

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 25 November 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: None

Officers Present: Paul Beynon - RFO and Ian Hughes - CSO

EN2411-01 Apologies: None

EN2411-02 Declarations of Interest: None

Cllr Helen Nelson joined the meeting at 18.36

EN2411-03 Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2024 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2024 as a true record.

EN2411-04 Actions arising from Previous Meetings

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.

RECOMMENDED: That following planning permission being obtained from SCC and liaison between Friends of Clyne and Environmental Committee Members, The RFO to arrange the transfer of £6,000 to Friends of Clyne to contribute towards a gazebo being installed in Clyne Park.

EN2411-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 30/09/2024 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Reports attached.

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

The RFO highlighted key aspects of the reports, and no questions were raised. It was noted that there had been an underspent of approximately £200 in relation to bulb planting and it was **AGREED** that this would be divided between The Mayals and West Cross Wards.

RESOLVED: to approve the budget monitoring report to 30 September 2024.

EN2411-06 Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:

Summary of previous months activity and next steps for December.

Report attached.

Robert Hernando, The Environmental and Sustainability Engagement Officer had provided his monthly report to committee members. The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined key aspects of the report, the majority being detailed in agenda items below. Particular attention was given to the Big Climate Leap, and the setting up of a Working Group which was approved at November's Full Council. Cllrs Sara Keeton, Carrie Townsend Jones together with Robert Hernando have expressed an interest in participating within the Working Group. The Environmental Committee hoped that committee members from other committees would participate and that all four wards would be represented on the Group. Cllr O'Connor was mentioned as a suitable participant as was Cllr due to his environmental connections with SCC.

ACTION: CSO to e-mail both Cllrs O'Connor and Thomas and ascertain their willingness to participate.

There is to be a Keep Wales Tidy launch on Friday, 6th December at 11am at Blackpill. Robert Hernando is preparing a poster and the event advertised through the use of social media and the MCC Website.

Three of the seven primary schools within MCC have responded positively to Robert Hernando in relation to seeking environmental grants.

Plans for Jubilee Gardens have been drawn up will be forwarded to MCC within a few days by the designer.

Future volunteer days outlined including hedge planting at The Orchard on 5.12.24 and a litter pick on 6.12.24

EN2411-07 Budget 2025/26

The RFO outlined the draft budget spreadsheet to Committee and each budget line was discussed in detail including the new budget proposals.

RESOLVED that the budget for 2025/26 shown in the table below be recommended to Council at the budget meeting to be held in January 2025 subject to confirmation from Swansea Council on the cost for the Electric Vehicle.

ACTION: CSO to e-mail Robert Hernando and ascertain viability of setting up a fairy light repair workshop at Ostreme before Christmas.

Item	Amount £	RFO Auth
Civic Amenities - Street Furniture	2,500	
Bulbs and Wildflower Planting	2,000	
Jubilee Garden	100	
E&SEO Resources	2,000	✓
Norton Nature Reserve	1,000	
Climate Emergency	5,000	
Groundsperson - Maintenance Resources	2,000	✓
Mumbles Buzz and Bloom	500	
Mumbles Gardeners Question Time	500	
Mumbles Green Heroes	1,200	
Repair Cafe	400	
Biodiversity Crisis	1,000	
Biodiverse Schools Pilot	1,650	
SUDS and Flooding Awareness Campaign	3,150	
Incredible Edible Mumbles	6,300	
Electric Vehicle and Charging Point	19,400	
Environmental - Draft Budget 2025/26	48,700	

EN2411-08 Promoting Volunteer Days

Cllr Phil Keeton outlined how a leaflet drop within MCC would educate all residents on bio-diversity issues and good practices already taking place in parts of Mayals and West Cross including the use of sprays. It is hoped that such practices can be further encouraged in all wards including Newton and Oystermouth.

In addition the prospect of hosting a free 'swap shop' for plants at Norton Nature Reserve was also discussed.

ACTION: Cllr Phil Keeton to liaise with Robert Hernando over the creation of a suitable poster/leaflet with a view to a pamphlet drop commencing in February 2025.

ACTION: Cllr Sara Keeton to explore the possibility of holding plant 'swap shop' events at Norton Nature Reserve.

EN2411-09 Mumbles Green Heroes

The next event will be held on 3rd December 2024 at The Hub, Underhill. Arrangements are being progressed by Robert Hernando.

EN2411-10 Gower National Landscape Advisory Group Update

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

EN2411-11 Litter Picking Dates for 2024/25

As outlined in the Environmental Officer's report ([EN2411-06](#) refers) there is to be a litter pick on 6th December. In addition The Keep Wales Tidy launch will take place on Friday, 6th December at 11am at Blackpill.

EN2411-12 Environmental Green Fair

The Council had a stall at the Environmental Green Fair which was held at the National Waterfront Museum on the 23rd and 24th November 2024. The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones expressed her thanks to those Councillors and Officers who staffed the stall. It was good that MCC was represented and other councils within Swansea were interested in MCC projects.

EN2411-13 Climate Emergency Action

A discussion took place on the need to progress this matter as a matter of urgency. A key aspect being coastal flooding for MCC.

ACTION: Cllrs Nelson, Townsend Jones and Sara Keeton together with Robert Hernando to create a workshop in 2025 with the aim of promoting practical measures to prevent flooding, incorporating existing good practice from national agencies.

EN2411-14 Fly-tipping Action Wales – Toolkit Sharing

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

EN2411-15 West Cross Shed

The shed has been donated to Swansea Cats and Kittens Protection Charity and arrangements are in hand for the shed to be collected.

EN2411-16 Mumbles Skatepark Update

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

EN2411-17 MCC Website – SA1 and Social Media

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 7.41pm.

Next Meeting 27 January 2025

Draft