

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 31 March 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting Ostreme Centre and via Teams

Councillors Present: Carrie Townsend Jones (Chair), Phil Keeton (Vice Chair), Sara Keeton, and Helen Nelson

Co-opted Members Present: Eddie Hall

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

EN2503-01 Apologies: None
Cllr Helen Nelson arrived at 6.35pm

EN2503-02 Declarations of Interest: None

EN2503-03 Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Committee

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2025 as a true record.

EN2503-04 Actions arising from Previous Meetings

The CSO updated the committee on all outstanding actions having previously circulated the full list of outstanding 'actions' to committee members. Discussions took place on a number of outstanding and proposed new actions.

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

EN2503-05 Budget Monitoring Reports to 28/02/2025 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Reports attached.

Financial reports prepared by RFO, Paul Beynon had previously been provided to Committee members.

No queries were raised with RFO or CSO prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place on delays taking place in relation to the implementation of initiatives due to SCC's backlog in progressing grant applications.

RESOLVED: to approve the budget monitoring report to 28th February 2025.

EN2503-06**Environment Officer - Monthly Report on current projects and overview:**

Summary of previous months activity and next steps for February. Report attached.

Robert Hernando, The Environmental and Sustainability Engagement Officer had previously provided his monthly report to committee members. No queries were raised with either The Clerk or CSO prior to the meeting

The Clerk wished to express her thanks to both Robert Hernando and Ashley Haynes for their endeavours in relation to the development of Jubilee Gardens. The Clerk is particularly grateful to Robert who took over the project from his predecessor and succeeded in progressing the project within a very short timescale prior to April 2025. The Clerk's comments were subsequently endorsed by The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones who also thanked Robert and Ashley on behalf of the Committee and MCC.

The Clerk stated that Norton Nature Reserve will be undergoing an evaluation on 10th April 2025 between 10am and noon and that as many of the committee should attend as possible. It was proposed that on the 10th April the Environmental Committee should visit Jubilee Gardens as a group to view the progress made.

RESOLVED: That as many of the committee as possible visit Jubilee Gardens and Norton Nature Reserve on 10th April 2025 to witness the progress of Jubilee Gardens and support the evaluation of Norton Nature Reserve respectively.

ACTION: CSO to upload EO's report onto Teams for Full Council Meeting

EN2503-07**Grass Verge Scheme**

Agreement has been reached with SCC regarding planting on grass verges. A discussion took place on the best type of planting to take place including the use of perennials and plants best suited for biodiversity and pollinating requirements. In addition, locations including those in Mayals and Fairwood Road discussed.

ACTION: Ashley Haynes to be responsible for the progression of Grass verge Scheme in consultation with committee members.

EN2503-08 Mumbles Gardeners Question Time Feedback

The general consensus of the committee was that Mumbles Gardeners Question Time (MGQT) had been a great success. There were issues connected to the power supply in the kitchen but these were overcome through the resourcefulness of the Clerk and Diane who were still able to provide refreshment at the interval.

During the discussion it was suggested that a period of reflection time, perhaps an hour should be allocated for 'mingling' between the speakers and the audience after the question session. Other considerations included planning well ahead for future events so as to avoid potential clashes with other events and ensure the availability of officers to staff the events. The Clerk informed the committee that a 'Calander of Events' will be introduced in the near future to ensure that events such as MGQT are highlighted in advance. Future dates and venues were also discussed.

RESOLVED: Following the great success of MGQT, this should be annual event with a provisional date of 26th March 2026 set for the next event.

EN2503-09 Mumbles Crop Collective

Documents pertaining to Mumbles Crop Collective had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed the committee that the local business, Cash Hardware will be participating in the initiative.

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones outlined that the list of locations for this project would include The Ostreme Centre, and Norton Nature although the full list has yet to be finalised. This worthwhile scheme is at a preparatory stage for the forthcoming pilot scheme.

EN2503-10 Bee Friendly Streets

Cllr Townsend Jones informed the committee that this project only awaits the publicity leaflet. Robert Hernando had informed the Clerk that the preparation for the leaflets is complete and will be published and distributed imminently.

EN2503-11 **City Nature Challenge 25 and Earth Day April 22nd**

The Clerk outlined that this event will take place at Norton Nature Reserve and is organised by MCC and is part of the City Nature Challenge which in turn is part of a four day bio global blitz coordinated by SCC. The aim is to identify as many different species of plant within the reserve and the event will be publicised through MCC Website and social media.

A discussion followed on the opportunity to fulfil a previous idea of holding plant swap events.

ACTION: Robert Hernando to identify a suitable date for MCC to host a plant swap event

EN2503-12 **Mumbles Buzz and Bloom**

The Chair, Cllr Townsend Jones stated that leaflets had not been prepared in time for the launch of Mumbles Buzz and Bloom at Mumbles Gardeners Question Time on 28th March 2024.

The Clerk confirmed that the categories had been confirmed and that efforts were now focused on publicising the event and obtaining as many nominations as possible. In addition to individuals nominating themselves, individuals should also be nominated through a third party provided the person concerned was prepared to participate. Feedback from MGQT revealed that a number of residents particularly elderly ones had difficulty with using QR codes to register for MCC events. To address this a 'drop box' at Ostreme will be installed, the event advertised at key locations such as The Library and consideration is being given to informing the public on the use of QR codes at a future Coffee with Friends Meeting. This would be led by Age Cymru who would facilitate other IT functions.

Nominees should also be encouraged to photograph their displays over a period of time to accurately reflect their garden.

EN2503-13 **Climate Emergency Action (Water Quality Testing Project) Update**

The Clerk outlined that Robert Hernando had been unsuccessful in registering for free for the forthcoming event. Participating would entail the cost of a testing kit ranging from £650 in price. However Robert will endeavour to register at a future event in September.

During discussion the committee considered that in the event of the sample kits being suitable for multiple testing, and not single usage, then MCC should consider their purchase and monitor water quality throughout the area of MCC.

ACTION: Robert Hernando to establish whether the testing kits for water testing are single or for multiple usage.

EN2503-14 Litter Free Zones and Monthly Litter Pick Dates

A discussion took place on the most suitable days for litter picks. Due to the availability of Councillors and other considerations including combining litter picks with other events no fixed day was agreed.

RESOLVED: To alternate litter pick days between either the 3rd or 4th Friday of each month and a Saturday or Sunday. Dates to be confirmed

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EN2503-15 Engaging with Young People

Cllr Sara Keeting outlined how she had discussed engaging young people with Jane Richmond of SCC. Great energy and enthusiasm was evident at events such as Youth Clubs when environmental issues have been discussed. During the discussion that ensued a number of ideas were raised to engage with young people including utilising existing youth clubs, participation in August Fun Days and collaborating with any future Exist Skateboarding Safety Training at Mumbles Skatepark.

RESOLVED: Opportunities to engage with young people to be discussed at April's Meeting.

EN2503-16 MCC Website – SA1 and Social Media

The need for environmental issues to be promoted either through the existing MCC Website or a new dedicated environmental website deferred until April 2025 due to the impending appointment of a new IT contractor.

Meeting ended at 7.34pm.

Next Meeting 28 April 2025