

## Minutes of the Mumbles Community Special Council Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm (Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre and via Teams)

**Members Present:** Cllrs Will Thomas (Chair), Francesca O’Brien, Carrie Townsend Jones, Ian Scott, Rob Marshall, Angela O’Connor, Helen Nelson, Phil Keeton, and Laura Gilbert

**Officers Present:** Kerry Grabham – CO and Ian Hughes – CSO.

Prior to the meeting commencing, The Chair, Cllr Thomas paid tribute to Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams, a former Lord Mayor who had recently passed away following a short illness. Paxton was a well-respected councillor who had served the whole of Swansea but in particular the communities of Killay, Fairwood and Three Crosses with distinction for decades. Cllr Thomas wished to pass on his condolences on behalf of the whole Council to Paxton’s family.

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| <b>SC02603-01</b> | <p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Cllrs - Dave Lewis, Sara Keeton, Xanthe Keeton, Rebecca Fogarty, Tim Zhou, Martin O’Neill (Vice Chair) and Trevor Carr.</p>   |
| <b>SC02603-02</b> | <p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b></p> <p>Cllr O’Connor declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item <b>SC02603-08</b> due to a family member being connected to Mumbles Rugby Club.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item <b>SC02603-18</b> due to his participation as an under 9’s coach with Mumbles Rangers Football Club.</p> <p>Cllr Townsend Jones subsequently declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item <b>SC02603-10</b> due to her friendship with the applicant of the Bantani Cymru Grant Application.</p> <p>In addition it was noted that two agenda items (<b>SC02603-07</b> Grant Application Received From Bristol Channel Yacht Club and <b>SC02603-09</b> Oystermouth Cemetery Steps) had previously been discussed and voted upon during the Full Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026, but that due to a clerical error they had been omitted from the published agenda.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> Both agenda items <b>SC02603-07</b> Grant Application Received From Bristol Channel Yacht Club and <b>SC02603-09</b> Oystermouth Cemetery Steps to be reconsidered at present meeting.</p> |

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| <p><b>SC02603-03</b></p> | <p><b>Public Participation</b><br/>(In accordance with Section 48 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Standing Orders of Mumbles Community Council. Members of the Public may make representations only on published agenda items. Members of the Public who wish to make representations must inform the Chief Officer at least 3 working days before the meeting. For further guidance, please refer to the Public Participation Policy on the Council's Website.)</p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the procedures for public participation.</p> <p>No members of the public were present at the commencement of the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Philip Slater joined the meeting between 6.43 and 6.47pm. Mr Slater had indicated prior to the meeting that he wished to attend in relation to correspondence from the Mayals Friends and Residents' Group (<b>SC02603-06</b> refers). The CSO had provided a link to Mr Slater prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Nelson, joined the meeting at 7.34pm</p> |
| <p><b>SC02603-04</b></p> | <p><b>To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as a true record.</p>  |
| <p><b>SC02603-05</b></p> | <p><b>To Appoint a councillor as School Governor to Llwynderw</b></p> <p>No councillor volunteered to be appointed for the vacancy of School Governor to Llwynderw.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> In the absence of a number of councillors at the meeting, CO to redistribute the vacancy to councillors and address the matter at the next Full Council Meeting.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC02603-06</b></p> | <p><b>To Receive Correspondence From Mayals Friends and Residents' Group - Response to NPPF Consultation (Chapter 9 – Telecommunications) – Question 95</b></p> <p>Cllr Nelson set out the concerns of local residents, in particular Philip and Caroline Slater who had expressed concerns over the siting of a mobile phone mast in The Mayals. These concerns had been set out in as letter circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place on how best to progress these concerns and it was the consensus of the committee that a letter should be sent to SCC/Welsh Government on behalf of MCC outlining the concerns in question.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> Cllr Nelson to draft out a letter setting out the concerns detailed above for the attention of SCC/Welsh Government. Councillors and The CO will have 24 hours to address any concerns in relation to the wording of the letter.</p>  |

