

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 28 October 2024 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams

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

Co-opted Members Present: Chris Evans and Ed Hall

Officers Present: Paul Beynon (RFO/Assistant Clerk and Robert Hernando (Environmental and Sustainability Engagement Officer)

EN2410-01 Apologies: None

EN2410-02 Declarations of Interest: None

EN2410-03 Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2024 as a true record.

Cllr Helen Nelson joined the meeting at 18.36.

EN2410-04 Actions arising from Previous Meetings

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

EN2410-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/08/2024

Financial reports prepared by RFO, Paul Beynon had previously been provided to Committee members.

The RFO highlighted key aspects of the reports and the following actions were agreed.

ACTION: Rob and Paul to obtain quotes for the signage discussed. The quotes are to be reported to a future meeting so that the Civic Amenities budget can be spent before year end.

ACTION: a map of fruit trees in the MCC area which provide free access to the public to be researched and developed during 2025/26.

ACTION: Rob to request permission from Swansea Council for an agreed site in Mayals for Grass Verges Wildflower planting and also to look at how the planting in West Cross carried out in 2023/24 can be improved in conjunction with Ashley.

ACTION: need to urgently book a venue for the Gardener's Question Time event to be held in Spring 2025. Ian to contact venues to check availability and costs for suitable venues. Gardener's Question Time to be included on agenda for November meeting.

RESOLVED: to approve the budget monitoring report to 31 August 2024.

EN2410-06 **Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview**

Rob provided a summary of his monthly report including confirmation that the SLA with Swansea Council for the maintenance of Jubilee Garden has now been signed and the National Lottery grant funded work at the site can now commence.

The preliminary Big Climate Leap Report has now been received and was circulated to all Committee members with the agenda. A number of recommendations were made in the report aimed at reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

ACTION: Helen to provide a copy of the Future Generations Commissioner's procurement policy to Rob and Paul.

RECOMMENDATION: a Big Climate Leap Working Group be established to review the report and take forward the recommendations made. Membership of the Group is open to all councillors and anyone who would like to be a member of the Group to give their names to the Clerk by Friday, 15/11/2024.

EN2410-07 **Budget 2025/26**

New budget proposals for 2025/26 had been circulated to all members of the Committee which were discussed in detail.

AGREED: that the following new budget proposals be included in the Environmental Committee Draft Budget 2025/26 to be recommended to Council in January 2025.

Mumbles Green Heroes – 3 additional events £1,200

Pilot Biodiverse School Project - £1,100

Biodiversity Crisis - £1,000

Electric Van and Charging Point – subject to further clarification of the likely costs of the proposal.

Suds and Flooding Awareness - £3,150

Incredible Edible Mumbles - £6,250

ACTION: Paul to check with Swansea Council about the costs of leasing an electric van and Rob to look at other costs of the proposal and the potential for community use of the van.

ACTION: Helen to work with Rob to finalise the budget proposal for Suds and Flooding Awareness.

EN2410-08 Promoting Volunteer Days

Council agreed to the use of the Volunteer Survey prepared by Rob which will now be undertaken and the results reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

EN2410-09 Mumbles Green Heroes

The next event will be held in November 2024 and arrangements are being progressed by Rob.

EN2410-10 Gower National Landscape Advisory Group Update

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

EN2410-11 Litter Picking Dates for 2024/25

AGREED: that litter picks take place in the following order and that the Ward pattern be repeated in subsequent months.

November 2024 – West Cross Ward

December 2024 – Newton Ward

January 2025 – Oystermouth Ward

February 2025 – Mayals Ward

It was also **AGREED** that the Keep Wales Tidy Litter Picking Hub Launch will take place on Friday, 5/11/2024 at Langland Bay.

EN2410-12 Environmental Green Fair

The Council will have a stall at the Environmental Green Fair which is to be held at the National Waterfront Museum on the following dates

Saturday, 23/11/2024 10am to 4pm

Sunday, 24/11/2024 10am to 3pm

ACTION: any councillors who can cover the stall at any time over the weekend are asked to contact Rob so that a staffing list can be prepared.

EN2410-13 Climate Emergency Action

The Committee has a budget of £5,000 (ENV15 – Climate Emergency) in 2024/25 to deliver actions to address the Climate Emergency declared by the Council.

AGREED: that some of the work included in the Suds and Flooding Awareness budget proposal discussed under Minute 2410-07 be carried out in the current financial year and also a re-launch of Plastic Free Mumbles both be undertaken before 31/03/2025 and funded from this budget.

EN2410-14 Fly-tipping Action Wales – Toolkit Sharing

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

EN2410-15 West Cross Shed

The shed has now been removed from the Co-Operative Store in West Cross and temporarily stored at Norton Nature Reserve until a permanent home for the shed can be found.

ACTION: Councillors are asked to suggest whether there are any community groups or schools that can make good use of the shed.

EN2410.16 Mumbles Skatepark Update

Cllr Chris Evans has raised the issue of extending the hedge at the Skatepark to improve road safety with officers at Swansea Council who have suggested a metal highways fence as an alternative to a hedge which the Committee did not feel would be environmentally or visually acceptable.

ACTION: the matter is to be pursued with Swansea Council in an attempt to reach a mutually acceptable compromise.

EN2410-17 MCC Website – SA1 and Social Media

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 8.29pm.

Next Meeting 25 November 2024