

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Paula Moore
Stephanie Shilton
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman
Borough Councillors: Cllr Patricia Moore

6474 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Clements and Jenkins.

6475 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6483; Mersea Island Festival.

6476 PUBLIC SESSION (including report from Borough Councillor Patricia Moore)

15 members of the public attended the meeting.

The following points and questions were raised:

- If the Waldegraves Holiday Park application for static caravans goes ahead there will not be enough touring spaces left. Also consideration should be given to the impact on the sewerage of extra static caravans.
- The process for the public to speak at a Council meeting was questioned.
- The credibility of an evacuation plan for Mersea Island in the event of a disaster.

Report from Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

- Assurance was given that the Away Resort application for planning will be refused.
- Waldegraves will be called in on the grounds that they want prefabs not caravans and are not capable of being moved
- A request has been received to find a solution for Firs Chase where it narrows before The Lane.

6477 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 17 1157

2no. new dwellings. Resubmission of 17 0098.
63 Churchfields, West Mersea – Mr J Grogan

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

(b) 17 1143

Demolition of existing outbuildings and garage and erection of replacement dwelling.
12 Kingsland Beach, West Mersea – Mr D King

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

(c) 17 1181

Use of the site for the stationing of 73 no. static holiday caravans in lieu of 115 touring caravan pitches and associated landscaping and access works.
Waldegraves Farm Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea – Mr C Parsons

Following discussion it was agreed to object to the change of type of caravans from touring to static.

(d) 17 1109

Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and new replacement two storey residential dwelling.
Resubmission of 16 0159.
30 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr S Priestly

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

- Out of keeping with the street scene.
- Overpowering for the plot.

(e) 17 1233

Demolish existing bungalow and rebuild new house.
21 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr R Frost

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

(f) 17 1313

Installation of new replacement doors and windows to facilitate existing B1/B8 usage. Change of use of existing office Unit 1 at ground floor level and offices 2, 3 and 4 at first floor level from B1/B8 to A2 usage: install new windows on all elevation.
7 Rushmere Close, West Mersea – Mr D Blacklock

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

(g) 17 1294

Application for removal or variation of condition 3 following grant of planning permission 16 2904.
11 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Farmer

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

(h) 17 1332

Application for removal or variation of condition 6 following grant of planning permission COL/92/1069.
7 Rushmere Close, West Mersea – Mr D Blacklock

Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application on the proviso that the proposal is limited to office based.

(i) 17 1257

Proposed temporary office building.
White Hart Carvery, White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

Application withdrawn on 1st June 2017.

6478 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications Passed

- (a) 17 0551
Loft extension (amended drawings)
77 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mr A Owen
- (b) 17 0881
Proposed first floor extension.
Ray View, High Street North, West Mersea – Mr N Smith

6479 TO DISCUSS THE COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Councillor Banks gave a presentation about the Colchester Borough Council Local Plan. (Copy attached).

6480 PUBLIC SESSION (to raise matters relating to the Local Plan)

The following points and questions were raised:

- Where would the vehicular access for both sites be?
- Could both sites be used to share the numbers so the dwellings were less dense?
- Concerns about safety and evacuation.
- A request for screening from housing as you approach the Island.
- An awareness of the strength of the Colchester Borough Council Local Plan.
- How important the public contribution is to the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan.
- Some Neighbourhood Plans for other Parish and Town Councils have been overturned by the Inspector.
- The Local Plan will be published on-line on 2 June 2017.

6481 TO DISCUSS THE LOCAL PLAN

West Mersea Town Council had a general discussion about the points raised in the public session. It was noted how hard the Council are working on the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan.

6482 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT NOTICEBOARD FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICE

Following discussion, Councillor Moore agreed to obtain quotes for a noticeboard for outside the Council office from local carpenters.

6483 TO CONSIDER A DONATION REQUEST FROM MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL

Following discussion it was agreed that a donation of £275 is made to Mersea Island Festival (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

6484 TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF GATE LICENCES

Following discussion it was agreed that the cost of a gate licence would increase to £25 from 1 January 2018. Advance notice of this increase would be sent out in August 2017. Colchester Borough Council charge £42 for pedestrian access.

6485 MAYOR'S NOTES

The Mayor thanked all the Councillors and members of the Committees for their continued hard work and support.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.