

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT	Mr Stephen Collis (Chairman & CBC) Councillor David Bragg Councillor Sylvia Wargent Councillor Peter Clements Councillor Robert Jenkins Councillor Sophie Weaver Councillor Paula Moore Mr J Regan (Zone Operation Manager) Borough Councillor Patricia Moore Mr S Belbin (Coast Guard and Angling Boats rep) Mr I Crossley (Mersea Island Society) Ms J Elmer (Beach Hut Committee) Mr R Haward (Oysterman) Mr B Hart Mr P Jarvis (Packing Shed) Mr N Moffatt (West Mersea Marine) (arrived later) Mr D Murr (Windsurfers & Kitesurfers) Ms B Perkins Mrs M Phillips (Houseboats) Mr P Ryenolds (Windsurfers & Kitesurfers) Mr T Fleetwood (Yacht Club)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Petra Palfreyman (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Mr B Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after the addition of apologies received from Ms B Perkins was added to the minutes.

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

#### 4. CONSIDER AND REPORT ON WATERFRONT ISSUES:

- a) Toilets – The Clerk will arrange for a key to be issued to Mr S Belbin for Coast Road toilets so they can be opened at 7am.  
A discussion was held on the future of the Coast Road toilet block; refurbishment and charge for use, lease the toilets on to a company for a lease and they would refurbish and charge for use, or demolish the block and erect four prefabricated units and charge for use.
- b) Autumn litter pick - A date has been set for 14th/15<sup>th</sup> October. A request was made that waterfront groups join in with the litter pick.
- c) Parking enforcement for the yellow hatching – The Clerk to speak to NEPP (North Essex Parking Partnership) about enforcement. Also to consider wheel clamping.
- d) New signage for the Hard – Agreed that new signage is needed for the Yellow Hatchings.
- e) New houseboat - Clerk to email all correspondence from Ms Jan Lewis (Colchester Borough Council Enforcement Officer) to Mr Stephen Collis. The new houseboat is on an old mooring and temporary enforcement order has been made to stop them moving the boat further on to the saltings.
- f) Village Green signs - update. Clerk to obtain land registry documents to help identify where the Village Green boundary is. The Clerk will to speak to Liz Morris who owns the former lifeboat station.

#### 5. REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS:

- a) Widening of the pontoon and gate on the hammerhead – Following lengthy discussion, Stephen Collis confirmed that the planning permission notice will be published in the local paper next weekend. Approx. 95% of the funding has been obtained. Concern was raised that if the pontoon is widened it would be difficult to rescue someone trapped underneath it. Stephen Collis proposed to go back and speak to risk assessor to consider the risk of not widening the pontoon people falling off because it is narrow or the risk of widening and not being able to rescue someone trapped underneath. A rota for weekday and weekend cover is being organised.
- b) Eurobins at Coast Road – Following discussion it was recommended that the gate on the seaward side of the bin store is kept open and close the double door access from the car park.

#### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore requested lightweight buoys to mark a safe swimming area at Kingsland Beach. Mr Collis will find out if permission can be given.

It was noted that the windsurfers police their members (and others) to request that they keep out of the swimming area.

Beach Hut Watch – car park charges. A representative asked if they could increase payment to £2,000 and not pay the season ticket charge. The Clerk explained that Beach Hut Watch membership and parking permits need to be kept separate from now on.

Councillor Wargent informed the meeting of an out of control kite surfer whose kite ended up in a private garden near the beach.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.30pm.