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| <p><b>SC02603-07</b></p> | <p><b>To Consider the Grant Application Received From Bristol Channel Yacht Club – Lord Mayor Regetta</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined that this grant application had been discussed and approved at the previous Full Council Meeting (10.03.2026) although it had not been correctly published on the agenda.</p> <p>The application was discussed and although councillors were supportive of the application concerns were raised that insufficient detail on expenditure had been included within the application.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that a grant application for £3,900 be awarded to Bristol Channel Yacht Club to contribute towards The Lord Mayor’s Regetta, subject to The CO receiving clarification on expenditure.<br/> <b>From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.</b></p> <p>During this agenda item, Mr Philip Slater joined the meeting at 6.43pm. Following the resolution of this item The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined the outcome of the previous item (<b>SC02603-06</b>) for the benefit of Mr Slater who then left the meeting at 4.47pm</p> |
| <p><b>SC02603-08</b></p> | <p><b>To Consider the Grant Application Received From Mumbles Rugby Club – Junior Festival</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined this grant application and it was discussed by councillors. The CO noted that if successful the applicant would be provided with a rent-free 3G pitch and that the grant would cover ancillary costs such as children’s inflatables. All councillors were supportive of the application.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that a grant application for £1,000 be awarded to Mumbles Rugby Club to contribute towards the running of a junior rugby festival, Daniel de Jesus.<br/> <b>From Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>SC02603-09</b></p> | <p><b>Oystermouth Cemetery Steps</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined that this grant application had also been discussed and approved at the previous Full Council Meeting (10.03.2026) although it had not been correctly published on the agenda.</p> <p>The application was discussed and has a total anticipated cost of £15,000. Councillors were supportive of improving access between Newton and Mumbles for many people and not just those who wish to have access to the cemetery. With £12,000 having already been earmarked for the project, the remaining £3,000 has been donated through councillors’ individual budgets.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the Oystermouth Cemetery Steps near Slade Road be improved with a total budget of £15,000, £3,000 of which consists of councillors’ donations.</p>  |

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| <p><b>SC02603-10</b></p> | <p><b>To Consider Recommendations from Finance &amp; Governance Committee</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Marshall, The Chair of The Finance and Compliance Committee outlined the following recommendations from The Finance and Compliance Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p> <p><b>1. Linden Church Trust Grant Application</b><br/>Grant Application for £6,000 to contribute towards the running costs of West Cross Youth Club</p> <p>Councillors were supportive of this application and noted that this application was only for one year, when the previous application had been for three years.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> When the applicant is updated of the Council's Recommendation, to be informed that Full Council would re-consider a further application covering a three-year period.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That a Grant of £6,000 be awarded to Linden Church Trust, to contribute towards the running costs of West Cross Youth Club</p> <p>From <b>Budget FC1</b> Small and Medium Grants.</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien left the meeting at 6.53pm</p> <p><b>2. HWV Collective CIC Grant Application</b><br/>Grant Application for £2,000 to widen access to practical STEM learning for young people in Mumbles/Swansea through a small-scale prototype programme.</p> <p>Full Council were supportive of the committee members' views that whilst supportive of the scheme they were concerned that there was insufficient information from the applicant. In addition, Full Council also considered that MCC grants were not suitable for educational programmes of this kind, and that an application would be more favourably viewed once a 'trial' or 'pilot' programme had taken place and properly assessed.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> When the applicant is updated on the rationale for not approving the grant, it should be indicated that MCC priorities grants for projects within the area covered by MCC.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> Not to grant an application for £2,000 to HWV Collective CIC, to widen access to practical STEM learning for young people in Mumbles/Swansea through a small-scale prototype programme.</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien returned to the meeting at 6.57pm</p> |

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|                            | <p><b>3. Bantani Cymru CIC Grant Application</b><br/>Grant Application for £2,200 to contribute to Cynefin Project at Oystermouth Castle.</p> <p>Cllr Townsend Jones declared a personal interest in relation to this agenda item due to her friendship with the applicant. Recorded at <a href="#">SC0260302</a>.</p> <p>Councillors were supportive of this application and concurred with committee members that whilst educational, the focus of the project concerned furthering knowledge of local heritage and Oystermouth Castle in particular.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That a grant for £2,200 be awarded to Bantani Cymru CIC to contribute to the Cynefin Project at Oystermouth Castle.</p> <p>From <b>Budget FC1</b> Small and Medium Grants.</p> <p><b>4. Mumbles Bowls Club Grant Application</b><br/>Grant Application for £800 to contribute towards the maintenance costs of the bowling green.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors agreed with committee members that the Mumbles Bowls Club application should be deferred until the next committee meeting in May pending clarification on their bank balance. Previous applications to be checked for similar queries.</p> |
| <a href="#">SC02603-11</a> | <p><b>To Consider a Report from Story of Mumbles – The Plinth</b><br/>The Chair, Cllr Will Thomas had distributed a document prior to the meeting. Cllr Thomas set out key aspects from this report including the background to how the plinth had been erected at the end of World War II and that it had been removed due to the seafront defence re-development work being carried out.</p> <p>A discussion took place on the future restoration and installation of The Plinth. The Story of Mumbles have agreed to assist in a voluntary capacity with the cleaning and restoration of The Plinth. Cllr Thomas proposed that £250 be granted for restoration and that following the restoration MCC liaise with SCC in relation to the siting, including transportation of the plinth.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That £250 be granted for the restoration of The Plinth.<br/>From <b>Contingency</b> Funds.</p>  |
| <a href="#">SC02602-12</a> | <p><b>To Receive and Approve Council’s Financial Risk Register</b><br/>The CO had circulated the Council’s Financial Risk Register prior to the meeting and highlighted key aspects to Councillors.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the register was well received with a number of minor amendments needing to be made.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Council’s Financial Risk Register, subject to the CO making the identified minor alterations.</p>  |

