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| **Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee**  **held on 29th July 2025 at 6.30 pm**  **Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams** | |
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|  | **Councillors Present:** Carrie Townsend Jones (Chair), Sara Keeton, and Rebecca Fogarty |
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|  | **Officers Present:** Kerry Grabham – Clerk and Robert Hernando – Environmental Officer |
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| **EN2507-01** | **Apologies:** Cllrs Phil Keeton and Helen Nelson |
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| **EN2507-02** | **Declarations of Interest:** None |
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| **EN2507-03** | **Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee**  To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 as a true record.  **ACTION** Cllr Fogarty’s belated apologies to be added to minutes by CSO, who will also correct date of next meeting.  **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 as a true record. |
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| **EN2507-04**  **EN2507-05**  **EN2507-06**  **EN2507-07** | **Actions arising from Previous Meetings**  The CSO had circulated the full list of outstanding ‘actions’ to committee members prior to the meeting.  The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones updated the committee. 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.  **Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/05/2025**  Reports attached.  Financial reports prepared by RFO, Paul Beynon had previously been distributed to committee members. No questions relating to the budget reports had been provided either to the CSO or the RFO prior to the meeting.  The reports were discussed by the committee  **ACTION:** The RFO to transfer£16 from The Environmental Officer’s Resources (ENV6) to balance the Jubilee Garden Budget (ENV3)  **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report to 31 May 2025  **Budget 2026/27**  The RFO had previously circulated the Budget Timetable 2026/27 report to the Committee, the report outlined the actions required to be taken by Council and Committees leading up to the approval of the budget and precept by Council by 31/01/2026.  The Chair stated that the Budget Proposal Form will be circulated to all councillors and staff by 31/07/2025. Proposals to be discussed at September Meeting.  **RESOLVED** that the budget timetable be noted and work on any new budget proposals will commence over the summer recess.  **Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:**  Summary of previous month’s activity and next steps for August and September. Report attached.  Robert Hernando provided a resume of his monthly duties, including updates on Mumbles Buzz and Bloom and Freshwater Water Testing Kits, which have been arranged for his successor to progress.  The West Cross Community Hub was a great success, and it was proposed to consider combining September’s West Cross Hub with Fresh Water testing.  Other updates included The Litter Picking Hub and more effective methods of utilising litter picking equipment discussed. |
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| **EN2507-08**  **EN2507-09**  **EN2507-10**  **EN2507-10** | **Environment Officer – Exit/Handover Plan**  Robert Hernando included outstanding projects within his detailed handover plan. Items included the School Surveys, The Climate Emergency Workshop, Crop Collective and The Big Climate Leap.  The appointment of the new Environmental Office is not anticipated until at least October 2025.  **Review of Current Projects and Plans**  The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones together with Robert Hernando discussed budgets for current and forthcoming projects which are in hand with the RFO. Ongoing projects that were highlighted included Mumbles Gardeners Question Time, Green Heroes and Mumbles Green Fair.  With regard to Bee Friendly Streets a discussion took pace on how best to progress the questionnaire being completed for residents’ feedback. It was the consensus of the committee that this should not be delayed beyond September 2025  **RESOLVED:** To convene a working group, which will be tasked with compiling suitable questions for The Bee Friendly Questionnaire with a view to the programme going live on 1st September. All decisions will be fed back to the Environmental Committee in September.  **ACTION:** Cllrs Fogarty and S. Keeton to convene a working group  Cllr Fogarty provided an update on Washinghouse Brook Project and Cllr Townsend Jones provided an update on The Castle Woods Paths. Whilst budgets for both projects have previously been approved the estimated costs for Washinghouse Brook have increased significantly. It is estimated that the Washinghouse Brook costs have risen by approximately 50%. Part of the additional cost has resulted from wheelchair access being required. Whilst precise figures are not available the cost of both projects is in the region of £150,000. It is anticipated that 70% of the cost will be borne by Swansea City Council with whom Cllr Fogarty is liaising. Approval for MCC to provide additional funding to these projects to be sought.  **RECOMMENDATION:** That September’s Meeting of Full Council approve an additional £5,000 from the Contingency Fund to contribute towards the Washinghouse Brook Project.  **ACTION:** Cllr Townsend Jones to confirm pricing of Castle Woods Path Project with Cllr Thomas  An update was provided by The Clerk in relation to the graffiti at Mumbles Skatepark. The removal of graffiti requires water at not too high a pressure. SCC can remove the paint at a much cheaper quote than the company provided through Maverick, although the water pressure used by SCC may be too high, in addition there are issues of a water supply at the Skatepark. Consideration to be given to SCC cleaning the bins and benched of graffiti.  A debate ensued regarding the application of paint to the steps which would then be covered in anti-graffiti paint. The removal of paint from the bowl requires a specific cleaner and Robert Hernando proposed cleaning a ‘test patch’ on an unobtrusive area within the bowl.  The use of Exist to clean the graffiti was also suggested.  **ACTION:** Robert Hernando to explore using a specialist cleaning product on a ‘test patch’ within the bowl and consult Exist on their capacity to clean the bowl of graffiti.  **ACTION:** The Clerk to arrange with SCC for the removal of graffiti from benches and bins within Mumbles Skatepark.  **West Cross Hedge Laying Workshop (discussion re-funding)**  **RESOLVED**; To defer this agenda item until the September Meeting  **Date of Next Meeting**  **RESOLVED**; To hold the next meeting on Tuesday 23rd September 2025.  **Meeting ended at 8.14pm.**  **Next Meeting 23rd September 2025** |
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