



Minutes of Meeting of the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 19 February 2024 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams

Councillors Present: Ian Scott (Chair), Will Thomas, Rebecca Fogarty, Angela O'Connor and Carrie Townsend Jones

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham – Clerk and Ian Hughes – CSO

FI2402-01 Apologies: Cllr. Francesca O'Brien

FI2402-02 Declarations of Interest
None

FI2402-03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Committee

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 04 December 2023 as a true record.

FI2402-04 Outstanding Actions from Previous Meeting

RESOLVED outstanding actions updated, details recorded in 'outstanding action' report by CSO.

FI2402-05 Budget Monitoring Report to 31/12/2023 - Paul Beynon, RFO
Reports attached.

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, the Clerk in the absence of the RFO offered to take questions in relation to these reports.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31st December 2023

**FI2402-06 Budget 2024/25 - Paul Beynon, RFO**

Budget reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, the Clerk in the absence of the RFO offered to take questions in relation to these reports.

RESOLVED to approve the budget reports 2024/25.

FI2402-07**Consider Review of Grants Policy.**

Following an internal review audit, the Clerk had prepared a review and circulated an accompanying document to committee members prior to the meeting. The Clerk highlighted proposed changes in yellow and detailed changes prior to taking questions from councillors. The Clerk outlined changes to the application process and access to information on MCC Website, this included replacing 'Survey Monkey' with a more user-friendly application form. The Clerk outlined how Diane Arthernought, The Customer Services Officer would be taking on the additional role of assisting with grant applications. Diane will be tracking applications from the outset until such time as being either rejected or successfully paid; she will be liaising with applicants ensuring that all supporting documentation is provided and that applications are otherwise correctly completed prior to claims being discussed at committee meetings.

The regularity of grant applications was also considered, and the consensus was that the current process of receiving monthly applications was too frequent. Whilst applications being considered on a six-month basis may be appropriate in the future a compromise of three-monthly periods was thought to be more practical in the short term by councillors.

Other considerations discussed by councillors included the reduced funding for future projects and whether there should be a cap of £10,000 on grants in the short term.

AGREED to allow the Clerk and other officers to make necessary administrative changes to the application form including type of grants available to be claimed.

RECOMMENDED: that subject to the following amendments the grant policy review be accepted:

- To remove paragraph 1.1
- Under paragraph 4.3, the score for 'Fits well with Community Council strategic aims' should have a score of '2'.



- Grant applications to be considered on a three-monthly basis commencing with the start of the 2024/25 financial year; moving to a six-monthly basis to be considered following a twelve-month review period.

FI2402-08 Last two years of audit recommendations.

Report attached.

The Clerk outlined that audit recommendations were on-going including two queries being resolved.

AGREED to allow the Clerk to complete outstanding queries and bring updated recommendations to a future Finance and Compliance Committee Meeting.

FI2402-09 Financial Risk Assessment

The Clerk had previously circulated documents and outlined new proposals. The Clerk took questions from councillors including the option of liaising with Swansea City Council on similar proposals.

RECOMMENDED: that the Financial Risk Assessment be reviewed on a three-monthly basis with The Finance & Compliance Committee Meeting and then Full Council being updated.

FI2402-10 Rhondda Symphony Orchestra Grant Application

Grant Application for £1,000 towards a concert on 4th May 2024 at All Saints Church, Oystermouth, that celebrates living and 20th Century Welsh composers.

A discussion took place on the application, including ticketing pricing being affordable to the wider public.

RECOMMENDED: that the amount of £1,000 be granted to contribute towards the concert, subject to enquiries being made to the applicant in relation to ticket prices.



FI2402-11

Mumbles Yacht Club (MYC) Grant Application

Grant Application for £650 plus VAT, to assist in transforming Mumbles Yacht Club into Mumbles Watersports Centre.

A discussion took place on this revised application which now included amenities (toilets and storage facilities) outside the current Mumbles Yacht Club. All committee members were enthusiastic about the potential for such a project whilst wanting to have additional information.

RECOMMENDED: that the amount of £650 plus VAT be granted subject to the following two conditions:-

- Mumbles Yacht Club to provide the last three months of bank statements prior to the next committee meeting.
- Geoff Bacon of Swansea City Council to be e-mailed with a request for additional information.

FI2402-12

Sunshine Lotus Yoga Grant Application

Grant Application for £5,000 to support yoga classes within the community.

This revised application, which included supporting documentation was discussed. Following this discussion an amended application for £2,500 was voted upon with the additional £2,500 being sought from other sources.

RECOMMENDED: that the amount of £2,500 not be granted to Sunshine Lotus Yoga on a majority of three to two.

Meeting ended 7.39pm

Next Meeting 18.03.2024



FI2311-13

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