

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Mumbles Community Council held on 14 October 2025 at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

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

Officers Present: Paul Beynon – RFO (Deputy Chief Officer) and Ian Hughes – CSO.

C02510-01 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Lewis and Jarvis

C02510-02 Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs Rebecca Fogarty, Sara Keeton, Will Thomas and Francesca O'Brien all declared personal interests in relation Oystermouth Castle Woodland Paths in their capacity as Swansea City Councillors (agenda item **C02510-15** refers).

It was agreed to bring forward the last agenda item relating to Oystermouth Castle Woodland Paths as there was no longer any need for the press and public to be excluded from this item.

C02510-03 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.

One member of the public, Mark Child attended the meeting in person. A second member of the public, shown as 'Jen' on Teams joined the meeting remotely. When invited to contribute to the meeting by The Chair, Cllr Thomas, no representations were made from 'Jen' who left the meeting between 6.40pm and 7.15pm. Jen then left the meeting at 7.50pm when the recording of the meeting terminated and members of the public left.

Mr Mark Child was invited by The Chair, Cllr Thomas to make representations in relation to agenda items. Mr Child stated that he had submitted a question at 5pm that evening which had not been received by The Chair. Mr Child wished to address Cllr O'Brien's attendance at a recent meeting relating to schooling. Mr Child was advised that this issue did not form any part of the agenda, and he was advised to submit his question to The Clerk. In addition, Mr Child was advised by The Chair in relation to accessing codes of conduct pertaining to councillors.

Mr Child then left the meeting at 6.34pm

C02510-04

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025 as a true and accurate record.

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th May 2025 as a true record.

During discussion on the minutes, uncertainty arose in relation to their accuracy which would need to be clarified by the CO.

RESOLVED to defer approval of the minutes to November's Full Council Meeting pending confirmation of their accuracy with the CO.

C02510-05

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 September 2025 as a true and accurate record.

To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th September 2025 as a true record.

Cllr Townsend-Jones identified that in relation to The Washinghouse Brook Project (agenda item 12) the minutes incorrectly referred to Full Council recommending £15,000 when the actual figure should have been £10,000.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025 as a true record subject to the above amendment to the minutes being made by the CSO.

C02510-06

Chair's Report

Cllr Will Thomas provided a verbal update on significant events. This included Cllr Thomas' recent attendance at a ceremony at Mumbles Seafront to unveil a red plaque commemorating the memory of Alan Sherratt, a firefighter who lost his life in an accident in 1972, when another firefighter was severely injured.

Cllr Thomas also updated Full Council on Langland Tennis Court, lighting in Underhill Park and The Hub.

Cllr Thomas was asked whether a record of complaints being made against Cllr O'Brien was being maintained. Councillors were advised by Cllr Thomas to address queries concerning Cllr O'Brien to the CO.

C02510-07

Clerk's Report

RESOLVED To defer the Clerk's Report until November's Meeting of Full Council.

C02509-08

Financial Report for September 2025**RECOMMENDED that**

1. The payments made by the RFO in September 2025 be retrospectively approved.
2. The bank transfers made between the Council's bank accounts in September 2025 be retrospectively approved.
3. The Budget Monitoring Report for August 2025 is approved.

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors and he addressed questions from Councillors.

Cllr Townsend Jones noted that there were numerous claims for parking and refreshment for The Story of Mumbles. The RFO and Cllr Thomas explained that due to poor internet reception at The Ostreme, the Story of Mumbles had relocated to The Lighthouse Complex at Bracelet Bay. The CO had authorised car parking charges and the refreshment was provided for volunteers and guest connected to The Story of Mumbles Website.

ACTION The RFO to inform CO and The Story of Mumbles that future purchases of refreshment will not be reimbursed.

RESOLVED To retrospectively approve the payments made by the RFO for September 2025

RESOLVED To retrospectively approve bank transfers made between Mumbles Community Council's bank accounts in September 2025.

RESOLVED To approve the budget monitoring report for August 2025

C02510-09

Councillors Remuneration Policy 2025/26

The RFO had circulated a policy document relating to remuneration prior to the meeting. The RFO explained that options outlined within the report needed to be decided upon on an annual basis. The following decisions were made in connection to the report.

RESOLVED That a payment of £52 be made to each councillor for the cost of consumables.

RESOLVED To confirm that the Chair of each of the four Committees receive the £500 Senior Role payment in 2025/26. No additional senior roles to be created.

RESOLVED To confirm that the option to pay Travel and Subsistence costs is to be approved for 2025/26.

