydia Graham stated that no maintenance agreement was in place with SCC for the gardens. Such an agreement is necessary prior to the work on Jubilee Gardens commencing. The funding is required to be spent prior to the end of October 2024 and an extension may not be possible.

**ACTION** The Clerk and Lydia Graham to obtain an update on whether a maintenance agreement can be provided by SCC and also whether an extension beyond October 2024 is possible by the funders.

### **Mumbles Buzz and Bloom**

**EN2407-09**

Lydia Graham stated that currently only five entries had been received and if sufficient numbers had not been submitted by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 the competition will need to be curtailed or cancelled.

A discussion took place on the reasons for such a low take-up. This included too much emphasis in IT which may have excluded a significant number of the target audience and also the lack of involvement of councillors compared to previous years.

**ACTION:** CSO to create an agenda item for September Meeting when feedback can be discussed and options including a steering group considered for future events.

### **The Big Climate Leap Action Plan**

**EN2407-10**

Lydia outlined how she needed to update relevant contacts in light of her impending departure from MCC. The Big Climate Leap Action Plan will form part of her 'handover' to her successor.



**EN2407-11 Promoting volunteer days**

Lydia outlined that herself and Ashley did not reside in MCC area and that seeking support in an informal way by Councillors meeting residents and promoting volunteer days in 'passing' would perhaps be more successful than advertising it through MCC Website and other social media outlets.

**EN2407-12 Summer Mumbles Green Heroes**

Lydia confirmed that the next Green Heroes Event is at the Hub in Underhill on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm when an excellent presentation on Gower seals will be delivered.

**EN2407-13 Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:**

Summary of previous months activity and next steps August and September. Report attached.

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

Lydia explained that due to finishing with MCC in August 2024 she would be pre-occupied in the interim period with Jubilee Gardens, Mumbles Buzz and Bloom and Summer Fun Days.

**EN2407-14 Sign post location for Norton Nature Reserve**

Discussion took place on the location for signposts. The consensus of the committee was that there should be three signs, one at the entrance to The Reserve with two further signs providing directions on the Promenade. The signs are to include logos of relevant parties including MCC, Welsh Government and The National Lottery. During the discussion Ashley Haynes agreed to put a sign on the water fountain in Clyne Park.

**ACTION:** Lydia Graham to obtain permission from SCC for erecting the three signposts.



**EN2407-15 MCC Website - SA1**

Deferred to September Meeting

**EN2407-16 Re-cycling visit date to be fixed**

Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones detailed how she has been liaising with Cyril Anderson of SCC and anticipated that an initial visit for 10 to 12 Councillors/Committee Members will be made in the near future. Following this visit a further visit for additional Councillors may be arranged.

**ACTION:** Cllr Carrie Townsend Jones to take over responsibility for arranging the site visit from Lydia Graham.

**EN2407-17 Woodland Trust, Free Tree packs**

A discussion took place on utilising free saplings from Woodland Trust in order to create a 362m hedge at Mumbles Skatepark. Hardy native species were the preferred option of the committee contained within 'Wild Wood' Packs which include evergreen trees. Three packs each containing 420 saplings would be sufficient and there would be no budgetary considerations.

**ACTION** Ashley Haynes to acquire three pack of 'Wild Wood' once authority has been obtained from SCC to plant the hedge.

**Meeting concluded at 8.19pm**

**Next Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**