

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 24th June 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams

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

Officers Present: Ashley Haynes – Gardening Officer, and Ian Hughes – CSO

EN2506-01 **Apologies:** None

EN2506-02 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Phil and Sara Keeton declared a personal interest in relation West Cross Hedge Laying Workshop (agenda item **EN2506-09** refers), in addition Cllr Sara Keeton noted that she had provided money in her capacity as a SCC Councillor to the workshop.

EN2506-03 **Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2025 as a true record.

EN2506-04 **Actions arising from Previous Meetings**
The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of outstanding '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.

EN2506-05 **Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:**
Summary of previous months activity and next steps for July. Report attached.

No Environmental Officer's report was prepared for June 2025. In the absence of Robert Hernando, Ashley Haynes provided a resume of his monthly duties. Ashley outlined that following a concerted effort with Robert to complete Jubilee Gardens he had settled back into his regular routine of maintaining the various sites within MCC for which he had responsibility. In addition, Ashley highlighted the plant boxes that he had created outside Ostreme.

Ashley was questioned by Councillors in relation to the development of The Norton Nature Reserve and Langland Tennis Court when it was established that Ashley understood that he was not responsible for maintaining the Basketball Courts. In addition, the option of raising the beds to an accessible height for disabled people was discussed.

ACTION: Together with Robert Hernando, to obtain quotes for installing fencing within Norton Nature Reserve and for other landscaping, in particular around the pond with a view to a budget proposal from being submitted in September 2025.

ACTION: CSO to email The Clerk and establish Ashley's duties within Langland Tennis Courts, in particular the Basketball Court. In addition to clarify the role of Welsh tennis Association in maintaining these courts.

ACTION: Ashley to obtain costings for the 'raising' of beds through the use of railway sleepers or other alternatives to assist disabled people to fully access them.

EN2506-06 **Environment Officer – Work Plan**

Deferred to July 2025

EN2506-07 **Climate Emergency Action Update**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined Robert Hernando's report on this issue which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee was very impressed with the report and wished to follow the recommendations. In addition, a potential training opportunity was identified for SUDS training.

RESOLVED: To progress with the recommendations contained within the report from August 2025.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to assess whether any training opportunity for Robert and Ashley in relation to SUDS training is appropriate.

EN2506-08 **Plastic Free July**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined how SCC had liaised with a number of businesses within Swansea including those in Swansea Market to promote Plastic Free

July. A discussion took place on how best to include business within MCC in this initiative. Due to time restraints any involvement by MCC would be restricted but could be promoted through publicity and encouraging traders to reduce packaging and coffee shops to encourage customers to bring re-fill cups through an additional saving when purchasing the drinks.

RESOLVED; Cllr Phil Keeton will liaise with Cllr Fogarty over stores including Marks and Spencers and The Co-Op in reducing their packaging

ACTION; CSO to email the Clerk and ascertain whether Claire Anderson, the Events Officer has the capacity at such short notice to promote an event within MCC to encourage more people to use re-usable coffee cups as detailed above.

EN2506-09

West Cross Hedge Laying Workshop (discussion re-funding)

Cllr Phil Keeton set out the opportunities for hedge laying in The West Cross Area and thanked Cllr Sara Keeton for her liaison with SCC. A very rough cost estimate suggests that between £3,000 and £4,000 will be required for the project which would involve volunteers assisting. Catherine Thomas of SCC has indicated that between 60 and 70% should be available through match funding. In addition, Cllrs Sara Keeton and Rebecca Fogarty have offered £250 each to be provided from their SCC allowances. Cllrs Phil Keeton, Dave Lewis and Pam Erasmus have also indicated that they will provide £125 from their MCC allowances.

The issue of purchasing specific items, such as bill hooks which would be useful in the long term was discussed together with the difficulty of storing such items with limited storage space,

The committee agreed that this was a worthwhile project that required additional costings being obtained

RESOLVED; Cllr Phil Keeton to obtain costings, having liaised with SCC and bring the project back to the committee in October with a view to a budget proposal form being submitted.

EN2505-10

Bee Friendly Streets (weeding schedule)

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones set out the importance of regular weeding dates, particularly in the growth season, with set dates to provide sufficient notice to volunteers.

Whilst The Mayals Ward have agreed dates for weeding through Cllr Nelson, Monday afternoons were proposed for West Cross.

RESOLVED; To hold weeding events on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month between 1.30pm and 3.30pm commencing on Monday 14th July 2025.

Meeting ended at 7.48pm.

Next Meeting 22nd July 2025