

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 08 April 2025 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

Members Present: Cllrs Martin O'Neill (Chair), Rob Marshall, Angela O'Connor, Francesca O'Brien, Ian Scott, Sara Keeton, Phil Keeton, Pam Erasmus, Rebecca Fogarty, Trevor Carr, Will Thomas (Vice-Chair), Richard Jarvis, David Lewis, Tim Zhou, Helen Nelson and Laura Gilbert

Officers Present: Kerry-Leigh Grabham – Clerk, Diane Athernought – Customer Services Officer and Ian Hughes – CSO.

C02504-01 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs, Hannah Hunter and Carrie Townsend Jones

C02504-02 Declarations of Interest:
None

C02504-03 Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at this meeting in respect of the business on the agenda.

Mr Carl Thomas and Mrs Jane Summer attended the meeting, primarily to make representations relating to The Traffic Warden Item (**C02504-09** refers).

Cllr Lynda James of Pennard Community Council attended the meeting, primarily to contribute towards The Community Bus item (**C02504-10** refers).

Mandy Williams (consultant) joined the meeting at 7.30pm and provided a presentation in relation to The Council Appraisal Report (**C02504-19** refers).

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill thanked Mr Thomas and Mrs Summer for their attendance and invited them to talk on the issue of parking in Mumbles (**C02504-09** refers), indicating that the item would be addresses by Full Council later in the meeting.

Mr Thomas provided background information on himself and Mrs Summer. Mr Thomas had lived within MCC all his life and been actively involved in community life, being a retired fire officer and having participated with Mumbles RNLi and Mumbles Rugby Club. Mrs Summer has lived in Mumbles for over 50 years. As residents they had attended a recent meeting at Victoria Hall organised by SCC to address parking concerns and proposed solutions. Mr Thomas made the point on behalf of himself and Mrs Summer that although additional parking was being provided without policing through

effective use of traffic wardens breaches in legitimate traffic parking would continue. Currently parking regulations allowing only residents to park in designated areas are being flouted as is the two-hour maximum time for parking. Mr Thomas recently made a Public Information Request to SCC and was informed that only 18 parking tickets had been issued in Mumbles Seafront for violations. Both he and Mrs Summer had found that the situation was increasingly becoming intolerable to the point that they were considering moving from the area.

Jane Summers provided written information illustrating the need for greater 'policing' of parking which was distributed to all councillors.

C02504-04 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11th March 2025

To approve the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11 March 2025 as a true record.

Cllr Phil Keeton noted that under the Environmental Report on page 4 of the minutes, the details of the litter pick included the wrong address. The line was amended to "Litter Pick on 21st March 2025 at 3.30pm at West Cross Community Centre" from West Cross Common.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 11 March 2025 as a true record.

C02504-05 To welcome Cllr David Lewis – New West Councillor

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill formally welcomed Cllr Lewis and invited him to address the Council.

Cllr Lewis stated that he had run a local Bed and Breakfast Guesthouse in Langland for over twenty years and now wished to offer something back to the local community. Cllr Lewis chose the West Cross Ward due to his many friends and other connections to the area.

C02504-06 Chair's Report

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill read out his report which had been circulated to all Council Members.

Cllr O'Neill's report focused on recent achievements including the attendance of One Voice Wales following MCC's selection to feature in a Welsh Government Case Study. Other successes include The Story of Mumbles Team collaborating with the Mumbles Railway 200 initiative.

The Mumbles Gardeners Question Time held at The Ostreme was also a great success with particular thanks going to The Environmental Officer, Robert Hernando.

The completion of the recent evaluation conducted by Mandy Williams allowed external scrutiny, and the findings will be discussed at agenda item [C02504-19](#).

C02504-07 Clerk's Report

The Clerk, Kerry Grabham focused on the recent completion of the redevelopment of Jubilee Gardens. The Clerk wished recognise the efforts of both Robert Hernando and Ashley in completing this project within a tight timescale. The official opening is to take place on 28th April 2025.

C02504-08**Financial Report for April 2025**

RECOMMENDED that

1. The Payments made by the RFO in March 2025 are retrospectively approved.
2. The budget monitoring report to 28/02/2025 is approved.

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors and The Clerk then offered to take questions in relation to the reports.

The Clerk confirmed that The Jubilee Gardens project was subject to 'match funding' and that the development was completed within budget.

RESOLVED to retrospectively approve payments made by the RFO for March 2025.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 28/02/2025.

Cllr Fogarty arrived at the meeting at 6.48pm

Reports attached at **Annex A**

C02504-09**Traffic Warden**

To discuss residents petition for MCC to employ a Traffic Warden (Cllr A O'Connor)

Cllr O'Connor outlined her liaison with SCC on parking issues. Parking wardens work in pairs and the option of MCC remunerating one warden for a set period, such as six months to cover a busy period such as the summer is under consideration. Cllr O'Connor confirmed that MCC would not receive any of the revenue resulting from fines being paid which would have given MCC an additional option to fund a warden. Cllr O'Connor also informed the meeting that additional parking for residents will be made available but acknowledged the concerns of Mr Thomas and Mrs Summer that without 'policing' residents parking is being used illegally.

