



Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 25 March 2024 at 6.33 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams

Councillors Present Helen Nelson (Chair), Martin O'Neil, Michael Parkin, Carrie Townsend Jones and Rebecca Fogarty.

Co-opted member present: Eddie Hall

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham – Clerk, and Ian Hughes – CSO.

EN2403-01 Apologies: Cllrs. Emelie Cox and Sara Keeton.

EN2403-02 Declarations of Interest: None

EN2403-03 Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2024 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 26th February 2024 as a true record which was proposed by Cllr. Fogarty and seconded by Cllr. Townsend Jones.

EN2403-04 Actions from previous meetings update

The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of 'actions' to committee members.

RESOLVED: Outstanding actions updated and shown as complete where appropriate; details recorded in 'action' report, together with newly created actions.



EN2403-05 Budget Monitoring Report to 31/01/2024 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Financial reports prepared by RFO Paul Beynon had previously been provided to councillors, the CSO stated that no questions relating to the budget reports had been provided either to CSO or The Clerk.

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

EN2403-06

Gardeners Question Time

Cllr Nelson provided an overview of the inaugural Mumbles Question Time which will take place between 5.30 and 7.30pm on 26th March 2024 within the café/book area of Newton Community Hall.

All arrangements have been made with the event being oversubscribed for the sixty audience places available. Cllr Nelson will be chairing the meeting which will be opened by Cllr. Scott. The panel will be made up of Sue Kent, Teifion Davies, Louise Watkins and Peter Robinson.

Sixteen questions have been submitted by the audience and Cllr. Nelson has selected eleven of these questions to reflect a range of issues and provide sufficient time for the questions to be answered.

Cllr. Nelson has circulated all relevant documents to the judges which will also be circulated to committee members.

Refreshment has been arranged at Newton Hall and following a discussion it was **AGREED** that there should be a twenty-minute interval at 6.30pm

Following the question-and-answer session Cllr Townsend Jones will close the meeting which will include the launch Mumbles Buzz and Bloom.

EN2403-07

Mumbles Buzz and Bloom

Cllr. Nelson outlined the arrangements for Mumbles Buzz & Bloom which will be launched at Mumbles Gardeners Question Time on 26th March 2024. The event will run from early May until the end of July 2024. There are to six categories, Best Business Garden, Best Ornamental Garden, Best Wildlife Garden, Best School Growing Garden, Best 'Grow Your Own' and Best Community Garden. Whilst the names of judges are yet to be confirmed each category will have two judges one of whom will be a Counsellor.



EN2403-08

Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:

Summary of previous months activity and next steps for April.

Lydia Graham, The Environmental Officer had previously arranged for the March Report to be circulated to all committee members. In addition, Lydia provided a written update on all matters to the CSO and The Chair, Cllr Nelson who appraised the committee. Lydia's outstanding action were detailed under agenda item **EN2403-04**. There was no additional information on the Big Climate Leap but progress on Mumbles Gardeners Question Time and Mumbles Buzz & Bloom were detailed under **EN2403-06** and **EN2403-07** respectively.

Lydia has made good progress in relation to the development of Jubilee Gardens, the details of which cannot be disclosed until the grant is approved. It is anticipated that approval will be obtained prior to April's Meeting when a full update will be provided.

Lydia had also provided updates in relation to the following: -

- Volunteer days which will be limited in the foreseeable future following the resignation of the ground's person, Martin Russell.
- Eventbrite is recommended to increase capacity of environmental events within MCC.
- Workplace recycling including progress of a recycling system at The Ostreme Centre.
- Updates on Eco Grants to MCC Primary Schools.

EN2403-09

Grounds Person Discussion

Options for gardening and maintenance to be discussed.

The Chair, Cllr. Nelson set out that a discussion needed to take place in relation to the various options available for ground maintenance to be carried out following the resignation of the ground's person, Martin Russell. Due to the confidentiality of the issue in question it was proposed by Cllr Nelson that the recording of the meeting be stopped and that the press and public should be excluded.



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 stopped at 7.36pm

The committee discussed the options of MCC carrying out ground maintenance in a 'closed session' until the conclusion of the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8.08pm

Next Meeting 22nd April 2024

DRAFT