RESOLVED To confirm that the option to pay Financial Loss Compensation is to be approved for 2025/26

RESOLVED To confirm that the option to make a payment of £1,500 to the Chair and £500 to the Vice Chair is to be approved for 2025/26.

RESOLVED The Full Council rejected the option to introduce a scheme for the payment of attendance allowance.

ACTION The RFO will liaise with Councillors and provide information in relation to claims for working from home.

C02510-10 To consider Committee Recommendations

To consider any recommendations to Council made by the Committees in September 2025.

Before The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from the Finance and Compliance Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2025, Cllr Marshall the Chair of that committee addressed issues raised by councillors from Full Council.

In relation to maintaining lights along the Mumbles Seafront, Cllr Marshall and The RFO detailed that following the installation of new lights which formed part of the new seafront defence scheme the current budget of £1,000 for the maintenance of such lighting will be re-allocated.

- 1. RECOMMENDED** that a Grant Application for £1,595 to contribute towards the Annual Classic Car Show (Mumbles) be declined

Cllr Marshall outlined that The Finance Committee had recommended that this grant be declined due to being submitted retrospectively and because of the standard of supporting financial documents provided.

RESOLVED: Not to approve the grant application for £1,595 to contribute towards the Annual Classic Car Show.

- 2. RECOMMENDED** that MCC purchase a marquee on the best value following research by The RFO. The marquee will be available to Mumbles Traders and other community organisations within MCC for their use, free of charge.

From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.

Cllr Marshall outlined this grant application and that MCC had received information from the applicant, Paul Whittaker. Due to inclement weather the event for which the original grant application had been submitted had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, a marquee that had been erected for the event had been badly damaged. Mr Whittaker had provided a report and photographs of the damage.

The applicant requested that the application be amended to seek a replacement marquee at a cost of £1,019.

The Finance Committee were sympathetic to a new marquee being provided but considered that MCC should own it. Whilst the marquee could be loaned to Mumbles Traders, other organisations within MCC should also have access to it.

In discussion Full Council required further information concerning the purchase of a marquee and how its use would be administered.

RESOLVED: That the purchase of a marquee should be further discussed at the next Culture Committee Meeting. A number of aspects connected to such a purchase should be considered including a policy on usage including priority usage, lending policy and storage options

ACTION CSO to update the agenda for the next Culture Committee Meeting on the above item.

3. RECOMMENDED that a Grant Application from The Story of Mumbles for £1,102 to contribute towards resurrecting the Winter Folklore Tradition of the Mari Lwyd in Mumbles, be awarded subject to two conditions:-

- The information sheets are provided in English and Welsh
- There is online access to information brochures in a digital format.

In addition the committee recommended that any money raised through the event should be donated to Friends of Oystermouth Castle.

RESOLVED To grant an application for £1,102 to contribute towards resurrecting the Winter Folklore Tradition of the Mari Lwyd in Mumbles. Subject to the above conditions.

From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.

4. RECOMMENDED that a Grant Application to Swansea Sea Cadets for £1,000 be made to contribute towards classroom modernisation.

Cllr Marshall outlined that the original Grant Application for £3,000 to contribute towards classroom modernisation had been discussed at Finance committee. Whilst the Committee were supportive of the application they were mindful that the venue for the classroom is not within MCC's area but located in Swansea Marina. Eight of the fifty six cadets reside within MCC and in light of the contribution towards local residents The Committee proposed a partial amount of the grant being awarded.

The views of the Finance Committee were supported by the majority of Full Council members.

RESOLVED: That a Grant Application to Swansea Sea Cadets for £1,000 be made to contribute towards classroom modernisation be approved.

From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.

Before The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from the Culture, Tourism and Communication Committee held on 24th September 2025, Cllr O'Connor the Chair of that committee updated Full Council on developments.

Cllr O'Connor updated Full Council on the installation of an outside light at Ostreme and that it was currently being used to mark Baby Awareness Week.

Christmas events are being planned with a further update being provided at November's Meeting.

A new initiative will be starting at The Hub from 23rd October 2025 with toddlers and parents being offered play facilities between 9am and noon each Thursday. Free toast will also be provided and the preparation for posters to advertise the event is in hand.

Preparation for The MCC Newsletter is also in hand and any contributions should be provided to Cllr O'Connor.

1. **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council approve expenditure of up to £19,000 for hiring and installation of Christmas Lights within MCC's area.

A discussion took place on expenditure for Christmas light and other Christmas-related items which will be an agenda item at the next Culture Committee Meeting. The quote from Phillips Services (Wales) is slightly more than last year but is within budget. The RFO is looking into options for future lighting with the current standing charge of £68 per month being seen as excessive by some councillors.

