

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL 2018 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT Mr Stephen Collis (Chairman, Colchester Borough Council)
 Jay Reagan (Colchester Borough Council)
 Tim Pickard (Zone Warden, Colchester Borough Council)
 Councillor David Bragg
 Councillor Peter Clements
 Councillor Bernard Hart
 Councillor Robert Jenkins
 Councillor Sylvia Wargent
 Councillor Sophie Weaver
 Rebecca Bromley (Coastal Catchment Officer, Anglian Water)
 Ian Clarke
 Ian Crossley (Mersea Island Society)
 Mrs Frances French (Fishermens Association)
 Mr Hardy (Coast Road residents)
 Mr R Haward (Oysterman)
 David Jarvis (Packing Shed)
 David Murr (Windsurfer and Kite Surfer Club)
 Paul Reynold (Windsurfer and Kite Surfer Club)
 Mr Vince
 Martin Wade (RNLI)
 Michael Wheeler (West Mersea Yacht Club)

18/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Petra Palfreyman (Town Clerk, West Mersea Town Council), Beverley Perkins, Stuart Belbin (Coastguard and Angling Boats rep), Malcom Clarke (West Mersea Yacht Club) and Belinda Silkstone (Environmental Protection Manager, Colchester Borough Council).

18/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

18/003 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM LEE SENCIER, ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL, RE THE LANE, FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Lee Sencier gave a verbal update on the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Coast Road/The Lane before taking questions from the committee members.

A Community Emergency Group will need to be formed to take control of this scheme and it will be operated by volunteers. Request that the Lifeboat Crew might help – to be discussed with them. The equipment will be stored in a shipping container on one of the boatyards.

Councillor Clements mentioned that West Mersea Town Council will not take responsibility for this, their role will be purely advisory and their main concern will be highway closure.

Peter Clarke mentioned that the “Bumby” (the old drain that runs down The Lane) could be a problem as the water sometimes “backs up” and comes out further up The Lane.

The scheme would need five or more volunteers to operate and there needs to be someone in charge. The timescale for this project is 2019.

Lee Sencier will speak to other organisations to see if they would get involved and then report back.

18/004 TO DISCUSS DOGS ON THE BEACH AREA BETWEEN SEAVIEW AVENUE AND BROOMHILLS ROAD, WEST MERSEA

Mr Taylor, a visitor from Southend who is a Mersea beach hut owner made an observation about dogs on the beach, they need to be kept under control by being kept on a lead possibly for the summer months only. This rule would apply to the beach from Broomhills Road to Seaview Avenue, the section owned by Colchester Borough Council.

Mr Collis made the point that he would need a consultation process to be carried out – it cannot be “just done” and also that anything of this kind is always contentious – and has been in the past.

Councillor Jenkins mentioned that the recent survey for the Neighbourhood Plan did not indicate a need for such a policy and was not sure that this would give the Council a mandate.

Mr Pickard, Colchester Borough Council Zone Warden, reported that he educates dog owners about dog control, only using penalty fines as a last resort.

Mr Collis asked for people to write to him with dates and times of incidents so that he could build up a picture to see if a Public Space Protection Order could be used.

18/005 TO CONSIDER REPAIRS NEEDED TO THE BOARDWALK, COAST ROAD

The boardwalk belongs to West Mersea Town Council. The Town Clerk said that the Boardwalk is well used and in need of repair, it is subsiding and coming apart in some sections. The boardwalk will need money spent on it shortly but possibly not out of this year’s budget but next years.

Councillor Weaver mentioned that it really needs to be more wheelchair friendly.

18/006 REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS:

Update on Pontoon extension - The new crabbing wing on the Pontoon is now in place (at great expense). After discussion it was decided that the signs needed adjustment in wording to make them more suitable. The extension appears to be curing some of the previous problems with crabbers but the coming season will be the true test.

The gate onto the hammerhead needed some alterations which are being looked into.

18/007 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, COAST ROAD

The Village Green adjacent to Dabchicks Sailing Club has several semi derelict boats moored on it, these have had notices put on them. There is possibly some money from Mersea Moorings, to help to clear them away.

18/008 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM ANGLIAN WATER RE BATHING WATER QUALITY

Rebecca Bromley, Anglian Water, reported that the bathing water quality has fallen in the last few seasons. Rebecca reported that Anglian Water are working with the Environment Agency to see what the problem is. The main pollutant is e-coli (sewerage) but further investigation is needed. Samples are taken 20 times a year during the summer season. Mersea's bathing water is still safe and a great improvement compared to some other places along the East coast.

18/009 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.00pm.