

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ASSETS, FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT	Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman) Councillor Peter Banks Councillor Peter Clements Councillor David Bragg Councillor Sylvia Wargent Councillor Carl Powling Mr Claudio Catino (Danfo)
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IN ATTENDANCE	Petra Palfreyman, Town Clerk
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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Councillors Moore and Weaver.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 21ST JULY 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM REFRESH MERSEA

No representative of Refresh Mersea was available for the meeting.

5. TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC TOILETS AND CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE WAY FORWARD

Danfo would only be able to take on a lease for Coast Road and the Library toilets **IF** the revenue stream was such that they could recoup their refurbishment costs of some £160k, and make a profit, over a reasonable period of time (10 years?). It was thought that 80,000 paying users would be needed at 40p entry fee to make a profit. Included in the revenue stream would have to be an annual contribution from West Mersea Town Council – no figure was discussed. West Mersea Town Council gave Danfo an idea of the budgeted costs including utility bills and business rates.

An alternative to a major refurbishment of Coast Road would be to demolish the existing building and build (prefabricated build) a new, smaller structure, consisting of 4 unisex individual toilets with pay as you enter systems, plus 1 disabled toilet. Claudio will cost up this option. Meanwhile West Mersea Town Council will continue to explore the possibility of discretionary rate relief and will approach the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio holder for Tourism to see what grants may be available to support West Mersea as an important seaside attraction for the Colchester area.

A working party consisting of Cllrs Jenkins, Clements and Bragg (with Cllr. Banks when possible) was agreed to consider a way forward in respect of the toilets.

Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Wargent. All in favour.

6. TO RECEIVE UPDATED REPORTS ON TASK TRACKER TOPICS

Proposed by Cllr Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Powling with all in favour that we should ask James Choat to carry out a tree survey at all of our 9 locations. This and any emergency work to be carried out within our budgeted figure with any other work carried forward to next budget.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr. Wargent. All in favour that Pittock's should undertake the work to secure the Gazebo seating at a cost of no more than £500: to be allocated to A & F Misc budget. Our groundsmen to make good the damaged seating, once secured in place.

Refer to the Task Tracker for all updates.

7. BEACH HUT WATCH – TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PARKING PERMIT INCREASE

The Clerk is in the process of making the arrangements with the Parking Partnership to move to a £30 annual concessionary rate for members of the Beach Hut Watch. Start date 1st April. 2018

8. NOTICEBOARDS FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICE – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE QUOTES AND AGREE THE TYPE AND COST OF A NEW BOARD

No quotes as yet received: Town Clerk to arrange for 3 quotations – to be reviewed at next meeting.

9. TO DISCUSS THE REPAIRS NEEDED FOR THE FELDY VIEW PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

It was agreed that West Mersea Town Council needed to bring this footpath up to the standard for fencing specified in the original agreement: Town Clerk to establish the detail and obtain quotes.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 3rd November at 10.00am.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.15 pm.