

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 28th October 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams

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

Members of the public present: Christine Scullion, Emma MacNamara, Dennis Dwyer and Colber Adamian-Thomas

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

At the commencement of the meeting The Chair, Cllr Townsend-Jones welcomed everyone and proposed that due to the presence of members of the public standing orders be suspended temporarily after the second agenda item (declarations of interest) to allow those present to raise matters relevant to the agenda.

RESOLVED Full Council in agreement with the above proposal.

EN2510-01 **Apologies:** None

EN2510-02 **Declarations of Interest:**
Cllrs Fogarty and S. Keeton declared an interest due to their dual roles of councillors within MCC and SCC.

Public Participation

Further to her introduction Cllr Townsend-Jones suspended Standing orders at 6.33pm. At the invitation of The Chair the members of the public introduced themselves and indicated specific items of interest. Those present were informed that only agenda items could be discussed and that if they wished to address the Committee they would be allowed up to five minutes to do so.

Christine Scullion wished to attend the meeting but did not specify an area of particular interest and did not wish to address the Committee.

Emma MacNamara wished to address the Committee in relation to weed control whilst Dennis Dwyer and Colbert Adamian-Thomas wished to speak about a local initiative at Bethany Gardens.

Emma MacNamara spoke of her concerns relating to the **The Bee Friendly Streets Project** (agenda item **C02510-10** refers) specifically the amount of weeds within her area of West Cross. She also raised concerns over the condition of drop kerbs. Emma MacNamara suggested that alternatives to weed spraying had not been properly thought through and that the current remedies such as weeding by hand were unsuccessful. Emma MacNamara believed that the reintroduction of weed spraying should be considered.

Cllrs S. Keeton and Fogarty addressed the above concerns of Emma MacNamara stating that involvement and enthusiasm from local residents was commendable. The Councillors stated that programmes of manual weeding had taken place throughout the spring and summer, including participation with the public. Cllr Fogarty provided reassurance that in their roles as city councillors, the ward members are committed to increasing the amount of resource available from cleansing operatives from next Spring. Alternatives to weed spraying are under consideration, as the short-term impact of spraying needed to be balanced against the associated harm to wildlife. In conclusion the councillors shared the frustration of the public with weeds and alternatives are under consideration to address these concerns.

Dennis Dwyer and Colber Adamian-Thomas spoke about a local initiative at **Bethany Gardens** (agenda item **C02510-10** refers).

Both Mr Dwyer the proprietor of Ripples Ice Cream Parlour and Mr Adamian-a local resident spoke enthusiastically of their ambition to transform a local area near to Ripples into a multi-purpose area for all ages within the community. This would also provide a venue for a variety of activities, including a cycling hub contributing to the Active Travel initiative, yoga and a venue for schoolchildren to participate with including an educational setting for planting etc. Administating this area is in hand with a voluntary officer being linked to maintaining the area including removing excessive ivy. The area would compliment other hubs and green sites within MCC, and a small grant would assist with items including insurance, educational programmes and maintenance and replanting.

Cllr Helen Nelson arrived at 6.35pm
Emma MacNamara left at 6.46pm

The Committee was very enthusiastic about the project and offered to assist where possible. It was suggested that a grant may be provided directly through the Keep Wales Tidy Scheme. In addition, grants may be available from MCC, full details of which are to be found on the MCC Website.

Christine Scullion, Dennis Dwyer and Colber Adamian-Thomas left the meeting at 7.03pm

Standing Orders reinstated at 7.04pm

EN2510-03 Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2025 as a true record.

Although initially approved a 'typo' in relation to Budget 2026/27 agenda item became apparent when this same agenda item was later discussed.

ACTION CSO to amend 'typo' in September minutes.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2025 as a true record subject to the above typo being corrected.

EN2510-04 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.

