

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2016**

PRESENT:	Councillors:	John May (Mayor) David Bragg Peter Clements Robert Jenkins Carl Powling Eric Straughan Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver
IN ATTENDANCE:	Town Clerk:	David Tucker
	Borough Councillors:	John Jowers Peter Sheane

**Report from Borough Councillors**

Borough Councillor John Jowers reported that potholes continued to cause problems throughout the county, and a request for a 20mph speed limit outside the Mersea Island School had been passed to the Local Highways Panel.

A new Police & Crime Commissioner was to be elected in May 2018.

There was a possibility that the number of PCSO's for the area could be increased after May, and the Police and Fire Services were likely to be combined.

Borough Councillor Jowers also advised that West Mersea Town Council would definitely be consulted regarding any new reactor on the Bradwell site.

Borough Councillor Peter Sheane reported that there would be no increase in Colchester Borough Council's council tax, but Essex County Council's council tax would go up 3.99%, compared to a reduction of 12% in West Mersea's tax. It was noted that the Essex County Council's costs of care for the elderly was up by £550m.

**6219 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Mogridge and Borough Councillor Moore.

**6220 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

**6221 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2015 - MATTERS ARISING**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Straughan, SECONDED by Councillor Powling that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 17 November 2015, be CONFIRMED.  
APPROVED. Councillors Bragg and Wargent abstained.

**Matters arising:**

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

**6222 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 7 JANUARY 2016 - MATTERS ARISING**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Jenkins that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 7 January 2016, be CONFIRMED.  
APPROVED. Councillors Bragg and Wargent abstained.

**Matters arising:**

Councillor Clements proposed that Councillor Wargent be added to the Website Working Group. Seconded: Councillor Powling. ALL IN FAVOUR

**6223 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 2016 - MATTERS ARISING**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Straughan that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 14 January 2016, be CONFIRMED.  
ALL IN FAVOUR

**Matters arising:**

Item 6210: Councillor Clements proposed that the charge for public use of the tennis courts could be raised to £5.00. Seconded: Councillor Powling. ALL IN FAVOUR

**6224 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING MEETING OF 28 JANUARY 2016 - MATTERS ARISING**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Straughan, SECONDED by Councillor Powling that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 28 January 2016, be CONFIRMED.  
ALL IN FAVOUR

**Matters arising:**

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

**6225 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- (a) **16 0159**  
Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a new 2 storey house.  
**30 Victory Road, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs S Priestley**

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL on the following grounds:  
- Out of keeping with the street scene.

- (b) **16 0135**  
Application for removal of conditions 2 & 3 following grant of planning permission 15 1804.  
**98 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea - Mrs L Bender**

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

- (c) **16 0253**  
Proposed extension to enlarge lounge/kitchen and provide ground floor w/c, 2 first floor bedrooms with 1 en-suite shower room.  
**Fairbourne, 17 Broomhills Road, West Mersea - Mr K Bareham**

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

- (d) **15 0806** (Resubmission of 14 6315)  
Demolition of existing detached garage with the construction of new detached garage with front dormers and roof lights.  
**2 Blackwater Drive, West Mersea** - Mr A Cowper

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

## **6226 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **Applications Passed**

- (a) **15 2699**  
Proposed front extension.  
**34 East Road, West Mersea** - Mr & Mrs S Daniels

## **6227 TO CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION FOR THE PLANNED QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY STREET PARTY - 18 JUNE 2016**

Councillor Clements proposed a donation of £200 to the Queen's 90th Birthday Party celebrations.  
Seconded: Councillor Powling. APPROVED. Councillor Bragg abstained.

## **6228 TO FORM AN EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Members of an Emergency Planning Committee were agreed as Councillors Jenkins, Powling and Weaver.

## **6229 TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:**

**Bradwell Monitoring Committee** - Nothing to report apart from the fact that an application to extend the FED discharge had now been submitted.

**Communications Group** - Councillor Jenkins reported that a number of people had now 'signed up' to the online newsletter. Very positive feedback regarding the website was now being received, but an interface with 'Mersea Locals' was seen as necessary.  
The 'Courier' was now to 'go live' again, with the help of Councillor Weaver.

**Environment Committee** - See minutes of meeting of 13th January (attached).

**Local Community Action Panel** - See minutes of meeting of 3rd February (attached).

**Personnel Committee** - At the meeting held on 15th December it was resolved  
(i) that a vote of confidence in the ability of the West Mersea Town Council staff to manage the website was passed unanimously and  
(ii) a vote of confidence in the Town Clerk was passed unanimously.

**Traffic and Transport Committee** - Nothing to report.

**Website Working Group** - See Communications Group above.

**Youth Interest Group** - Councillor Powling reported that a plan for the playground area in the West Mersea Park had been approved and a grant application was to be made.

## **6230 LETTERS RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION**

- (i) Magnox Support Office re Socio-economic plan consultations. All Councillors were asked to complete the consultation document.
- (ii) Mr Bailey re pedestrian crossing. Noted.
- (iii) Mr Head-Jenner re road surface, Rainbow Road. Following discussion it was agreed that the West Mersea Town Council groundsmen would help in the resurfacing of Rainbow Road.
- (iv) Mr Spyvee re charging for toilets. Noted - consideration of a pilot charging scheme would be put on the next Finance & Planning Meeting agenda.
- (v) Environment Agency re waste burning. Noted.

**6231 MAYOR'S NOTES**

The Mayor advised that the Seafood Supper to be held at the Company Shed on 27th February 2016 had now sold out.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.