RESOLVED: That expenditure of up to £19,000 for hiring and installation of Christmas Lights within MCC's area be approved.

From budgets CTC 3 & 4

2. **RECOMMENDED** that MumblesFest 2026 is held on 6 June 2026.

RESOLVED: That MumblesFest 2026 be held on 6 June 2026

The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the following recommendations from the Community and Social Development Committee held on 23rd September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION That Full Council suspend their normal financial regulations when deciding upon the following recommendation due to only suitable company being identified.

RECOMMENDATION MCC provide up to £1,900 to pay for the removal of graffiti from the Mumbles Skatepark.

The Chair of The Community and Social Development Committee Meeting, Cllr Scott set out that the level of graffiti at Mumbles Skate Park had increased and set out the background to the increase in vandalism. Cllr Scott had liaised with the local PCSOs, who whilst not in attendance for tonight's meeting they hoped to be present at the next Community and Social Development Committee. This is due to take place on 15th October 2025 when vandalism at Mumbles Skatepark will be an agenda

item. Cllr Scott attended the Mumbles Skatepark Event on 27th September 2025, the only councillor to do so, and had discussed the condition of the skatepark with Paul Evans, SCC's Safety Co-Ordinator Advisor. It was noted that graffiti had spread to the surfaces on the majority of surfaces within the skatepark.

The options for cleaning the graffiti were discussed including how the cleaning of graffiti from the skating surfaces required a specialist treatment in order not to damage the surface. The need not only to clear the existing graffiti but options to prevent future damage were also discussed.

ACTION Cllr Phil Keeton to apply a specialist cleaning product to a 'test area' of the skatepark damaged by graffiti. Cllr Keeton to make preparatory arrangements with volunteers for the cleaning of Mumbles Skatepark.

RESOLVED Vandalism at Mumbles Skatepark will be an agenda item at the next Community and Social Development Committee Meeting. An recommendations to brought forward November's Meeting of Full Council, together with any proposals following liaison with committee members and the CO, RFO and Police.

Whilst no recommendations from the Environmental Committee held on 23rd September 2025 arose Cllr Townsend Jones, the Chair of that committee updated Full Council on developments.

Cllr Townsend Jones updated Full Council on a new initiative commencing on 24th October with the Mumbles Repair Café operating from The Hub in Underhill Park.

Cllr O'Connor left the meeting between 7.30pm and 7.32pm

Cllr Xanthe Keeton left the meeting at 7.20pm

C02510-15 Oystermouth Castle Woodland Paths

Cllr Townsend Jones set out how SCC had agreed to match fund up to 70% of the development of paths within Oystermouth Castle Woodland. The Total cost of the project will be £55,000 and after contributions from SCC, existing allocated budgets from within MCC and councillors' personal allowances, there is a shortfall of up to £3,000

RESOLVED To contribute up to £3,000 from The Contingency Fund to contribute to the Oystermouth Castle Woodland Paths

C02510-11 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.

The Chair outlined that the remainder of the meeting needed to be in a 'closed session' due to the sensitive nature of information, in particular financial matters.

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 7.50pm.

C02510-12 Staffing Update

The Chair Cllr Thomas wished Elaine Wright a happy retirement following her recent retirement from MCC and her many years connected to The Ostreme Centre.

Cllr Thomas also wished Claire Anderson every success in the future following her recent departure from the MCC staff.

All Councillors wished to thank both Elaine and Claire for their service and wished them well in the future.

In relation to the impending recruitment of a new marketing officer, councillors on the Culture Committee expressed a wish for their representation to be considered during the recruiting process and appointment of the next marketing officer.

ACTION CS0 to update the next Culture Committee agenda to reflect the above wishes of councillors.

Langland Basketball Court

C02510-13

To consider a revised quote for the new fencing and re-surfacing Basketball Court at Langland.

The RFO had circulated details of the revised quote prior to the meeting. Full Council discussed the quote and considered the amount of £8,900 to cover 'Basketball Court Surfaces Colours' to be unnecessary.

RESOLVED To approve the proposed revised quote of £58,341 for fencing and re-surfacing at The Basketball Court, Langland. This figures took into account the reduction for not including the court having a multi coloured surface.

C02510-14 Underhill Park – Bollard Lighting

The Chair, Cllr Will Thomas had previously circulated quotes in relation to the installation of additional bollard lighting at Underhill Park.

Cllr Thomas set out the importance of having such lighting installed.

RESOLVED To approve the 4th quote within the above report for £13,259

Meeting Finished at 8.25pm

Next meeting: Full Council 11th November 2025

ANNEX A

To be added