

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2014

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Clements (Mayor)
Wendy Bixby
Belinda Cross
John May
Beverley Perkins
Eric Straughan
Noelle Urquhart

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: David Tucker
Borough Councillors:

Reports from Borough Councillors

Borough Councillor Sheane advised he would look into the status of West Mersea Town Council's application for £20k S.106 funding.

Work was progressing with the audit/status checks on the island caravan parks.

Colchester Borough Council Councillors were to be cut from 60 to 51, which means the West Mersea Ward may be joined with others such as East Mersea, depending upon the outcome of the Boundary Commission Review.

The threat to U.K. fishing rights due to a lack of consultation from the E.U. with new proposal coming into effect in 2015 will cause a good deal of concern as Mersea fisherman's' livelihood would be affected.

Borough Councillor John Jowers reported that following Boundary Commission changes, the Mersea Ward would consist of East and West Mersea, Peldon, Gt. Wigborough and Layer Marney.

Potholes were now being attended to throughout the County. Only four out of 12 Local Authorities currently have local plans in place and Colchester Borough Council would be taking about 23,000 new homes.

5990 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Mogridge and Wargent, and Borough Councillor Kimberley.

5991 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Urquhart declared a non pecuniary interest in planning application 14 5540.

5992 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 10 JULY 2014 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bixby, SECONDED by Councillor Straughan that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 10 July 2014, be CONFIRMED.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters arising:

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

Action

5993 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING MEETING OF 31 JULY 2014 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mogridge, SECONDED by Councillor Perkins that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 31 July 2014, be CONFIRMED.
ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters arising:

Item: 5985: It was noted that Councillor Clements and Councillor Straughan would be reviewing the Essex County Council highway requirement necessary to install Christmas lights on street lamps. It was also pointed out that the amount voted for 'Mersea Lights Up' was a maximum of £1,000.

5994 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- (a) **14 5540** (Resubmission of 14 4586)
Demolition of existing house and erection of new dwelling.
24b Firs Chase, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs Payne

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

- (b) **14 5662**
Application to remove condition 3 attached to application 09 1167 (the building shall be used solely for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling at Redwing Cottage).
Redwing Cottage, 6 Colchester Road, West Mersea - Mr Michael Archer

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL be granted in respect of this application, as we believe this will allow the property to become two dwellings on an inadequate sized plot, but have no objection to it becoming a holiday let.

5995 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**Application Passed**

- (a) **14 5181**
Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations.
18 Victory Road, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs Steve Baxter

5996 YEAR END REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2014

The accounts and annual return for the year to 31 March 2014 were considered and approved and will now be submitted for external audit.

Following discussion it was agreed that the audit and internal control procedures were adequate and ensured proper financial control.

No requests for amendments/additions have been received from Councillors regarding the Risk Assessment document (previously circulated) and it would be reviewed again in 12 months.
Proposed Councillor May, Seconded Councillor Straughan.

Application by West Mersea Tennis Club for planning permission for floodlights:

The Clerk advised he would contact Mr D'Wit of the West Mersea Tennis Club in order to meet and discuss the application further.

5997 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

Bradwell Monitoring Committee – Nothing to report.

Crime & Safety Committee – Nothing to report. It was noted that there were no members of the public present.

Environment Committee - Councillor Clements reported that the planning application for the toilet in School Gardens was being prepared.

A first cut of the Flower Meadow would be undertaken in September/October this year.

A site meeting to determine where the gate to the outdoor classroom in the Park should be placed would be held on Thursday 28th August at 11.00am. It was noted that the next meeting of the Environment Committee would be held on 8th September 2014.

Footpaths, Footways & Cycle Paths Committee – Nothing to report.

Traffic and Transport Committee – Nothing to report.

Waterside Committee – The next meeting is to be held on 10th September 2014 at 5pm.

Website - Nothing to report.

Youth Interest Group – Councillor Bixby reported that volunteers were needed to help with the Fun Day, organised for 28th August, 11am to 4pm, by Councillor Straughan, the Zone Wardens and herself. Over 30 children attended the very successful meeting held at the Skatepark in July.

Following discussion it was agreed that West Mersea Town Council would host a stand at the Community Harvest event on 27th September (11am to 2.30pm).

5998 LETTERS RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (i) Mersea Island Football Club re sponsorship - The Clerk was asked to forward details of the 'Cash for Clubs' funding initiative to the Club.
- (ii) West Mersea Town Regatta re donation - Following discussion it was agreed to donate £100 (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).
- (iii) Zone Warden re Dog Fouling prosecution - Noted.
- (iv) CBC re Travellers - Noted.

5999 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Clements thanked Councillor Straughan and his team for their work in tidying Barfield Road cemetery.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.