

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) Peter Banks Dave Bragg Peter Clements Robert Jenkins Paula Moore Stephanie Shilton Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	Borough Councillors:	John Jowers Patricia Moore

Public Session

4 members of the public in attendance.

A request was made to repair the Tennis Club pavilion roof, reconsider the future of the grass tennis courts and when Village Green signs 241 will be installed.

A concern was raised about the size of vehicles using The Lane and asked for a sign at the top of The Lane advising the 6ft width restriction.

John Vince confirmed that he had been appointed as treasurer of BAANG.

Reports from Borough Councillors

County Councillor John Jowers

There will shortly be another meeting with County about drainage in Firs Road, Firs Chase and The Lane.

The condition of the village roads are disgraceful, in particular East Road as a major bus route and Yorick Road which keeps collapsing. A meeting will be held with Mr Johnson via Highways panel to push for repairs.

Cudmore Grove has been allocated £150 000 for play equipment.

Essex will shortly be the first county to combine its Police and Fire Service.

CIF – are setting up a separate revenue fund which could be useful to West Mersea Town Council to look in to.

Essex Community Fund – also has a revenue fund where we can apply for funding.

Coastal Protection belt – has been determined. The CPB is not altered until the Local Plan designates sites and then they are allocated into the CPB. The results of the housing white paper are held by West Mersea Town Council.

Neighbourhood Plan – should determine issues such as style, design and occupancy.

Harwich Dredging Scheme – we are now top of the list. The sooner Cobmarsh Island is protected the better it will be.

Firs Caravan site is within the Village Envelope.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Local Plan panel – it is now in the public domain that Mersea is eligible for the local list. A list needs to be put together in a suitable format in order to submit it via the Neighbourhood Plan. A description of each building is required. Not every building will be accepted.

Report from Colchester Borough Council Zone Warden

Tim Pickard

Organised a wellbeing trip for the older persons of the island.

The Magistrates Court recently fined a local person £673 for fly tipping in Cross Lane.

Two new litter warriors have signed up to help collect rubbish.

There will be a dog education day on 12 April at the Glebe.

Twenty on line sessions on 20 April 2017 between 10am and 12pm will be set up at the library to help educate people to go on line rather than phone Colchester Borough Council.

Eight pupils at Mersea School from year 5 have signed up to be Junior Wardens.

There will be an enforcement weekend 29/30 April with Police and Zone Wardens present.

Beach Hut Inspections – up to 3 bags of rubbish can be left from beach hut users but any more than that constitutes fly tipping for which there is £100 fine.

During a recent Colchester Town centre patrol, 6 penalty notices were issued.

Gary Cole

This Zone Warden is on an eight-month secondment to the Waste Strategy team.

Changes to rubbish collections from June.

Rubbish collections will be changed to 3 x 60L general rubbish every two weeks, per household.

Food waste will still be collected weekly.

Free clear sacks will be distributed in May.

Black sacks will no longer be provided.

White garden bags will be free from June.

A second green box will be available to separate cans and glass bottles.

An exemptions policy is being written at the moment. Stickers will be provided for exempt households.

The changes are being introduced to focus more on recycling and less on general waste. Colchester does not rate very well in the league table of recycling.

During a recent education day in West Mersea, the results were positive and West Mersea generally does quite well with recycling.

6442 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Robert Davidson.

6443 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

6444 TO CONFIRM THE CO-OPTION OF A NEW WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCILLOR

Cllr Powling agreed to alter the order of the agenda to confirm the co-option of Stephanie Shilton and the Clerk and Councillors witnessed the declaration of acceptance being signed.

6445 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 16 FEBRUARY 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Jenkins that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 16 February 2017, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6446 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 9 MARCH 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Banks, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 9 March 2017, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6447 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 23 MARCH 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Bragg that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 23 March 2017, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6448 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 17 0589

Proposed rear extension and replacement garage (resubmission of 16 3171).
24 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

(b) 17 0614

Removal of existing conservatory. Addition of proposed orangery and enlargement to bedroom including ensuite.
29 Melrose Road, West Mersea – Mrs J Ponsford

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

(c) 17 0649

Removal of conservatory and construction of a single storey side extension. Removal of flat roof porch and canopy, construction of pitched roof porch.

