



Minutes of Meeting of the Finance and Compliance Committee held on 17 March 2025 at 6.30 pm Hybrid Meeting at the Ostreme Centre & via Teams

Councillors Present: Rob Marshall (Chair), Pam Erasmus (Vice Chair) Ian Scott, Martin O'Neill, Phil Keeton, Sara Keeton, Tim Zhou and Carrie Townsend Jones

Officers Present: Kerry Grabham – The Clerk, Diane Athernought – Customer Services Officer and Ian Hughes – CSO

Public participation: Adam Cousins of St John's Ambulance in attendance, primarily to provide a presentation in relation to agenda item [FI2503-08](#)

FI2503-01 **Apologies:** None

FI2503-02 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Pam Erasmus declared a personal interest in agenda item [FI2503-10](#) as she is a friend of the applicant.

FI2503-03 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Committee**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025 as a true record.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025 as a true record.

FI2503-04 **Outstanding Actions from Previous Meeting**

Outstanding actions outlined by CSO.

RESOLVED outstanding actions updated, details recorded in 'outstanding action' report by CSO.



FI2503-08

St John's Ambulance Gower Division Grant Application Update

Grant Application for £4,999.16 to contribute towards the purchase of vital equipment for volunteers and includes expenditure for training

The applicant had agreed to attend a committee meeting and provide a presentation on the application and address any queries from councillors.

The chair, Cllr Marshall brought forward this agenda item in order to allow the presentation to be made. At 6.32pm Standing Orders were suspended and Adam Cousins provided a presentation on the application detailing how he had been with The Gower Division of St John's Ambulance for nine years, outlining the work of his organisation within the area and how the grant money if awarded would be spent. The three main areas for funding being equipment and training, going out to the community and providing operational equipment. Mr Cousins stated that it was also necessary to prepare for major incidents and modernise their equipment and practices.

Following his presentation Mr Cousins answered questions from Councillors. He stated that his division was responsible for the whole of Gower and that MCC covered approximately 18 to 25% of that area. Every effort is made to raise funds and this has included approaches to other Community Councils including Dunvant, Bishopston and Reynoldston although to date no grant money had been provided.

Mr Cousins stated that many of the events where St John's Ambulance participate such as school fetes are provided free of charge although there are charges at larger events such as MumblesFest. Options to reduce fees for events and training arranged through MCC were also discussed.

A lot of the equipment has a good lifespan through regular maintenance and upgrades. Mr Cousins cited a mannequin that he uses as being nine years old and has been upgraded to include digital technology.

Mr Cousins stated that the equipment detailed in the original application had been amended to reflect the most significant needs of the organisation including two defibrillators and he would be happy to provide this amended version.

The Chair thanked Mr Cousins for his attendance and the work carried out by St John's Ambulance. Mr Cousins then left the meeting at 7.03pm when Standing Orders resumed.



Following Mr Cousin's departure, a discussion took place on the merits of the application. It was the general consensus of the committee that MCC should make some contribution to this worthwhile organisation and that the remainder of the funding should be found from other sources.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £2,500 be made to St John's Ambulance Gower Division to contribute towards the purchase of vital equipment for volunteers and includes expenditure for training.

From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants**.

FI2403-05

Budget Monitoring Reports to 31/01/2025 - Paul Beynon, RFO

Reports attached

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

No queries regarding these reports were raised prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the budget monitoring report to 31st January 2025.

FI2503-12

Grant Report

Clerk's Update on Grants

The Chair, Cllr Marshall brought forward this agenda item in order to provide assistance and guidance to the grant applications detailed below.

The Clerk had previously provided written guidance which had been circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Key aspects of the report included delays to applications, remainder of budget available and criteria for processing applications including restrictions on surplus bank funds were outlined.

The Clerk then addressed questions from Councillors.

FI2503-06

Sunshine Lotus Yoga Grant Application Update

Grant Application for £5,000 to support yoga within the community through Yoga 4 Health

Cllr Townsend Jones outlined that the applicant's bank funds were limited and that a partial funding could be considered.



During the discussion that followed all councillors were supportive of the work being carried out by the applicant. The general consensus of the committee was that partial funding should be made with the remainder being sought from other bodies including Lottery Money. Should this grant be approved, it would create opportunities from the applicant to seek additional funding through 'matching' with The National Lottery for example.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £2,500 be made Sunshine Lotus Yoga to support yoga within the community through Yoga 4 Health
From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**

FI2503-07

Mumbles Bowls Club Grant Application Update

Grant Application for £800 to contribute towards the maintenance of the playing surface at Mumbles Bowling Green.

The Clerk outlined that this application had historically been made through one applicant but at the request of Councillors at previous meetings all three clubs connected to the Bowling Green were now required to submit separate applications. It was also noted by the Clerk who had liaised with the club's treasurer that criteria regarding applications had changed and that in future consideration would be given to surplus funds being reserved.

During the discussion that followed it was also noted by Councillors that Mumbles Croquet Club had successfully had its application approved by Full Council at the March Meeting when representatives from all three clubs associated with The Bowling Green had attended and participated in proceedings.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £800 be made to Mumbles Bowls Club to contribute towards the maintenance of the playing surface at Mumbles Bowling Green.

From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**

FI2503-09

Mumbles Rugby Football Club Grant Application

Grant Application for £2,000 to contribute towards supporting Mumbles Rugby Festival, Crackers Weekend.

RESOLVED: Deferred until April Finance & Compliance Committee Meeting pending grant application being circulated to committee members.



FI2503-10

Newton Athletic Football Club Grant Application

Grant Application for £1,500 to contribute towards the. Newton Athletic Football Festival (Children)

RESOLVED: Deferred until April Finance & Compliance Committee Meeting pending grant application being circulated to committee members.

FI2503-11

Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) Grant Application

Grant Application for £5,000 to contribute towards the screening of 100 young persons aged between 14 and 35 in relation to identifying heart-related issues.

Cllr Pam Erasmus reminded Councillors of the background to this application which had been discussed at earlier committee meetings.

During the discussion that ensued Councillors were supportive of the application although there was an opinion that the screening should have wider parameters so as to include more of the population.

Again, the general consensus of the committee was that partial funding should be made, providing opportunities for the applicant to seek additional funding, including 'matching' with The National Lottery.

Cllr Marshall offered to provide £200 from his councillor's allowance towards the screening programme and Cllr Erasmus had previously committed £1,500 from her own allowance to the screening programme. Councillors will be provided with the opportunity to donate from their own allowances towards the screening programme at The April Full Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £2,500 be made to Cardiac Risk to contribute towards the screening of 100 young persons aged between 14 and 35 in relation to identifying heart-related issues

From **Budget FC1 Small and Medium Grants.**

**FI2503-13****Policy Committee Update**

Policy update on draft national guidance for grant applications.

The Clerk had previously provided an update on grant policy to Full Council on 11th February 2025 when she had stated that advice had been sought from HR and that advice on supporting national charities already existed. Grants from national charities can be recommended at the council's discretion, but a benefit should be shown to the residents of the area in question.

Meeting ended 7.48pm

Next Meeting 14^h April 2025