

The north side of the island has always been protected as that is the view on to the island. Brierley Paddocks may not be seen as much of an encroachment. West Mersea Town Council must advise Borough Councillor Jowers of their views. The numbers may not be altered but the location can be influenced.

A query was raised about requesting a width restriction down The Lane and Borough Councillor John Jowers agreed to look in to this.

John Vince confirmed that he has been elected as Liaison Officer and Groundsman for West Mersea Tennis Club.

Reports from Borough Councillors

County Councillor John Jowers

There have been some changes with people leaving and joining the Council and there may be a period of hiatus.

Borough Councillor Jowers will look in to getting a sign erected at the top of The Lane to prevent wide vehicles trying to access The Hard.

The Regulation Committee at County does not have anything to do with housing.

Borough Councillor Jowers has remained as the Chairman of the Police and Crime panel and by October Essex should be forerunners in the country for merging the Police and Fire Authority, where they will be co-located and work together.

A further issue is the duelling of the A120 from Braintree to Colchester and the 3 lanes of the A12. All the villages to the east of Colchester have no access – the access is via Appleford Bridge which is single lane. On the strategic plan the Rivenhall slip road was missed off in error. A spur road may be put through Tiptree which may have an impact on accessibility for West Mersea and surrounding villages. West Mersea should put in representations.

After purdah there will a major meeting of the local plan. It is very unlikely we will get below 200 houses but West Mersea Town Council can influence where we want them and state what impact it will have. Representations can be made at any time but they should state what the Neighbourhood Plan will say. West Mersea will have to have some of the houses but it needs to be managed. The Neighbourhood Plan will allocate the type of housing, the density and where they go.

At a recent meeting of the Flood Defence committee, Mark Dixon and Richard Taylor gave a presentation and Borough Councillor Jowers persuaded the committee to allocate £340,000 which has been awarded for the transport of the dredgings from Harwich Haven to recharge Cobmarsh, Tollesbury Wick and Packing Shed.

There are approx. 1000 houses planned for Middlewick Ranges and this will have an impact on transport to and from Mersea Island. Part of the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest which is managed by Essex Wildlife Trust. There are also rumours that the MCTC off Berechurch Hall Road will close and this will impact on traffic travelling through the south side of Colchester.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

Congratulations to West Mersea Town Council on their performance last year, most notably the implementation of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan. The public consultation for the Colchester Borough Council Draft Local Plan will go ahead June/July and it is very important for West Mersea Town Council to make their representations for the Inspector to see, otherwise West Mersea Town Council will not get a chance to have a say. The Inspectors come from Bristol and are totally governed and lead by government policy.

Waste Recycling – from June 2017 residents will need to buy their own black bags. Clear recycling bags and green bins will be supplied. The portfolio holder and the senior office in charge of this operation has resigned so there is nobody in charge at the moment.

Waldegraves Holiday Park have submitted an application to remove 150 touring caravans and put 73 static lodges in their place, some of which are 12m x 6m. This will benefit the caravan site but there won't be anywhere for the touring caravans to go. Waldegraves is not a 12 month per year site.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

If West Mersea Town Council want the Waldegraves application called in, Councillor Moore must be told before the next council meeting.

The planning officer is going to refuse the Away Resorts application. It has not been formalised yet but the planning officer has told the resort that it will not be approved.

6454 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, AND MAYOR TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Councillor Carl Powling was elected Town Mayor for the coming year.

Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Clements.

Councillor Powling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6455 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR, AND DEPUTY MAYOR TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Councillor Paula Moore was elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuring year.

Proposed: Councillor Wargent, Seconded: Councillor Bragg.

Councillor Moore signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6456 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

6457 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Shilton stated that she would abstain from any sporting votes due to perceived conflict of interest.

6458 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 30 MARCH 2017 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Moore, SECONDED by Councillor Wargent that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017, be CONFIRMED after a minor amendment raised in matters arising. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

Public session: To alter BAANG to BANNG.

6459 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 17 1133

Single storey front extension and render front elevation of existing dwelling.
69 East Road, West Mersea – Mr J Blois

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

(b) 17 1147

Small balcony to front of property.
White Croft, 4a Alexandra Avenue, West Mersea – Ms J Granger & Mr B Wells

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

(c) 17 1119

Change the use of a recently constructed sail loft within the curtilage of Fleet Cottage to a 'granny annexe' solely for the benefit of the relative of the applicant.
Fleet Cottage, 88 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr E Taylor

West Mersea Town Council comment: The original application said it was a sail loft. We would not have passed the application if it had been for a 'granny annexe'. West Mersea Town Council request that Colchester Borough Council visit this site.

6460 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications Passed

(a) 17 0359

Variation of condition 3 & 5 (to retain extension as built) of planning permission 14 6556. (Proposed extensions and alterations. (Resubmission of application reference 14 5290).
51 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Mrs Philpot

(b) 17 0442

Demolition of existing porch and construction of new larger porch.
2 Blossom Mews, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs S Ainslie

(c) 17 0614

Removal of existing conservatory. Addition of proposed orangery and enlargement to bedroom including ensuite.
29 Melrose Road, West Mersea – Mrs J Ponsford

(d) 17 0277

Proposed alterations and extension to front elevation.
17a Reymead Close, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Clarke

- (e) 17 0436
Design adapted to remove rear stair window element and replace with high level roof windows. Further amendments to maintain existing openings where applicable. Resubmission of planning consent 16 2889.
2 Meadow Lane, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Green
- (f) 17 0230
Extend floating pontoon by 1.6m wide and 43m long.
Pontoon opposite West Mersea Yacht Club, Coast Road, West Mersea – Colchester Borough Council
- (g) 17 0168
Construction of a new 1.5 storey, 4 bedroom residential dwelling (class C3) within a curtilage of a grade II* listed building, with car port and associated external works.
Yew Tree House, 16 Coast Road, West Mersea – Dr B Fox
- (h) 17 0363
Construction of single storey side/rear extension. Construction of a single detached garage.
40 Churchfields, West Mersea – Mr T Filtness
- (i) 17 0649
Removal of conservatory and construction of a single storey side extension. Removal of flat roof porch and canopy, construction of pitched roof porch.
2 Dawes Lane, West Mersea – Mr M Howard

6461 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE FUTURE OF THE LAWN TENNIS COURTS AT THE GLEBE

Following discussion it was agreed that the Tennis Club can continue to use the lawn tennis courts and that they will make them playable by Wimbledon. This will be reviewed again at the end of October or early November and then every 3 months to ensure they are being adequately maintained. There should be no planting around the grass courts, either inside or outside. The Tennis Club are to provide a programme of maintenance.

6462 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ABOUT MISA, THE PITCH ALLOCATIONS, AND DISCUSS THE NEXT STAGES

Councillor Moore stated the options for reallocating the pitches. The next stage would be to agree the allocations and costings. The meeting was suspended for MISA Chairman Colin Ainslie to speak who confirmed that all clubs had been advised of the options and the estimated cost would be £3000/£4000 and some work could be self-help and some mates rates. West Mersea Town Council were asked to agree to moving the pitch back to the bank and provide a little of the funding. MISA/Rugby would probably not be able to get a grant for this but they will try. MISA are putting up the bar costs this year and income is likely to increase by £3000 so they can support some of the development but request that West Mersea Town Council contribute some of the cost but not half. MISA will consider fundraising and taking out a loan.

Councillor Moore proposed West Mersea Town Council agree to calculations being done for a new pitch lay out and to move the item to the Sports & Recreation committee.

6463 TO AGREE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND BUDGETS

Bradwell Monitoring Committee – Councillors Banks, Bragg, Wargent (Chairman) and Weaver.

Cemetery Committee – Councillors Bragg, Moore (Chairman), Powling, Shilton and Wargent.

Communications Committee – Councillors Banks, Clements, Jenkins, Moore (Chairman), Wargent and Weaver.

Assets, Facilities & Environment Committee – Councillors Banks, Bragg, Jenkins (Chairman), Powling, Shilton, Wargent and Weaver.

Local Community Meeting – Councillor Jenkins (Chairman).

Personnel Committee – Councillors Banks, Bragg, Jenkins, Shilton, Moore, Powling (Chairman) and Wargent.

Sports & Recreation Committee – Councillors Banks, Bragg, Clements (Chairman), Jenkins, Moore and Powling.

Transport Committee – Councillors Banks, Bragg, Clements, Jenkins, Moore, Powling (Chairman) and Wargent.

Waterside Committee – Councillors Bragg, Clements, Moore, Powling, Shilton, Wargent and Weaver.

6464 TO AGREE MEETING DATES 2017/18

Following discussion all meeting dates were agreed. There will not be a meeting in August 2017.
Schedule attached.

6465 TO DECIDE AND AGREE AN EXTRA CLEANING BUDGET FOR THE TOILETS AS REQUIRED

Following discussion it was agreed to spend a maximum of £1000 on extra cleaning wages costs for the public toilets. The Clerk will contact the cleaner to make arrangements.

The meeting was suspended for a 5-minute comfort break

6466 TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACCOUNTANT AND COSTS FOR MONTHLY ACCOUNTS WORK

Following discussion it was agreed to appoint the accountant to carry out the monthly accounts work to free up the Clerks time. The majority of this cost will be met from saving by cancelling the Sage accounts package contract.

6467 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE IMPLICATIONS AND COSTS OF ON LINE BANKING

Following discussion it was agreed that online banking will be set up and the Clerk will be a signatory to access and manage the accounts.

6468 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE USE OF SHARED IT FOLDERS AND ANY RELATED COSTS

A discussion about the benefits of shared IT folder was carried out. No decisions were made.

6469 TO AGREE A POLICY FOR MEMORIAL BENCHES

Following discussion it was agreed that no further benches will be permitted in Coast Road due to the number already held there.

If and when benches in Coast Road are no longer usable, they can be replaced in the same locations. Benches on other Town Council land are at the discretion of the Town Clerk and Assistant to the Town Clerk as there is plenty of room at the moment.

- 6470 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE NEXT STAGES FOR THE PLAY AREAS REFURBISHMENTS IN WEST MERSEA PARK AND AGREE HOW THEY WILL BE FUNDED

Councillor Jenkins confirmed the funds currently available from S106 money, reserves and other funding. The Council agreed to make an application for further funds from a Public Works Loan Board. Councillor Moore requested that consideration is given to accessible equipment as part of the refurbishment. Councillor Jenkins & Councillor Powling confirmed that they were obtaining up to date quotes.

- 6471 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A POLICY FOR THE GROUNDSMEN TO OPEN GRAVES FOR ASHES INTERMENTS

Following discussion it was agreed that the groundsmen will be permitted to dig graves for ashes interments.

- 6472 TO DISCUSS THE CENTRALISED FUNDING DATA

Councillor Shilton gave an Excel presentation of a funding data spreadsheet which will be used to manage funding applications.

- 6473 TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT ANY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE OF WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL BE ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME OPERATED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Clerk advised that two employees had requested to join the Essex Pension Fund.

The meeting was suspended for Borough Councillor John Jowers to state that the pension scheme was a very good scheme and that it would be difficult to leave because of all the work and implications involved.

Following discussion, a resolution was passed to allow any eligible employee to be admitted to the membership of the local government pension scheme operated by Essex County Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.