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| <p><b>SC02603-13</b></p> | <p><b>To Receive and Approve Council’s Annual Report</b><br/> The CO had circulated the Council’s Annual Report prior to the meeting and highlighted key aspects to Councillors.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Councillors praised the CO for delivering such a high-quality report in such challenging circumstances. A number of typos were apparent which together with suggestions on the structure of the report that will be addressed through Councillors e-mailing amendments.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Cllr Townsend Jones to forward an amended report to CO following typos and other minor alterations being made.<br/> Any Councillor with suggestions for further amendments to e-mail CO as a matter of urgency.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Council’s Annual Report subject to the CO making any alterations as identified by Councillors.</p>  |
| <p><b>SC02603-14</b></p> | <p><b>To Consider and Approve Council’s Mission Statement</b><br/> The CO had circulated a document outlining proposed mission statements prior to the meeting. The CO then highlighted key aspects to Councillors and explained that the three options had been provided in consultation with the Working Group.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the options were considered but opinion was divided on the most suitable, resulting in a vote taking place on the three options was we-received with a number of minor amendments needing to be made.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the third option for MCC’s Mission Statement namely: -</p> <p><b>Vision:</b><br/> <i>A vibrant, connected, and welcoming Mumbles—where people, places, and community life thrive.</i></p> <p><b>Mission</b><br/> <i>To strengthen our community by investing in inclusive spaces, supporting local initiatives, enhancing well-being and the environment, and ensuring our decisions reflect the voices of residents.</i></p> |
| <p><b>SC02603-15</b></p> | <p><b>To Receive and Approve Council’s Internal Audit Recommendations Progress</b><br/> The CO had circulated the Progress Report on the Council’s Internal Audit Recommendations prior to the meeting. The CO highlighted key aspects to Councillors and addressed their questions.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Progress Report on the Council’s Internal Audit Recommendations.</p>  |

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| <p><b>SC02603-16</b></p> | <p><b>To Receive and Approve an Update on Underhill</b></p> <p>The CO informed Council that SCC had yet to provide a written update on Underhill. The Chair, Cllr Thomas informed Councillors that he had attended a Cabinet Meeting with SCC in his capacity as a SCC Councillor. Whilst not in a position to disclose privileged information, Cllr Thomas could confirm that there had been a positive outcome to the meeting in relation to Underhill.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To defer this agenda item until the next Full Council Meeting in May 2026.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC02603-17</b></p> | <p><b>To Approve Planning Permission for a Running Track at Underhill Park</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas provided clarification and background to this item. Cllr Thomas outlined that the idea of a running track was at the initial stages and that he was seeking support in principle for the idea. The track in question relates to creating a new path adjacent to the hedge of the eastern side of Underhill Park. This would create a perimeter path around Underhill thereby creating a track for those wishing to exercise, particularly joggers and walkers.</p> <p>In discussion it was acknowledged that consultation with key stakeholders and the community as a whole would be essential.</p> <p>The vast majority of the Council were enthusiastic about this project, whilst recognising that its completion is likely to be some years away.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To support the concept of a perimeter running/walking track around Underhill Park.</p> |
| <p><b>SC02603-18</b></p> | <p><b>To Approve Planning Permission to make Underhill Tier Two FAW Compliant for Welsh League Football. Allowing Mumbles Rangers First and Second Team to return to Underhill</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas provided background information to this item and outlined the aims of local football clubs in obtaining Tier Two, FAW compliant facilities for Welsh League Football.</p> <p>This application was supported by Council</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve planning permission to make Underhill Tier Two FAW Compliant for Welsh League Football.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC02603-19</b></p> | <p><b>To approve the Virement of the Chairs' Allowance to create a new budget line of Civic Regalia and to agree the purchase of a new Chairs Chain.</b></p> <p>The Chair, Cllr Thomas outlined that he will forgo a percentage of his remuneration as Chair to purchase a new chain of office.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas also outlined that he would not wear or use the chain whilst in office but it was something that he wanted to give to The Village, after his time as Chairman.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors were supportive of Cllr Tnhomas' proposal and approved any future purchase. The consensus of opinion within Full Council was that Cllr Thomas should wear any new chain himself prior to him finishing as Chair.</p>   |

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| <b>SC02603-20</b> | <p><b>To Approve Delegated powers to the Chief Officer from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, known as the Pre-election Period.</b></p> <p>The CO set out the need for delegated powers during the Pre-Election Period leading up to the Welsh Government Election in May 2026. The CO then addresses questions from Councillors.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve delegated powers to the Chief Officer from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, known as the Pre-election Period.</p> |
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**Meeting Finished** at 8.pm

**Next meeting** 12th May 2026

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