A number of Councillors contributed to the discussion and the general consensus of the committee was that parking within Mumbles has been a concern for a number of years which has only become more difficult through the provision of public transport decreasing and the ever-increasing popularity of Mumbles for tourists and surrounding residents to Mumbles. The option of developing both The Quarry and Dairy Car Parks were discussed including the option of a multi-storey car park, however this is not an option in the foreseeable future due to a number of issues including cost. In addition, The Dairy Car Park is being considered as a future Bus Terminus by SCC.

Cllr Scott declared a personal interest through his friendship with Mr Thomas and noted that previous surveys had been carried out on the Quarry and Dairy Car Parks and a number of issues arose including The Quarry Car Park being designated an area of special scientific interest in relation to the flora and fauna.

A number of councillors raised the issue of the cost of hiring a warden to MCC and how any future funding could be monitored. Other areas requiring exploration included whether alternatives such as

a 'name and shame' policy could be adopted, and whether there has been a change of working practices by traffic wardens whereby wardens patrol in cars as opposed to walking an area.

The Chair, Cllr O'Neill summed up the debate before suspending Standing Orders in order to allow members of the public to contribute. Cllr O'Neill stated that parking issues within Mumbles was a perennial problem with a number of causes and new influences such as the introduction of many Air B and Bs to the area.

Standing Orders suspended at 7.13pm

Mr Thomas outlined that he was seeking a commitment from MCC to obtain a resolution to the issue from SCC. Mr Thomas stated that he had spoken with the Leader of SCC, Cllr Rob Stewart who had informed him that wardens attended Mumbles for four sessions a week. There are three sessions a day (morning, afternoon and evening) and therefore 21 a week. Mr Thomas highlighted the chaos on Mothering Sunday when vehicles were double-parked on both sides of Mumbles Road resulting in gridlock and single-file traffic, despite efforts to remedy the situation through contacting police and SCC.

RESOLVED: The issue of parking within Mumbles and the payment for a traffic Warden to be referred to The Community and Social Development Committee for further consideration at their April Meeting.

Standing Orders resumed at 7.17pm when both Mr Thomas and Mrs Summer left the meeting.

C02504-10

Community Bus

To consider cost sharing a community bus in partnership with Pennard Community Council (Cllr F O'Brien)

The Clerk had circulated correspondence between MCC and Pennard Community Council in relation to this agenda item prior to the meeting. Cllr Lynda James of Pennard Community Council was in attendance at the meeting.

Cllr O'Brien set out the background to this item and how together with Cllrs Thomas and O'Connor she had liaised with Pennard Community Council and SCC.

Pennard Community Council currently operate a service two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pennard Community Council are seeking financial support from MCC as their allocated funding runs out by September.

A discussion ensues and a number of issues arose including the wish to extend the service to include weekends to allow young people the opportunity to travel between Mumbles and Pennard. Other issues include driver availability (current driver not prepared to work beyond thirty hours a week or work at weekends), availability of vehicles, any proposed changes taking three months to progress with the Traffic Commission, and the options of additional funding such as match funding.

The committee agreed that this issue required further urgent consideration.

RESOLVED: This issue is to be an agenda item at the April Meeting of the Community and Social Development Committee

C02504-11 Bereavement Support Group

To explore setting up a meeting group for those who are suffering to cope with bereavement (Cllr R Marshall).

Cllr. Marshall set out his personal wish to support those in the community experiencing bereavement through a support group. This would be a pilot project taking place at The Ostreme Centre on a regular basis such as one Saturday a month. The cost implications would be limited to providing refreshment.

All councillors were supportive of the proposed initiative and during the discussion that followed, councillors suggested that further exploration was required in relation to having a professional lead such as a qualified councillor facilitate such meetings. Other considerations included making use of existing religious groups or charities such as Barnardo's. Another option for consideration is the Jack Lewis Drop In Service at The Swansea City Stadium

The consensus of the committee was that bereavement support was an important issue that required to be further considered.

ACTION: Cllr Marshall to provide a feasibility report.

RESOLVED: This issue is to be an agenda item at the April Meeting of the Community and Social Development Committee

C02504-12 Ostreme Centre Rent

To discuss and agree sending a letter to Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Trust concern the Ostreme Centre rental rates and break clause. (Cllr Will Thomas)

Cllr Thomas informed Full Council that a letter will be sent to The Swansea & Brecon Diocesan Trust prior to the next Full Council Meeting

Report from Chair of Culture, Tourism and Communications Committee

Cllr Angela O'Connor outlined that the distribution of posters and social media advertising in relation to the 'Mumbles May Madness- Tenner Edition' was imminent.

Cllr O'Connor also requested that any Councillors prepared to volunteer their services for The 80th Anniversary of VE Day and MumblesFest to contact Claire Anderson.

C02504-13 Report from Chair of Community and Social Development Committee

Cllr Ian Scott provided an update on the successful installation of exercise equipment at the West Cross Seafront, and thanked SCC for their contribution in installing the equipment.

