

## **Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 24 February 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams**

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

**Co-opted Members Present:** Eddie Hall

**Officers Present:** Robert Hernando – Environmental Officer and Ian Hughes – CSO

**EN2502-01**     **Apologies:** None

**EN2502-02**     **Declarations of Interest:** None

**EN2502-03**     **Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as a true record.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as a true record.

**EN502-04**     **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 actions.

Eddie Hall arrived at 6.35pm

**EN2502-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/01/2025 - Paul Beynon, RFO**

Reports attached.

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

No queries were raised with RFO or CSO prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place on how best to spend budgets prior to the end of the financial year; including Norton Nature Reserve and The Grass Verge Scheme

**ACTION:** Cllr Nelson to meet with Rob Hernando to discuss potential sites for Grass Verge Scheme in Mayals.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the budget monitoring report to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

Cllr Helen Nelson joined the meeting at 6.43pm

**EN2502-06****MCC Website – SA1 and Social Media**

Robert Hernando outlined the benefits of a 'stand-alone' MCC Website for environmental issues as opposed to incorporating environmental issues within the existing MCC Website.

A lengthy discussion ensued in which all committee members provided views on the merits of both options. It was noted that MCC is in the process of renewing the relevant IT contractor and any decision to create a new stand-alone website should be delayed until further information is known. The general consensus of the committee was that further discussion is necessary before a decision to create a separate website is made.

**RESOLVED:** For all committee members to give serious consideration to the need for a separate stand-alone Environmental Website prior to March's Meeting. In addition £5,000 remains in the relevant budget for environmental issues to be progressed through a website and this money is to be ring fenced pending a decision being made on whether a stand-alone website should be implemented.

**EN2502-07****Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:**

Summary of previous months activity and next steps for February. Report attached.

Robert Hernando, The Environmental and Sustainability Engagement Officer had previously provided his monthly report to committee members. He outlined key aspects of the report including the Mumbles Crop Collective, volunteering days, and Mumbles Gardeners Question Time.

**RESOLVED:** For Robert Hernando to widen the circulation of upcoming events to include local primary schools.

**EN2502-08 Bee Friendly Streets Scheme**

Cllr Phil Keeton updated the committee that preparation for the Bee Friendly Streets Scheme was ongoing and that a further update will be provided at the March Committee Meeting.

**ACTION:** Robert Hernando to discuss the option of including the Bee Friendly Streets Scheme as an item within the forthcoming MCC Newsletter. To be discussed with Claire Anderson.

**EN2502-09 Climate Emergency Action (Water Quality Testing Project)**

Robert Hernando outlined The Water Blitz Initiative, a UK wide project that provides water-testing kits for testing to be carried out during the period between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. This monitoring project coincides with a SCC initiative.

During the discussion that followed, committee members were supportive of enrolling on the Water Blitz project with potential testing sites being considered including Blackpill and Clyne Valley.

**RESOLVED:** Robert Hernando to apply for registration to The Water Blitz Project on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**EN2502-10 Litter Free Zones and Monthly Litter Pick Dates**

Robert Hernando outlined that litter picks events have been delayed to avoid the half-term holiday and allow for the lighter evenings during BST.

Discussion took place in relation to potential sites for litter picks involving school children and utilising other organisations apart from schools such as Newton Rangers Football Club.

**EN2502-11 Mumbles Buzz and Bloom**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined how key aspects including registration dates and categories will need to be decided prior to the launch of Mumbles Buzz and Bloom at Mumbles Gardeners Question Time on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**ACTION:** Robert Hernando to e-mail Cllrs Townsend Jones, Nelson and other interested parties to agree key aspects of Mumbles Buzz and Bloom prior to its launch at Mumbles Gardeners Question Time.

**EN2502-12 Mumbles Skatepark Update**

This item was deferred until the March Meeting.

**EN2502-13 Engaging with Young People**

This item was deferred until the March Meeting

**EN2502-14 Mumbles Green Heroes**

A discussion took place in relation to holding future events before the end of March 2024 such as a further recycling visit.

**ACTION:** Robert Hernando to propose a suitable visit prior to the end of March 2025.

**EN2502-15 Takeaway packaging and 'plastic free'.**

Deferred to March Meeting

**EN2502-15 Mumbles Gardeners Question Time**

Discussed within Robert Hernando's Environmental Report at [EN2502-07](#).

**Meeting ended at 8.20pm.**

**Next Meeting 31 March 2025**