2 Dawes Lane, West Mersea – Mr M Howard

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

(d) 17 0698

Proposed extensions.

15 New Captains Road, West Mersea – Mrs P Palfreyman

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

6449 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications Passed

(a) 17 0190

Provision of a ramp for disabled access. Access to level threshold front door.

36 High Street North, West Mersea – Mr B Bishop

(b) 16 3007

New pitched roof to existing garage, and new single storey rear extension.

Merie, 20 Alexandra Avenue, West Mersea – Mr S Green

(c) 17 0378

First floor extension over existing garage with single storey extension to rear.

94 East Road, West Mersea – Mr Spiller

(d) 17 0192

Extension of existing function room, relocation of existing toilets to include additional facilities. Addition of a covered porch to existing flat roof entrance. Construct pitched roof on first floor dwelling and clad exterior of existing pub.

The Fox Inn, 106 East Road, West Mersea – Mr S Jowers

WMTC Recommendation: West Mersea Town Council propose that Colchester Borough Council look at the design as it is not in keeping with the existing building.

(e) 17 0209

Single storey rear extension and loft conversion.

4 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mrs Newman

6450 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Bradwell – the next meeting is in May. There have been some articles in the press about Magnox problems. The new pipework will now be used to distribute FED effluent. Taxpayers will have to pay £100 million to US firms that were excluded from the decommissioning tender process. The contract ends 2019 after 5 years and Bradwell is one of the sites listed.

Car Parking Strategy – this meeting will now become the Transport Committee. Cllr Powling reported increases in the car parks from 1 April 2017. A recent application for road restrictions was unsuccessful as not enough points were achieved but West Mersea Town Council will try again next year.

Cemetery Working Group – The group recently carried out a useful site visit. New rules for Feldy View Woodland Cemetery are being written and there will shortly be a general clean-up and removal of the grave spoil and waste.

Communications Committee – Emails and phones working well. A report will shortly be published in Mersea Life.

Facilities & Assets Committee – The Sensory Garden is being tidied up and will have some new plants. An application has been made for S106 funding for the Youth Field project and Coast Road toilets renovation and charging system. Colchester Borough Council will be taking over emptying West Mersea Town Council's bins to save some money, remove the skip from the Glebe and free up the groundsmen's time.

LCAP – Next meeting is in Peldon. Nothing to report.

Neighbourhood Plan – Progress is good. The Questionnaire will be ready by the end of next week. Funding has been applied for and plenty of information is coming through and the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan is being realised.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to report

Sports & Recreation Committee – the committee realised when the budget for 2017/18 was planned that the cost of the Glebe to the council was over £18000 and that more contribution was needed from clubs for the running of the pavilions, pitch marking etc. The issues have been proposed to MISA and are in consultation. The Rugby Club is doing very well and need another pitch but the space has been measured and it is not possible to get another pitch in without losing a football pitch. If the Tennis Club join MISA, West Mersea Town Council would put in heating in the Tennis Club pavilion. The Tennis Club have voted to return the grass courts to the Council as they can no longer afford to maintain them. Cllr Clements proposed that until a final decision about the future of the courts is made, West Mersea Town Council rough cut the courts.
Proposed: Cllr Clements, Seconded: Cllr Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR

Waterside Committee - A new water bailiff will not be appointed. The zone wardens will take on some of this role. Colchester Borough Council have funds to widen the pontoon and the starboard side which might help it keep a bit clearer.

6451 MAYOR'S NOTES

Cllr Powling thanked everyone for their hard work. The budgets for the committees will be allocated at the AGM.

6452 TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE A NEW OUTDOOR FITNESS CLASS IN WEST MERSEA PARK

A request has been received to run an outdoor fitness class in West Mersea Park. Following discussion, it was agreed to allow a trial for 1 month. The Clerk will confirm the necessary public liability insurance is in place.

6453 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE FUTURE MEDIA COVERAGE/PR FOR WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Following discussion it was agreed that the chairman of each committee should be responsible for their area of work and that the Neighbourhood Plan group need to set up a subcommittee for their PR. All items for publication must be sent via the Clerk.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm.