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| **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of**  **Mumbles Community Council**  **held on 9 April 2024 at 6.30pm**  **(Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)** | | | |
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|  | | **Members Present:** CllrsMartin O’Neill (Chair), Cllrs Will Thomas (Vice-Chair), Rebecca Fogarty, Pamela Erasmus, Francesca O’Brien, Rob Marshall, Ian Scott, Carrie Townsend Jones, Hannah Hunter, Rhian Evans, Emilia Cox, Angela O’Connor, Richard Jarvis, Sara Keeton and Helen Nelson | |
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|  | | **Officers Present**: Kerry Grabham - Clerk, Ian Hughes – CSO, and Diane Athernought – Customer Services Officer. | |
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| **CO2404-01** | | **Apologies for Absence:** Michael Parkin and Tim Zhou. | |
| **CO2404-02**  **CO2404-03**  **CO2404-15**  **CO2404-04**  **CO2404-05**  **CO2404-06**  **CO2404-07**  **CO2404-08**  **CO2404-09**  **CO2404-10**  **CO2404-11**  **CO2404-12**  **CO2404-13**  **CO2404-14**  **CO2404-15**  **CO2404-16**  **CO2404-17**  **CO2404-18**  **CO2404-19**  **CO2404-20**  **CO2404-21**  **CO2404-22**  **CO2404-22** | | **Declarations of Interest:**  Cllr. Marshall declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item **CO2404-10** as he is a friend to the applicant (Mumbles Movers and Gower Groovers).  Cllrs. Fogarty, Keeton and O’Neill declared a personal interest regarding the planning application discussion agenda item **CO2404-15.** Cllr. Fogarty additionally declared a prejudicial interest as she had previously voted against the application in her capacity as a SCC Councillor.  Cllrs. Fogarty also declared a personal interest in agenda item **CO2404-22** as the dispensation request relates to her.  **Public Participation**  Seven members of the public were present at the meeting together with a further two who accessed the meeting remotely. The seven who attended in person were Steve Bennett, Sue Bennett, Claire Wimness, Michael Wimness (Proprietor of West Cross Garage), Colber Adamian-Thomas, Dennis Dwyer (Proprietor of Ripples Ice Cream Parlor and James Doogan. Their presence was acknowledged by The Chair, Cllr O’Neill who explained that they had attended to provide input in relation to a planning application, **CO2404-15** refers. Cllr O’Neill invited the members of the public to make representations at which point Cllrs. Fogarty and Keeton left the meeting at 6.35pm  Initially Mr Adamian-Thomas spoke on behalf of the seven members of the public stating that he had resided opposite the West Cross Garage since 1977 and that he had used both The Garage and Ripples Ice-Cream Parlor on a regular basis. He believed that these were assets to the local community and that a large number of local residents objected to losing these amenities. The planning application proposed replacing the current structure with a three storey building with the loss of The Garage, Mr Adamian-Thomas had set out his objections under seven points in a briefing document which was provided to council members, he then offered to take questions from Councillors which were answered by Mr Adamian-Thomas, Mr Wimness and Mr Dwyer.  In answer to questions, it was explained that one of the seven objections, relating to contamination resulted from spillage of petrol and oil, when fuel was served at the garage and through vehicles being maintained. Mr Adamian-Thomas explained that he was a Fellow of The Civil Engineering Society and that in his experience an appropriate full survey should be carried out in such circumstances.  Further queries raised by Councillors concerned the loss of amenities including the loss of a repair garage which has been operating for 100 years, this loss of an amenity was not suitably addressed in the planning application. Mr Dwyer explained that he had run Ripples for the past 25 years and that it had been an ice-cream parlour for over 40 years.  Other areas of concern raised by Councillors included the potential loss of the only cycle-friendly café on Mumbles Front which provided repair and maintenance facilities. The proposed application also includes increasing the area currently used and would include the removal of seating facilities near the foreshore and impact negatively on the carbon footprint. The planning application relates to residential use although there is no business plan for the ground floor.  The deadline for appeals is 10th April 2024 and in answer to Councillors concerns, Cllr. O’Neill stated that individual complaints can be made by Councillors in addition to a ‘collective’ appeal by Full Council in the event of that being approved by Full Council.  **RESOLVED** that the council unanimously agreed to a formal objection to the planning application. SCC to be informed of the decision by The Clerk on 10th April 2024.  Discussion concerning planning application finished at 6.57pm when all members of the public left the meeting and Cllrs. Fogarty and Keeton re-joined the meeting.  To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th March 2024.  **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2024 as a true record.  **To Approve the Schedule of Decisions for Financial Year 2023/24**  The Clerk had circulated relevant documents prior to the meeting outlining the need to demonstrate general powers of competence and offered to address any queries.  **RESOLVED** to accept the report.  **Clerk’s Report**  The Clerk read out her report which is attached, highlighting the success of MCC at the recent One Voice Wales Awards. The awards are being brought to the attention of the wider community through a press release, social media and MCC Website.  **Chair’s Report**  The Chair, Cllr O’Neill read out his report which focused on the success of MCC at the recent One Voice Wales Award Ceremony. MCC competed with 750 other town and local community councils and were highly commended in four categories. The awards demonstrated the hard work of Councillors and Officers working together with volunteers and other stakeholders, in achieving projects that address local needs and being innovative and inclusive. Cllr. O’Neill stressed the need for MCC not to rest on their laurels but look forward to achieving further success in the future. No questions were asked of the chair following the reading of his report.  **RESOLVED** to note the report.  **Financial Report for April**  Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, in the absence of The RFO the Clerk offered to take questions in relation to these reports.  A discussion ensued relating to the cost of maintaining Mumbles Skatepark and the surrounding area, particularly the cost of grass cutting by SCC and options for future uses of the area including crop growing.  **RESOLVED** that any discussion concerning the future use of the area adjacent to Mumbles Skatepark should be devolved to The Environmental Committee.  **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO for February and March 2024.  **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report for February 2024.  **Report from Chair of Finance and Compliance Committee.**  The Chair, of this committee, Cllr Scott had previously provided a report, other than recommendations, subject of following agenda item (**CO2404-10**), there were no questions raised.  **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr. Scott’s report.  **Recommendations from Finance and Compliance Committee**  **To consider recommendations from the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 18 March 2024.**  Cllrs. O’Brien and O’Connor declared a personal interest in relation to Newton Athletic Football Club.  Cllr Scott outlined the following two recommendations from the Finance and Compliance Committee:     1. **Mumbles Movers and Gower Groovers** **Grant Application**   The Finance committee had recommended by a majority of two to one that the amount of £829 per term not be granted to Mumbles Movers and Gower Groovers. The application related to assisting elderly and disabled, to provide friendships and improve their social networking.  A discussion took place on whether this application, whilst previously successful fell within the guidelines of MCC’s grant applications. Other recent applications had been unsuccessful, and some councillors believed that the approval of this application would be inconsistent with previous decisions. New guidelines and processes for the approval of grant applications had been agreed at March’s Full Council Meeting, however some Councillors raised concerns that these should be further updated. In particular it was suggested that vulnerable and isolated people should be supported by MCC but that this should be achieved through a tendering process reflecting the geographical need of the community.  **RESOLVED** that whilst no decision be taken in relation to the Finance Committee’s recommendation, The Clerk and RFO prepare a tendering process and report back to Full Council. This will provide a service for isolated people, addressing social and physical well-being for isolated people throughout The MCC Area, taking into account their geographical locations and addressing their well-being and developmental needs.   1. **Newton Athletic Football Club** **Grant Application**   The Finance Committee recommended that a Grant Application for an amount up to £1,500 be approved to assist in holding the first summer football tournament at Underhill Park.  **RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation.  **Report from Chair of Community & Social Committee**  The chair, Cllr. Erasmus had previously circulated her report which focused on prposals to redevelop Mumbles Yacht Club (MYC) and one recommendation in relation to a virement of £3,000 to cover the cost of the 2023 Skate jam detailed below.  The CSO outlined how the presentation by MYC (detailing how a proposed new development on the foreshore) at April’s forthcoming meeting of The Community & Social Development Committee had been postponed until May due to the unavailability of personnel from MYC. All Councillors will be invited to May’s Committee Meeting for a full update on proposals and developments.  Cllr. Erasmus invited Councillors to ask questions and thanked Councillors and Officers who had assisted in progressing successful projects over many years.  **To consider recommendation from the Community & Social Development Committee held on 20 March 2024.**  That virement of £3,900 is made from CSD21 – Langland Bay Tennis Courts – Clubpark Gates Budget to CSD2 – Skatepark to cover the costs of the Skatepark Jam 2023. The Clubpark Gates Budget has underspent as grant funding was obtained from the LTA Tennis Foundation for the gate installed.  A discussion took place as to why money should be transferred but it was acknowledged that the expenditure had been agreed at an earlier Full Council Meeting.  **RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation.  **Report from Chair of Environmental Committee**  The chair, Cllr. Nelson outlined the following key aspects:-   * A discussion at March’s Environmental Committee Meeting resulted in all Councillors supporting the immediate appointment of a gardener to replace Martin Russell following his resignation to take up a prestigious post at Penrice Estate. Committee members considered that contracting out work would prove to be counter productive and incur additional costs. Additionally, no responses had been received in relation to tendering quotes from companies approached. * The Mumbles Gardeners Question Time held at Newton Hall on 22nd March 2024 had been a great success and that hopefully it will become an annual event (Cllr. Townsend later added that the event had been recorded by Oystermouth Radio and would be broadcast at 5pm over the coming weekend) * Mumbles Buzz in Bloom will commence on 1st May with winners being announced in September 2024. There will be a number of categories and it is hoped that traders in Newton Road will participate. * With regard to The Big Climate Leap the Environmental Officer, Lydia Graham is negotiating with SCC having recently succeeded in obtaining grant money. It is hoped to involve all Councillors and the wider community to achieve environmental targets including carbon literacy.     Cllr. Nelson invited Councillors to ask questions.  Whilst no questions were asked Cllr. O’Connor wished to thank Cllr. Nelson on her success and enthusiasm in achieving so many positive results.  **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr. Nelson’s report.  **Report from Chair of Culture, Tourism and Communications Committee**  The chair, Cllr. Marshall had previously circulated his report and outlined key aspects including the final preparation for MumblesFest. Disappointment was expressed that no Councillors other than Committee Members attended the ‘closed’ meeting to discuss appropriate acts on 13th March 2024.  Cllr. Marshall also provided brief updates on Mumbles Palette, which had been retitled ‘A Day in the Life of Mumbles’, a photographic competition encouraging all ages and abilities to participate in a range of themes.  Mr Paul Whittaker of Mumbles Traders provided a presentation at the March Committee Meeting with further liaison to take place.  **To consider the following recommendation from the Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee held on 27 March 2024.**  That Sianny Martin of Welsh Air Ambulance being allowed to have a ‘Castles in the Sky’ event at Mumbles Skatepark. No date set.  Cllr. Marshall confirmed that there were no financial implications for MCC regarding this proposed recommendation.  **RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation.  **Recommendations from Twinning Sub Committee**  Cllr. Fogarty outlined a proposal for up to £1,500 to be spent on events to welcome a delegation from Hennebont, France, to provide a programme of activities for the 12th June 2024 and mark the occasion of 20th anniversary of Mumbles being twinned with Hennebont. This includes the following: -   * Trip for up to 30 on The Copper Jack * Tour of Copper Quarter with guide * Visit to National Waterfront Museum, including The Transport Museum * Dinner for 17 hosted by Lord Mayor at Mansion House * Slate plaque to commemorate 20th anniversary of twinning with Hennebont.   **RESOLVED** to agree to the above recommendation.  Cllr. Marshall left the meeting at 8.13pm  **Planning Application 2024/0475/FUL**  Discussed earlier under agenda item **CO2404-03**  **Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill Consultation**  The Clerk had previously circulated documents connected to this agenda item and suggested that it be progressed through a small working group.  **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Keeton, Thomas and Townsend Jones meet with The Clerk on 11th April to progress agenda item through a working group. Any additional Councillors who wish to participate to contact The Clerk by e-mail as a matter of urgency.  **D-Day Celebrations**  Discussion took place on how MCC should commemorate D-Day.  **RESOLVED** that £20 should be made available for MCC and each primary school in the area to provide a commemorative flag.  **One Voice Wales Annual Membership Fee**  The Clerk had circulated relevant documents prior to the meeting and offered to take any questions.  **RESOLVED** to pay the annual One Voice Wales membership fee.  Cllr. Marshall returned to the meeting at 8.19pm  **To Confirm the date for the Annual General Meeting**  The Clerk proposed a date of 7th May 2024 for The Annual Meeting.  **RESOLVED** to confirm the 7th May 2024 for MCC’s Annual Meeting.  **To Confirm the Schedule of meeting dates for Financial Year 2024/25**  The Clerk proposed to retain the current schedule for Full Council and committee meetings, namely:-   * Full Council to sit on the second Tuesday of each month. * Finance and Compliance Committee to sit on the third Monday of each month. * Community and Social Development to sit on the third Wednesday of each month. * The Environment Committee to sit on the fourth Monday of each month. * Culture, Tourism and Communication to sit on the fourth Wednesday of each month.   **RESOLVED** to retain the current schedule for meetings as outlined above.  **Exclusion of Press and Public**  In accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that the press and public be excluded from the following items of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.  **RESOLVED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the press and public be excluded from the meeting.  **Dispensation request**  The Clerk set out the circumstances surrounding the dispensation request.  **RESOLVED** to agree to the above request.  **Recommendations from Personnel Committee.**  Officers left the meeting at 8.28pm  Discussion took place regarding recommendation(s) made by The Personnel Committee. Amended recommendation(s) proposed.  **RESOLVED** that the amended recommendation(s) was accepted together with associated actions being made.  Officers returned at 8.40pm when the meeting was concluded. | |
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|  | | Next meeting 15th May 2024  Annual Meeting on 7th May 2024 |
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