

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2015

PRESENT: Councillors: John May (Mayor)
David Bragg
Peter Clements
Robert Jenkins
Alan Mogridge
Carl Powling
Eric Straughan
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: David Tucker

Borough Councillors: John Jowers

Action

Report from Borough Councillor John Jowers

Borough Councillor John Jowers reported that the Local Highways Panel had been given a further £55m for highways improvements, and the repairs to the railings on the Strood were being progressed.

A 20mph restriction would not be allowed on a bus route, but a 'Smiley' speed sign would be a useful addition.

The plan to replace some of the wooden piles on the Causeway was causing a good deal of concern, particularly with reference to the cost and timing of the project.

Councillor Clements added that other surveys had indicated that the work was unnecessary, and could not be completed in the planned timeframe.

6135 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Borough Councillors Moore and Sheane.

6136 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

6137 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 9 JULY 2015 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Straughan, SECONDED by Councillor Jenkins that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 9 July 2015, be CONFIRMED.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters arising:

Item 6123: The Clerk advised that he had been promised a letter from the Tennis Club by 7th September.

6138 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING MEETING OF 30 JULY 2015 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mogridge, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 30 July 2015, be CONFIRMED.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters arising:

Item 6131: The Clerk reported that signs asking that people treat the toilets with respect were to be installed.

6139 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- (a) **15 1318**
First floor and rear extensions.
35 Yorick Road, West Mersea - Mrs J Woolley

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

- (b) **15 1359**
Demolition of existing house and erection of new house.
12 Kingsland Beach, West Mersea - Mr D King

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL on the following grounds:

1. Over-development of site.
2. Compromises the amenity of the neighbouring property.
3. Potential for flooding.
4. Inappropriate landfill.
5. We would also ask that proof of compliance with Environment/Flood Risk assessment be provided.

- (c) **15 1426**
New industrial unit to match existing units.
Waldegraves Business Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea - Mr D Lord

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application but we are concerned at the apparent lack of car parking facilities.

- (d) **15 1639**
Conversion of existing garage to stand alone annexe.
27 Empress Avenue, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs S Wild

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application subject to the annexe remaining ancillary to the main building.

- (e) **15 1738**
First floor conservatory extension.
21 Westwood Drive, West Mersea - Mr J E Reynolds

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

- (f) **15 1681**
Conversion of existing conservatory to dining room and new all cladding to bungalow.
7 St Peters Road, West Mersea - Mr B Jones

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

- (g) **15 1710**
Proposed first floor extension.
37 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea - M & Mrs B Elliston

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

- (h) **15 1752**
Proposed side and rear extension.
Green Tye, 20 St Peters Road, West Mersea - Dr J Nightingale

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

- (i) **15 1762**
Proposed refurbishment and replacement of windows and doorsets.
114 East Road, West Mersea - Mr J Ward

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

- (j) **15 1767** (Resubmission 14 6501)
Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Demolition of single storey extensions and outbuilding.
100 Coast Road, West Mersea - Mr G Rampling

Due to the late receipt of the application we ask that any decision be deferred pending our Council meeting on 10 September 2015.

- (k) **15 1804**
Application to vary condition 3 (materials) of planning permission 15 1211.
Plot adjacent 98 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea - Mr A & Mrs L Bender

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

6140 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Applications Passed

- (a) **15 1102**
Raising and lengthening roof and removing small dormer and reinstating with larger dormer.
3 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea - Mr M Rodwell
- (b) **15 1233**
Creation of a cafe use (use Class A3).
30 High Street, West Mersea - D Pittock and L Pittock
- (c) **15 1187**
Extension of the existing building towards the rear of the site. Chimney and garage to be removed. Roof to be extended and recovered. New render finish externally, new windows and doors to be fitted. Internal alterations relating to the extended building.
45 Yorick Road, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs Hunt
- (d) **15 1212**
Proposed modifications of existing dwelling, erection of garage and associated works.
29 The Lane, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs Moye

6141 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL RETURN AND ACCOUNTS 2014-15

The Clerk presented the Annual Return and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015. Following discussion the Accounts and Annual Return were approved as presented. Proposed: Councillor Straughan, Seconded: Councillor Jenkins.

6142 TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE TENNIS PAVILION

The Clerk advised he would contact the Tennis Club Committee to seek a meeting with the Council in order to determine their view.

6143 TO CONSIDER INSTALLING A CHILDREN'S BOATING LAKE ON THE ESPLANADE

Councillor Wargent presented a number of alternative options for a boating lake, and the Clerk was asked to contact Colchester Borough Council as a first step in order to determine their views.

6144 TO CONSIDER REFURBISHING THE FLOWER BOATS ON GLEBE CORNER

The Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Mullins (Refresh Mersea) to ask her to submit her proposal for the refurbishment. (To be deferred to the Environment Committee).

6145 TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

Bradwell Monitoring Committee - Councillor Wargent presented her report (attached).

Local Community Action Panel (formally NAP) - Councillor Mogridge reported that the PCSO's are now deployed from the Garrison.

There were 8 crimes (burglaries) during July, and 8 dog fouling penalty notices (all to local people) were issued one of which resulted in an assault on the Zone Warden issuing the notice.

Environment Committee - Councillor Jenkins reported on the meeting held in July (attached).

Traffic and Transport Committee - Nothing to report.

Waterside Committee - Nothing to report. Next meeting to be held on 16th September 2015 at 5pm.

Website Working Group - Councillor Wargent and Carol Fountain to review the alternative website being proposed, and report back to the next Finance and Planning Committee.

Youth Interest Group - Councillor Straughan advised that a Fun Day, including a Strood 'closure' on behalf of Help the Heroes, would be held on Saturday 29th August 2015.

Communications Group - The report of the meeting held on 28th July was presented by Councillor Jenkins (attached).

Disability Access Working Group - The recommendation of the working group to accept the quotation by Essex Improvements Ltd for the conversion of the office premises to comply with disability access legislation was accepted by the Council.

Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Straughan.

6146 LETTERS RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (i) ECC re Area Bus Review - Noted.
- (ii) Environment Agency re Seawall Grass Cutting - Noted.
- (iii) West Mersea Town Regatta Committee re donation - Following discussion it was agreed to donate £250 to the Regatta Committee (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).
Proposed: Councillor Clements, Seconded: Councillor Straughan.
It was also agreed the Clerk should write to the Regatta Committee suggesting that in future years a number of portable toilets should be installed on the waterside to help cope with the increased number of visitors during the Regatta.
- (iv) WMTC re Courier - A decision as to how next to proceed was deferred.
- (v) CBC re Floating Pontoon - The plan to repair the causeway supports was called into question and referred to the Waterside Committee.

6147 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillors Jenkins, Mogridge and Straughan volunteered to help with the Speedwatch initiative. It was agreed a letter of congratulations should be sent to the Little Beach Hut Company in recognition of their recent award as 'Best Beach Hut in the Country'.

6148 Mayor to MOVE that the press and public be excluded during the transaction of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Staff matters.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.