The issue of benches and picnic benches was raised and these matters are being addressed by The Clerk.

C02504-14 Report from Chair of Environmental Committee

Cllr Phil Keeton outlined that Robert Hernando's detailed environmental report had been circulated prior to the meeting which included details of litter picks.

Cllr Keeton thanked Robert and Ashley for their contributions in completing Jubilee Gardens

No questions were asked of Cllr Keeton

C02504-15 Report from Chair of Finance and Compliance Committee

Cllr Rob Marshall detailed that a number of grant applications were included within the Committee Recommendations Agenda Item **C02504-15** refers.

C02504-16 Committee Recommendations

The Chair outlined the following recommendations the Finance and Compliance Committee Meeting held on 17 March 2025

1) John's Ambulance Gower Division Grant Application

Grant Application for £4,999.16 to contribute towards the purchase of vital equipment for volunteers and includes expenditure for training

RESOLVED: To approve that a grant of £2,500 be made to St John's Ambulance Gower Division to contribute towards the purchase of vital equipment for volunteers and includes expenditure for training.

C02504-17 From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**2) Sunshine Lotus Yoga Grant Application Update**

Grant

Application for £5,000 to support yoga within the community through Yoga 4 Health

RESOLVED: To approve that a grant of £2,500 be made Sunshine Lotus Yoga to support yoga within the community through Yoga 4 Health
From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**

3) Mumbles Bowls Club Grant Application Update

Grant Application for £800 to contribute towards the maintenance of the playing surface at Mumbles Bowling Green..

RESOLVED: To approve that a grant of £800 be made to Mumbles Bowls Club to contribute towards the maintenance of the playing surface at Mumbles Bowling Green.

From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants**

Cllr Nelson left the meeting at 8.20pm

4) Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) Grant Application

Grant Application for £5,000 to contribute towards the screening of 100 young persons aged between 14 and 35 in relation to identifying heart-related issues.

RESOLVED: To approve that a grant of £2,500 be made to Cardiac Risk to contribute towards the screening of 100 young persons aged between 14 and 35 in relation to identifying heart-related issues

From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**

In addition to the above resolution Cllr Erasmus had previously committed £1,500 to the screening programme and Cllr Marshall had donated £200 from his personal allowance. Following a discussion at Full Council Cllrs Martin O'Neill and Phil Keeton both also pledged £200 each from their personal allowances

The Chair outlined the following recommendations the Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee held on 26 March 2025

Standing Orders suspended at 8.27pm

1) Honour of Mumbles

Cllr Thomas arranged for the circulation of an updated briefing document in relation the Honour of Mumbles to be made to the committee members.

Cllr Thomas briefly outlined the proposal and the main focus of discussion by Councillors focused on whether one or two nominees should be made.

RESOLVED: To approve that the Honour of Mumbles award is re-introduced and MCC select one individual to be awarded The Honour of Mumbles at May's Annual Meeting. The award to be made at Mumblesfest Festival on 7 June 2025 with any necessary expenditure being funded from the existing budget of £250 in CTC47 – Honour of Mumbles

2) Ostreme Illumination

Cllr O'Connor outlined that further quotes for lighting had been obtained which were considerably cheaper. These had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. The cost of installation would be between £300 and £400 depending upon the location, and the cost of the light fitting itself would be under £100.

RESOLVED: To approve that MCC purchase and install a multi-coloured lighting system at a cost of £500 in order to commemorate Baby Loss Awareness Days and other events.

3) Spotlighting Traders in Social Media

A briefing document that had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Cllr O'Connor briefly outlined the recommendation.

RESOLVED: To approve that MCC put a social media post out calling ALL local traders to send us information to run spotlight posts via events@mumbles.gov.uk It would be great to highlight new businesses coming into the area as well as supporting existing ones too.

C02504-18

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.

The recording of the meeting was suspended at 8.20pm.

C02504-19

Council Appraisal Report – Mandy Williams Consultant (30 minutes)

Mandy Williams had prepared an appraisal report together with recommendations which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Mandy went through key aspects of these reports in a thirty-minute presentation before addressing Councillors' questions.

Following this presentation, The Chair, Cllr O'Neill thanked Mandy for her prompt and detailed report.

RESOLVED that to accept the report and the recommendations made

C02504-20

Quotes for Front Door Repair – Ostreme Centre

The Clerk outlined a number of quotes in relation to replacing the main front door to Ostreme including repair to the surrounding structural walls. The quotes ranged from £4,417 to £5,863.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain additional quotes for Full Council

C02504-21 Personnel Committee Recommendations

To consider the recommendations made by Personnel Committee.

RESLOVED: To approve the 'signing off' of The Clerk's Appraisal

RESLOVED: To approve The Clerk's expenditure of up to £1.500 in relation to advice strategy pertaining to The Hub at Underhill.

Meeting Finished at 9.06pm

Next meeting: Full Council 13th May 2025

ANNEX A

To be added

DRAFT