

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ASSETS, FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 21st July 2017 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT	Councillor Bob Jenkins (Chairman) Councillor Peter Banks Councillor David Bragg Councillor Sylvia Wargent Councillor Carl Powling Councillor Sophie Weaver
IN ATTENDANCE	Petra Palfreyman, Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16TH JUNE 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. TO RECEIVE UPDATED REPORTS ON TASK TRACKER TOPICS

Refer to the Task Tracker for updates.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM TOWN CLERK REGARDING THE LAND IN COAST ROAD NEAR THE HOUSEBOATS AND TO DISCUSS A COURSE OF ACTION

The general consensus was that this area of land should be protected from parking and further damage to the surrounding reed beds. The land is thought to be owned by W M Wyatt (Simon Cutts) and it was agreed that the Town Clerk should approach W M Wyatt to obtain their view as to whether or not they would be agreeable to our placing benches (3?) to prevent parking and an ice cream van being parked there at busy times.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED PARKING CHARGE FOR THE BEACH HUT WATCH FROM APRIL 2018

Councillor Jenkins outlined the proposition discussed in the Transport committee that the Beach Hut Watch should no longer benefit from the long established £5 parking permit and that this should rise to £50 p.a. and be phased in from April 2018 with an annual fee of £30 to rise by £10 in April 2019 and £10 in April 2020. The revenue generated for West Mersea Town Council to be ring fenced and used for the internal refurbishment of Willoughby toilets. Town Clerk to write to Colchester Borough Council via North Essex Parking Partnership with our proposals: a letter in response to an email from Beach Hut Watch will be sent from the Town Clerk. All present were in favour of the course of action proposed.

7. TO DISCUSS CURRENT MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL OFFICES

It was agreed that we should proceed with an upgrade to the lighting system in the main office and the Town Clerk's office. Quotes to be obtained and the work carried out within the budgeted figure of £1500. In addition a portion of the budgeted maintenance figure should be used to supply and fit blinds to the main office.

8. TO DISCUSS A SUGGESTION THAT MERSEA PARK SHOULD HAVE AN ADULT KEEP FIT AREA

It was agreed that any discussion should be deferred until next financial year at which time demand, funding and siting to be considered.

9. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE EMPLOYMENT OF A FACILITIES (PUBLIC TOILETS) CLEANER AND LITTER PICKER

At previous meetings the Town Clerk had been asked to investigate if Anne (the lady currently cleaning our public toilets for Danfo) would be prepared to undertake additional cleaning duties during busy times and, in addition, clear away rubbish around the litter bins at the Monkey Steps and Boardwalk of an evening. This arrangement is acceptable to all parties and falls within our budgeted costs: it was agreed that we should go ahead as soon as possible and put Anne on the payroll. This arrangement is to run for a trial period and, in any event, only for our busy periods.

10. TO REPORT ON THE FUNDING FOR THE NEW PLAY AREAS IN WEST MERSEA PARK

Councillor Shilton has submitted a number of grant applications – the latest position on these to be reported at the next meeting. Meanwhile Councillor Powling has prepared an application to Cory Environmental which needs to be submitted by the 8th August, with, hopefully, a decision by the 17th September.

Councillor Powling to check with Colchester Borough Council Planning Department as to whether planning permission is required.

11. TO REVIEW THE 3 QUOTES FOR THE PLAY AREAS IN WEST MERSEA PARK AND AGREE A PREFERRED SUPPLIER.

After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor Weaver and seconded by Councillor Jenkins, with all in favour, that Sutcliffe should be our preferred supplier.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

22nd September 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.45 pm