

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2017

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman
Borough Councillor: Robert Davidson
John Jowers
Patricia Moore

6565 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

6566 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor Carl Powling regarding planning application 17 2433

6567 PUBLIC SESSION

1 member of the public.

Questions were raised about the plans not to have a fence around the new children's play area and the recommendations of EN1176/1177. Also queried was there any public consultation with residents for the new park.

Report from Borough Councillor John Jowers

The Seaview pothole has now been filled but the white lines need doing. The Strood railings are a disgrace for a premier tourist destination. There are also dangerous rusting scaffolding poles. Cllr Jowers is trying to arrange an appointment.

The Local Highways panel (LHP) do get some money to allocate to the repairs but there are many repairs needed and LHP does not seem to be working. Appointments can only be made on a Tuesday between 1pm and 2pm.

Speed bumps have been requested for Captains Road. Cllr Jowers will request a traffic flow survey from Spring next year.

Most Island households had a letter from Magnox regarding Bradwell. Councillor Jowers feels this is less and less likely to go ahead.

Colchester Borough Council are considering leasing Castle Park to commercial operators.

The Magistrates Court is also closing in Colchester.

Report from Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

Colchester Borough Council receive over £5M per year which should be spent on infrastructure but is spent on projects.

There is a mobile library consultation to consider closing all mobile libraries within 2km of a library. The service at the Hall Barn will also be stopping.

Local Plan – if objections were put in it should have been acknowledged by Colchester Borough Council this week.

Borough Councillor Davidson commended the Lions for the clean up at the Strood.

There will be a discretion to not charge business rates on toilets from April 2018 but as the budget is being done by Colchester Borough Council now it might not be considered for next year. Councillor Davidson will write to Bernard Jenkins and suggest West Mersea Town Council do the same.

DEFRA meeting – the Chinese have invested in submarine nuclear reactors.

180,000 black bags have been found at Shrub End. These will not be distributed but will be used by Colchester Borough Council for street rubbish collections.

East Mersea is having a traffic count in the next few months near the Village Hall.

Oyster Feast – tickets still available at £95 for a 5 or 6 course meal.

Report from Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Two residents have asked for the surfaces in the footpaths to be repaired. Footpath 20 (from the Post Office to Barfield Road) will be resurfaced when the LHP have the funds.

Cllr Moore provided details of the new community projects set to benefit from the new homes bonus as follows:

£750,000 investments towards sport & leisure facilities for the Northern Gateway.

£300,000 to construct an innovative low carbon Northern Gateway heat network.

£250,000 North Essex Garden communities project

£25,000 Centenary commemorations to mark 100 years from the end of WW1

£200,000 Castle park toilets, boating lake and pathway

£25,000 Highwoods Country Park – catering facilities

£186,000 Emerging priorities throughout the year

It was noted that none of the funding was the Mersea Island side of the Borough.

6568 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 11 May 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6569 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Jenkins, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 7 September 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6570 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Bragg that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 28 September 2017 be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

6571 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 17 2433

Application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 15 1500.
21 Prince Albert Road, West Mersea – Mr S Downes

WMTC declined to comment.

(b) 17 2498

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

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application, on the condition that the applicant adheres to the restrictions within the Environmental Protection Professional Service Planning Response document.

(c) 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

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

(d) 17 2089

Two storey front extension and single storey rear extension.
Mandeville, 100 Oakwood Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs King

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

(e) 17 2557

Proposed partial demolition and replacement of existing building with demountable storage containers.
15 Rainbow Road, West Mersea – Mr M Thiel

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

(f) 17 2581

Proposed detached garage and summer house and conversion of existing garage.
77 Kingsland Road, West Mersea – Mr Fisher

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

6572 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications Passed

(a) 17 1575

Erection of single storey porch to front.
154 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr C Westgate

WMTC Recommendation: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal be granted on the grounds that the proposal is overbearing for the properties in that area.

(b) 17 1702

Single storey extension and associated works.
94 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Ewart-James

(c) 17 2010

Proposed front/rear and roof extension with small side extension. (Resubmission of approved planning application 16 2513).
54 Yorick Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Bird

(d) 17 2170

First floor extension on existing bungalow including two storey extension to front and single storey extension to rear.
86 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr Chatterton

6573 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A REQUEST FOR A DONATION FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE FROM THE MERSEA LIGHTS UP COMMITTEE

Following discussion it was agreed that a donation of £110 is made to Mersea Lights Up Committee (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

6574 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE COST OF CHRISTMAS LIGHT REPAIRS AND THE COST OF THE CONTRACTOR TO ERECT THE LIGHTS

Following discussion the cost of repairing the Christmas lights and the contractor to erect the lights, was agreed.

