

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2014 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT Councillor Beverley Perkins (Chairman)
Councillor Belinda Cross
Councillor Peter Clements
Councillor Noelle Urquhart
Mr S Collis (CBC)
Mr S Belbin
Mr F French
Mr P French
Mr P Leggett
Mr D Murr
Mrs M Phillips
Mr J Welham

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk: Mr D G Tucker

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Wargent, Borough Councillor Jowers, and Mr R Haward.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2014 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters arising:

The Chairman thanked the Mersea Island Lions, the Zone Wardens and the Probation Service on behalf of the Committee for the recent beach clean up.

Thanks were also expressed to Alan Bird for putting out the bathing rafts, and to the Zone Wardens for clearing up the Victoria Esplanade play area.

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

Recharge Project - The Chairman advised that material dredged from Harwich was to be used to recharge and protect Cobmarsh Island, although a number of other interested parties were also looking at using the material, which costs approximately £200 per load. More information can be found on the "Save Mersea Harbour" website (The Mersea Harbour Protection Trust). Support was being sought from politicians and European funding sources.

Bradwell (FED Discharge) - Councillor Urquhart reported that the discharge were to be carried out over an 18 month period, with 30 minute discharge each day. Despite the increase in radiation we are advised it will be under the Environment Agency limits. Mr Belbin commented that there would of course be a build up of radioactive silt in the sea bed.

The intention is to retain all the waste solids within the Bradwell site and to concentrate it ready for moving to a long term facility. (The location to be checked). It is also intended to import waste from other sites (such as Dungeness) although the current licence does not allow importing material so planning provision will need to be obtained by Magnox.

It was noted that the Environment Agency is the overriding authority and will be closely monitoring the process. It was also noted that Mr B Turner would be attending a meeting at the MICA on 23rd June to discuss the procedures.

Crime and Security - Councillor Cross advised that she had observed some suspicious looking individuals on the waterfront, reported her concerns to the police, and a prosecution was now pending. Mr Welham reported that there had been no more issues at Hove Hill.

Communal Areas - Colchester Borough Council aims to reduce costs by asking West Mersea to take responsibility for the island toilets were still unclear and further information was awaited. A solution to the problem of the Victoria Esplanade toilets was still being sought.

Parking - With the closure of Coast Road car park for the yachting event a number of measures had been put in place to alleviate difficulties caused to permit holders, including a weeks extension to the season ticket period. Mr Belbin commented that there was likely to be opposition if the closure was requested next year.

Visitor Signage - Mr Collis advised that he would be altering the Esplanade sign to include directions to the various amenities nearby. Mr Murr representing the windsurfers commented that it was important that the launching areas were clearly marked. The Chairman requested that production of an encapsulated versions of the Mersea Walks leaflet be considered, adding that funding for such a project was available.

4. REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

Mr Collis reported that Colchester Borough Council were investigating ways of repairing/replacing the causeway posts which were in a poor state of repair. Funding to conduct a survey was now in place but repairs were expected to cost in the order of £60k.

CCTV Cameras - The capital cost of the installation was to be paid fully by Colchester Borough Council and West Mersea Town Council, but the ongoing maintenance would have to be funded via a small annual contribution from the waterfront users. The Oystermen, Mersea Marine, Peter Clarke, the Dabchicks and Yacht Club were all to be approached. Mr Belbin commented that neither the Dabchicks or the Yacht Club would be interested.

Speeding - Mr Collis advised that he would give an update report at the next meeting. A letter to all boat users would be sent reinforcing the need to observe the 8 knot speed limit, and following a complaint re the Yacht Club launch speeding after would also be sent to the Yacht Club about it.

Crabbing - Mr Welham reported that there has been up to 150+ people crabbing on the causeway, and this has caused it to tilt. The idea of changing the signage to allow crabbing on both sides however was rejected. People with deck chairs etc. were causing difficulty to boat owners trying to get their boats through and a solution to this, plus the occasional bad behaviour, was needed. Mr Collis would be looking into the Health and Safety issue.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Jet skis

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8 September 2014 at 5pm.

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