

Minutes of Meeting of the Community & Social Development Committee held on 19 February 2025 at The Ostreme Centre 6.30pm and via TEAMS

Councillors Present: Cllrs Ian Scott (Chair), Francesca O'Brien, Phil Keeton, Pam Erasmus and Will Thomas

Officers Present: Paul Beynon – RFO and Ian Hughes – CSO

At the start of the meeting, the Chair, Cllr Scott introduced three members of the public who had attended in relation to agenda item **CSD2502-06** concerning the Mumbles Bowls Pavilion Grant. At Cllr Scott's invitation the three representatives introduced themselves: -

Mr Paul Thomas, the Secretary of Mumbles Croquet Club

Mr Chris Maggs of Oystermouth Bowls Club and

Mr Nigel Richards, the Secretary of Mumbles Bowls Club

CSD2502-01 Apologies:

None

CSD2502-02 Declarations of Interest

None

CSD2502-03 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the 20 November 2024, meeting as a true and accurate record.

CSD2502-04 Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings

The CSO outlined outstanding actions.

RESOLVED 'Outstanding action' report to be updated by CSO.

CSD2502-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/12/2024

Reports attached.

Financial reports prepared by RFO, Paul Beynon who had previously circulated the documents to councillors.

No queries were raised with either the RFO or CSO prior to the meeting in relation to the reports.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31st December 2024.

CSD2502-06 Mumbles Bowls Pavillion Grant

To vire the budget of £15,000 from the CSD1-Underhill Park Grant to the Mumbles Bowls Pavillion.

Cllr O'Brien set out how in her capacity as a SCC Councillor she had obtained partial funding from SCC for the renovation of The Mumbles Bowls Club Pavilion. SCC would be providing 70% of the total cost with the remainder of the funding needing to be found elsewhere.

The refurbishment would consist of a complete overhaul of the pavilion including an asbestos inspection estimated at £47,200 together with the 'cladding' of what is known as the 'Pension Hut' at £12,500. In addition, a 10% contingency budget would be necessary leaving a total of £25,280 to be paid after SCC's 70% contribution to the work.

Cllr O'Brien explained that MCC had previously earmarked £10,000 leaving £15,280 to be found. Cllr O'Brien had met with the RFO, Paul Beynon to discuss how best to fund this shortfall. The RFO suggested that £15,000 which had been set aside for a project in Underhill Park could be transferred with councillors approval as the proposed project in Underhill would not be proceeding in the foreseeable future and that this agenda item relates to that request.

Should this transfer be recommended the shortfall of £280 will be provided through Cllr O'Brien's councillor's allowance.

Councillors were enthusiastic about the project although concerns were raised concerning why MCC should be supporting this project and not individual councillors from Mumbles or SCC in its entirety. Additional concerns were raised over the transparency of quotes and information needing to be carried out and why alternative funding such as Heritage/Lottery funding could not be provided.

Cllr O'Brien explained that MCC would be taking control of this asset and that only 30% of the funding had to be provided by MCC. Cllr O'Brien explained that she had provided as much information as possible and would continue to do so. Options such as Lottery Funding were not viable due to time restraints, and she also stated that this was the only occasion that she had sought funding from MCC for a project.

Councillors believed that the renovation of The Pavilion would be an asset to the whole of Mumbles and that it would compliment the engineering work being carried out at the seafront. Cllr Scott believed that Cllr O'Brien should be thanked and congratulated for hopefully arranging the funding for the renovation of the pavilion after many years of attempting to do so.

Mr Thomas, Mr Maggs and Mr Richards all spoke passionately for the grant to be approved. The chance to renovate the Bowls Club Pavilion is a golden opportunity to create a wonderful green space for the local community and visitors, one that may be lost if the opportunity of the 70% grant through SCC is not taken up. The representatives believed that MCC's contribution is great value for money and that potentially in the future the whole refurbishment work may need to be paid for by MCC should this subsidy from MCC fall through. Mr Thomas stated that MCC had paid for recommendations concerning the Pavilion in 2015 and that until Cllr O'Brien's efforts, all attempts to carry out renovation work had proved fruitless.

Cllr Scott thanked the three representatives for their attendance and contributing to the discussion.

RECOMMENDED: To vire the budget of £15,000 from the CSD1-Underhill Park Grant to the Mumbles Bowls Pavillion.

CSD2502-07**Appointment of Committee Member**

To recommend the appointment of Cllr Trevor Carr to The Community and Social Development Committee

Cllr Scott set out that Cllr Carr who had recently joined MCC as a councillor would be an asset to the Community and Social Development Committee.

RECOMMENDED: To appointment Cllr Trevor Carr to The Community and Social Development Committee.

CSD2502-08 Exercise Equipment on West Cross Seafront Update

Cllr Scott outlined how the purchase of exercise equipment previously agreed at Full Council should be installed at West Cross Seafront during March 2025. SCC had kindly contributed to the cost of transportation, delivery and installation of the equipment.

Meeting finished 6.59pm
Next Meeting 19th March 2025

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