

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN'S MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) Peter Banks Dave Bragg Robert Jenkins Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver
	Borough Councillors:	Robert Davidson John Jowers
	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	In attendance:	1 member of public

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clements, Moore and Shilton and Borough Councillor Moore.

2. MINUTES OF TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 28 APRIL 2016 AND MATTERS ARISING

Proposed by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Banks, the minutes of the Town's Annual Meeting held on 28 April 2016 be confirmed.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising

Councillor Bragg asked the records to note that the minutes stated that himself and Councillor Wargent gave apologies for absence but in fact they were asked not to attend due to reporting to the Standards Board, after which no further action was taken.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor, Councillor Carl Powling, presented the Town Council's Annual Report, as set out in the Minute Book. A copy is attached.

4. TOWN COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2016

The Clerk presented a summary of the Town Councils Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 and a statement of cost savings over the past year. A copy is attached.

5. OBSERVATIONS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor John Jowers

Soon to be an important meeting in Thurrock for the Regional Flood Defence Committee – putting the case forward EA regional committee funding to support the applications being made. Borough Councillor Jowers started Community Initiative Fund (CIF) in Colchester and £130000 was put in to save Cobmarsh Island.

The meeting will determine if that scheme is progress to the major capital scheme for the regional flood defence committee. The indications are that they will pick up the bill for £300,000 for the transport of dredge materials for Harwich Haven Authority when they dredge out the channel to take the supermax container ships. This is a one-off opportunity. This means that the threats to our oyster industry, the pontoon, local housing, sea walls and nature reserves will be helped via this national stage and the threats to the waterside will be minimised.

Building under the government cosh. Negotiated number of new houses from 350 down to 200 – with the potential to reduce some more.

Police & Fire Authority will be combined for Essex. Borough Councillor Jowers is Chairman of the Police and Crime panel. This merger will mean the abolition of the Fire Authority. Police and Crime panel is a Home Office panel and the Fire Authority is a joint authority.

Mersea will have a Local list accepted – this list shows what the local community treasures and values. The White Hart is just one example.

Bradwell – a recent joint members briefing from a Strategic Assessment Officer at County Hall. Maldon are all for it and Colchester are unanimously against it but there needs to be communication between the two authorities.

Conclusion to the summary was that West Mersea Town Council had done very well this year and the atmosphere of the meetings was much better.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

Stated that the Council seemed like it had a breath of fresh air and the energy and atmosphere was so different.

Colchester Borough Council are taking the caravan site problems seriously and have strengthened their conditions of use. There is a team of two men monitoring the caravan site and have been working with East Mersea Parish Council. There is a Coopers Beach owners meeting in May. They are on a licence system as opposed to the other sites which are all planning based so Coopers have more to lose.

Yorick Road – yellow lining overdue. Mike Lilley is the representative from Colchester Borough Council for us to contact to get this arranged.

Housing numbers – Colchester Borough Council did challenge the independent assessment that they received with Chelmsford and Braintree and they managed to lower the number for all the authorities.

Borough Councillor budget – the forms are due out shortly and West Mersea Town Council can apply for funds towards a new Bathing Raft. For S.106 from planning gain ensure Colchester Borough Council know the projects we have that need funding.

LCAP – seen as a great opportunity for police and zone wardens to share information. Actions are being resolved and the meetings are working better than they have for some time.

Zone Wardens – a word of thanks for all their hard work with special thanks for Tim Pickard for all the extra work he does above and beyond his role.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

The following comments were made by the member of public in attendance:

Some research has been carried out about the caravan parks and will be sent on to Cllr Davidson to forward on to the team of two mentioned earlier. The research shows a number of empty sites on Seaview Holiday Park and raises concerns about change of use.

Waldegraves Holiday Park is well in excess of its numbers. The last application they made a year ago for 11 months' usage requested permanent vans and not touring vans. The Colchester Borough Council planners have been asked to clarify this. If there are more static vans they won't have enough room for tourers.

The planning and licences for Seaview and Waldegraves Holiday Parks do not say the same thing.

Housing numbers in the local plan – Middlewick site will get 1000 houses although the government would like 2000. This makes the bypass much more necessary.

The bus route around East Road and The Fox is often a problem with the parking. Many young families with several cars and not enough parking. Cllr Powling said this has already been highlighted to Colchester Borough Council.

Dawes Lane has now been upgraded to a Class C road.

Seaview Café – regular problems with overflowing bins. To consider asking the Zone Wardens to speak to them.

Rugby Club pavilion – some of the hardy board is missing and broken.

Oyster Close – the brick post needs repairing.

Wildflower meadow at the Glebe – the area needs management and cutting in the autumn. Also, Reymead wasn't cut this year either.

Coast Road land near houseboats – complaints received about the ice cream van being parked in Coast Road (Hove Hill). This land was donated to Mersea Fishermen years ago. Requested to put either posts or a bench in that space.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.