

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Peter Clements
Bernard Hart
Robert Jenkins
Paula Moore
Sophie Weaver

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman
Borough Councillor: Patricia Moore

6594 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Wargent, Borough Councillors Davidson and Jowers.

6595 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

6596 PUBLIC SESSION

None present.

Report from Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

There are several consultations underway – Colchester Borough Council strategic plan regarding future priorities, the Hate Crime strategy and the North Essex Garden communities. Borough Councillor Moore will forward further details to West Mersea Town Council.

Borough Councillor Moore attended a recent meeting with Essex County Council and other stakeholders about Bromans Lane traffic problems.

West Mersea Town Council will consider approaching Colchester Borough Council for some funding from the new homes bonus.

Borough Councillor Moore also attended a presentation by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner and confirmed that some Police Specials are solely allocated to Tiptree as they are sponsored by Tiptree.

6597 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 19 OCTOBER 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Jenkins, SECONDED by Councillor Clements that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 19 October 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6598 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 30 OCTOBER 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bragg, SECONDED by Councillor Moore that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 30 October 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

6599 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 9 NOVEMBER 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Hart, SECONDED by Councillor Bragg that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 9 November 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

6600 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a) 17 3000

Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 17 0230 to allow construction to commence in March 2018. Pontoon opposite West Mersea Yacht Club, Coast Road, West Mersea – Colchester Borough Council

Following discussion it was agreed that consent be granted in respect of this application.

b) 17 1803

Removal of roof to single storey dwelling. Construction of first floor and roof and internal alterations. Resubmission of planning permission 16 1703. 8 Beach Road, West Mersea – Mr M Matthews

Following discussion it was agreed that consent be granted in respect of this application, but ask Colchester Borough Council to take note of the objections.

c) 17 2957

Single storey rear extension and partial first floor extension to front and side. Refurbishment works to include a replacement roof and general modernisation of the dwelling. 7 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr K Cooper

Following discussion it was agreed that consent be granted in respect of this application.

6601 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications Passed

a) 17 2552

Removal of single garage for two storey side extension and single storey rear extension with balcony to front.

19 Shears Crescent, West Mersea – D Cook

b) 17 2498

Proposed extension, outbuilding and associated improvements.
6a Rushmere Close, West Mersea – ARK Homes

6602 TO DISCUSS THE NEW TODDLER AREA SURFACE AT WEST MERSEA PARK AND CONSIDER ANY FURTHER ACTION

Following discussion it was agreed that the surface was not as good as expected and that £5000 would be withheld, pending a review by the Council and the suppliers.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Hart. ALL IN FAVOUR

6603 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

Assets, Facilities and Environment – Report from Councillor Jenkins (Chairman).

1. West Mersea Park Play Area has been officially opened by Councillor John Jowers. The play areas in both School Gardens and the Youth Field have been very well received by the public and are in regular use.
2. It has been agreed that we will order signage saying only access to the School Gardens area by dogs on leads. If these rules are flouted by the public then we may have to resort to a PSPO. A decision has yet to be made on the Youth Field where suitable points for signage will have to be established. Dogs on the Glebe will need to be discussed more fully by the Sports and Recreation committee.
3. The Assets, Facilities & Environment committee is agreed in having a chicane arrangement involving double gates installed at the main entrance to School Gardens. Quotes are being obtained.
4. CCTV is being investigated by Councillor Powling. It is hoped we can enter into an arrangement with the Co-op. Councillor Powling is to contact a member of the public who has offered to draw up a specification.
5. Park Fund – we have had 3 donations from the public plus a donation from Mersea Island Lions for a new bench, a possible offer pending from Mersea Island Society for a donation towards hedging, an offer for a cherry tree, and an offer from Mersea Community Support towards CCTV. News on the latest grant application to CIF is awaited.
6. The tree survey across all our sites has been completed and work has started on the urgent actions outlined in the report. Planning permission is being sought for blanket approval for work to trees with TPOs.
7. Essex County Council Local Services Fund – this offers support towards new employment opportunities; ideas are at an early stage.
8. Public toilets – a proposal from Councillor Clements in respect of Fairhaven and an approach to Colchester Borough Council was discussed but it was decided that in the first instance Councillor Powling would talk with Tiptree and Wivenhoe about a joint approach with the aim of securing a share of the New Homes Bonus for capital schemes in our parishes.

Bradwell – Report from Councillor Banks (Vice Chairman).

At the recent Bradwell Monitoring Committee we discussed two principal challenges that the committee faces. Firstly we need to advise the Council of the changing function of the committee from one of monitoring the decommissioning process. Next week members of the committee will attend another Bradwell LCLC meeting which we expect to be one of the last as the old site is about to enter the Care & Maintenance phase. We consider our role must now focus on the spectre of Bradwell B.

Which leads neatly on the second main point of our discussions which is that the EDF and CGN submission of the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency (EA) has successfully passed phase one and now moved to phase two. This is manifest in the EDF/CGN planning application to Maldon District Council to carry out investigative work on the proposed new site for Bradwell B which includes 130 bore holes up to 140m in depth and seismic tests.

The objection Councillor Banks prepared for the last council meeting was duly lodged with Maldon District Council and a team intends to make representation to claim this council should be a statutory consultee.

To further enable this Councillor Banks attended and spoke at the recent Colchester Borough Council Cabinet meeting to re-energise the borough council's unanimous opposition to Bradwell B and to again ask for support to enable West Mersea Town Council to be considered a statutory consultee by Maldon District Council.

Cemetery – Nothing to report. Committee has not met due to workloads but there are no time sensitive decisions to be made so we will meet when possible.

Communications – Nothing to report. Committee has not met since previous council meeting update.

Local Community Meeting - There had been no LCD meeting in zone 1 since the last report 6 weeks ago, however, the Neighbourhood Plan group had added into the Residential Survey a question on whether or not residents considered if having ANPR on the Strood would be desirable. Results in January.

Neighbourhood Plan – The deadline for the questionnaire has been extended to 4 January 2018. As well as the residential questionnaire there will be an online business questionnaire. The general survey has had 288 responses on line and 55 paper copies.

Personnel – Nothing to report.

Sports and Recreation – The Council are still working with MISA to agree a new lease. A working group has been set up to take this forward. The next Sports & Recreation committee meeting is on 12 December 2017.

Transport – It is understood that 3 road schemes have been approved but no details have been forwarded to West Mersea Town Council as yet.

Waterside – This meeting is chaired by Colchester Borough Council. The latest meeting concluded that there will be some alterations to the pontoon to widen it and install a gate and some barriers.

6604 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling thanked everyone for their continued hard work. He confirmed that the council has received compliments for the good work recently undertaken, such as the play area.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.