6575 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER TO CONTINUE WITH THE MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Following discussion it was agreed to continue with the surgeries until the end of 2017. If there is a demand for them after that, they can be reinstated.

6576 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Following discussion it was agreed to co-opt Dr Bernard Hart.
Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Clements. ALL IN FAVOUR.

6577 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

Bradwell – The roadshow at the MICA were well attended. The LCLC will probably have its last meeting December 2017 so the Bradwell committee might need to restructure as it is based around the LCLC meeting.

Some boreholes have been started at the Bradwell site to see if the land is suitable before going to planning in Maldon.

The meeting was adjourned for Councillor John Jowers to advise that Colchester Borough Council had a joint meeting with Maldon. Colchester Borough Council stated they will oppose any new nuclear power station. The application will inevitably go to the Secretary of State.

Cemetery – Nothing to report

Communications – Nothing to report

Assets, Facilities and Environment – Councillor Robert Jenkins presented the following report:

- a. 3rd break-in this year at Rushmere – latest recommendation is to consider smoke and sound blaster. Costs to be established and decision reached as soon as possible.
- b. Upland Road compensation – meeting held with Colchester Borough Council at which it was established that the present lease to Essex County Council has been extended to 31st December 2017. We have submitted an invoice for £7666. Discussions are on-going in respect of a new lease. The help of our County Councillor is being requested.
- c. West Mersea Park – work has started. All residents adjacent to the site have received a letter giving details of the work being carried out. One complaint received about the zip wire. Also press coverage in Courier of the new park including a call to set up a Park Watch (1 local resident has volunteered) and call for donations (3 received so far) for programme of tree maintenance. Further article sent into Mersea Life with particular reference made to the support of the CIF fund and the support given by our County Councillor, John Jowers. It is thought necessary to replace the existing path down the middle of the School Gardens with a new path 1500 wide. This to be completed during current building of the park equipment. Costs to be agreed and funding secured/agreed as matter of urgency.
- d. Tree survey of all 10 sites has been commissioned and received. Urgent work will be carried out with a longer term programme of work to be discussed.
- e. West Mersea Park gazebo seating to be secured in place by Pittock Ltd during the next 6 weeks.
- f. Litter pick took place over the 14-15th October with 650 kg collected. Full page coverage to appear in next addition of Mersea Life.
- g. Barriers to Barfield Road being discussed with application made to Local Highway Panel. Further discussions to take place on alternative options.
- h. Toilets – committee met with Mr Claudio Catino to discuss how best to move forward with, in particular, Coast Road toilets. Options being discussed are to lease the current toilet block to Danfo - £160k would need to be spent and a 40p charge made plus an annual contribution from West Mersea Town Council. Other option to demolish existing block and build a set of 4 individual unisex toilets plus disabled toilet. Charge of 40p entry. Working party set up. Discretionary rate relief still being explored but it would appear that the necessary government legislation has not been enacted. Cllr. Davidson to take up with Bernard Jenkin MP.

Local Community Meeting – Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman) presented the following report:

Last meeting held at Layer at which the police attended. Main point of interest for Mersea concerned a discussion about CCTV for the Strood; it was recommended that we investigate ANPR rather than CCTV. The process has started but there are issues e.g. power, costs etc. to overcome. A question on ANPR has been included in Residential Questionnaire to assess public support.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Housing needs survey has been issued with 468 responses so far. The general survey is completed which was available online and in paper format. Cllrs Weaver & Powling will be carrying out the public sessions, including one at West Mersea School.

Personnel – Nothing to report

Sports and Recreation – There will be a Sports & Recreation committee meeting next week in which the lease and other matters relating to The Glebe and MISA will be discussed.

Transport – The income from parking appears to be ahead of last year. We are still waiting for prices of the new machines from Colchester Borough Council which will allow payment by Apple pay etc. Councillor Powling has requested a meeting with a Highways Officer.

Waterside – At the last meeting the widening of the Hammerhead was discussed again and Stephen Collis has referred back to the risk assessors to confirm the greater risk of someone falling off and under the widened hammerhead or the risk of someone being pushed off if the hammerhead remains its current width. A new house boat moored near the existing houseboats was also discussed.

6578 MAYOR'S NOTES

The Mayor thanked everyone for their continued hard work. An extraordinary meeting will be called to discuss a new path in West Mersea Park.

Mayor Cllr Powling presented Deputy Mayor Cllr Moore with a new set of Deputy Mayor chains.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.