EN2510-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/08/2025

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 with The RFO providing additional information where necessary.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31 August 2025

Emma MacNamara joined the meeting remotely at 7.29pm

EN2510-06 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, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined proposals discussed at September's Meeting and proposed increases where appropriate. The following points were raised for further action involving liaison with the RFO, including the submission of budget proposal forms:-

- **ENV1 -Civic Amenities** Contributions for the installation of bus shelters was discussed (a basis shelter would cost in the region of £5,000) with a contribution of £1,000 per ward being suggested. Other expenditure items discussed included an additional notice board at Underhill Park. Total expenditure of £5,000 proposed.
- **ENV2 – Bulbs and Wildflower Planting** The use of both bulbs and wildflower planting discussed. Cllr Nelson to submit a budget proposal form with a budget for £4,000
- **ENV6 – E & SEO Resources** Although raising the budget was considered it was the view of the committee that the budget should remain at the same level until such time as a new environmental officer is appointed.
- **ENV3 (Jubilee Gardens) and ENV14 Norton Nature Reserve.** Consideration was given to amalgamating both budgets into one new budget which will incorporate The Orchard, Norton Nature Reserve and Jubilee Gardens. £1,500 proposed for this budget.
ACTION Following discussion on the above item it was resolved that Ashley should assess whether fruit trees within The Orchard need to be replaced this year or whether this can be addressed next year.
- **ENV16 Climate Emergency** Consideration was again given to including other items within this budget including Mumbles Buzz and Bloom, Mumbles Gardeners Question Time and Mumbles Green Heroes with a potential budget of £6,000 being proposed.
- **ENV30 Biodiversity Crisis** Update required from Cllr Chris Evans.
ACTION CSO to e-mail Cllr Evans requesting update.
- **ENV31 Biodiverse Schools Pilot** No changes suggested regarding budgets.
- **ENV32 SUDS and Flooding Awareness** No change to budget requirements for the forthcoming year.
- **ENV33 Mumbles Crop Collective Grant** A budget of £500 was proposed.

Cllr Phil Keeton outlined his budget proposal form providing collection centres within MCC for used prescription blister packs. Cllr Keeton outlined that initially the collection centre would be at The Ostreme Centre with potential for other collection sites to be located at pharmacies. This proposal was well received by the committee.

RESOLVED that budget proposals be agreed at Full Council with budget proposal forms being submitted where appropriate before 31st October 2025.

Cllr Helen Nelson left the meeting at 7.33pm

EN2510-07 **Landfill Tax Grant Opportunities**

Cllr Fogarty spoke of the opportunity to seek additional grant money through the Landfill Tax Grant. Having undertaken a number of weed removal/reduction programmes, MCC is now in a much more informed position to assess what will be successful in future.

Should the grant be successful it will bring together good working practices with informed views on how to progress the issues. In addition, opportunities will arise for educational elements to be considered.

Grant application to be submitted prior to 12th December 2025

ACTION Cllr Fogarty to convene a meeting with councillors and other interested parties to prepare an application for submission prior to closing date of 12.12.2025.

EN2510-08 **Training Plan**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend-Jones and CSO highlighted the need for Councillors to participate in relevant training courses. Examples include health and safety and employment law.

The CO regularly circulates lists of courses available.

In discussion Councillors suggested training on SUDS and 'outside' safeguarding training.

ACTION All councillors to provide suggestions on suitable training courses to CSO prior to November meeting

Emma MacNamara left the meeting at 7.57pm

EN2510-09 **Mumbles Buzz in Bloom Awards Event with Guest Speaker on Wednesday 12th November 2025**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend-Jones confirmed that Mumbles Buzz in Bloom Awards Event will take place at The Hub, Underhill Park on Wednesday 12th November at 6.30pm. The retired head gardener of Clyne Gardens, Teifion Davies will be delivering a talk on 'Being Bee-Friendly in your Garden' before presenting the Mumbles Buzz in Bloom awards

EN2510-10 **Review of Current Projects and Plans:-**

a) Repair Café Update

The Chair, Cllr Townsend-Jones detailed how the initial Repair Café had been a great success with sixteen participants providing over twenty objects the majority of which were successfully repaired.

It is hoped to hold the next event between 10am and 1pm on 1st December 2025 at The Hub, Underhill Park – to be confirmed.

b) Bee Friendly Streets

Cllrs Sara Keeton and Phil Keeton outlined to the committee how volunteer days had taken place throughout the spring and summer of 2025.

RESOLVED Phil Keeton to prepare a new programme of events for the spring of 2026 including a proactive response.

c) Norton Nature Reserve, The Orchard & Jubilee Gardens Update

No updates on Norton Nature Reserve, The Orchard & Jubilee Gardens had been received.

ACTION Following discussion on Jubilee Gardens, a request was made for Ashley to continue with regular maintenance of The Gardens.

d) Bethany Gardens

Issues connected to Bethany Gardens had been discussed earlier in the meeting with public participation (agenda item [C02510-02](#) refers).

Meeting ended at 8.12pm.

Next Meeting 25th November 2025

