

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2014 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT

Councillor Beverley Perkins (Chairman)
Councillor Belinda Cross
Councillor Sylvia Wargent
Mr S Collis (CBC)
Mr S Belbin
Mr D Bragg
Ms J Carrington
Mr P Clarke
S Clark
Mr I Crossley
Ms J Elmer
Mr R Haward
Mr P Leggett
Ms L Livingstone
Mr D Murr
Ms E Murr
Mr J Welham

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk: Mr D G Tucker

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Ms F Matthews and Mr B Turner.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2014 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

(Proposed Mr Belbin, Seconded Mr Welham).

Matters arising:

Item 3: Beach Erosion - Mr Welham advised that the old tank traps and beach fencing had all now been 'tidied up'.

3. WATERFRONT ISSUES: PLANNING (PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT), COMMUNAL AREAS INCLUDING THE 'HARD', JETTY AND VILLAGE GREEN

Beach Review - Mr Collis advised that Commercial letting of beach huts was now allowed, at 2.5 times the currently agreed rents, and that he would be writing to all beach hut users to keep them informed. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Moffatt with a view to ensuring the bathing rafts were put out earlier next year.

Beach Erosion Review - Ms Carrington advised that she would forward a copy of the latest Environment Agency report on the erosion audit to Mr Collis. Mr Collis commented that more repair work on the groynes was needed, and he would be meeting with the Clerk to update the Beach Hut signage.

Mr Murr advised that the Bait Digging signs were largely being ignored, and someone had recently broken a leg caused by a hole left by bait digging. He felt that the sign needs reworking/resiting.

Councillor Perkins suggested an article in the local press at the start of the season may perhaps help.

Mersea Recharge Project - No further developments to report.

Bradwell Power Station - It was noted that the FED processing was on hold (since October 2014) pending repairs or improvements to the Abatement Plant (ADAP), but, despite action by the pressure groups, it was expected to restart shortly. Essex County Council had advised that the processing was allowed under planning regulations but the operators were not allowed to bring waste in from other areas for processing. The next LCLC meeting was to be in June 2015, and Magnox would be holding a public meeting on 27th January 2015.

In addition Professor Underwood (for BANNG) would be holding a meeting on 23rd January 2015.

Crime and Security - Mr Clarke reported that several boats had been broken into and vandalised, and it was noted that one beach hut had been broken into. Mr Clarke added that he had erected two new security lights in his yard as a security measure.

Communal Areas: Toilets - Councillor Perkins outlined Colchester Borough Council's intentions regarding the West Mersea toilets, i.e., to keep one on the Esplanade and for West Mersea Town Council to take over the management of the other three toilets in West Mersea.

The issue was to be discussed by West Mersea Town Council on 11th December.

Parking - The temporary restrictions in Coast Road were to continue through to May 2015 when they will be subject to a full review. Committee members were asked to give any feedback comments to West Mersea Town Council in time for the March 2015 meeting. Following discussion all members agreed the restrictions should be extended all year round.

A suggestion that a 20 mph limit be put on Coast Road was to be put to the full Council.

The lack of adequate car parking was seen as a continuing problem, and Mr Haward asked that a proposal to extend the car park in front of the yacht club out to seaward be investigated and costed, combining the Recharge Project information into the specification.

In addition it was felt that other new car parking areas should be sought.

Mr Belbin asked that the parking charges for the 'Golden Cod' event (28 December) be waived for the one day only.

Disabled parking was discussed and the Parking Partnership were to advise the cost effect of charging/not charging for disabled parking.

Visitor Signage - Councillor Perkins, Councillor Wargent, Mr S Collis and the Clerk to meet in February 2015 to discuss.

4. REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

Mr Collis advised that he was seeking quotations for replacing the damaged piles on the Hammerhead, and he would advise when the work will start.

CCTV - All users had confirmed that they were in favour of maintenance contributions, and installation was planned for early 2015.

Mr Collis thanked all concerned for their help in addressing the various causeway issues.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Car parking (specifications and costs)

Update reports on Houseboats, Recharge Project, Toilets.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 5pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.