

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN'S MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) Peter Banks Dave Bragg Peter Clements Bernard Hart Robert Jenkins Paula Moore Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver
	Borough Councillors:	Robert Davidson John Jowers
	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	In attendance:	14 members of public

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence received.

2. MINUTES OF TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

Proposed by Councillor Clements, seconded by Councillor Wargent, the minutes of the Town's Annual Meeting held on 20 April 2017 be confirmed.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising

No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

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 2017

The Clerk presented a summary of the Town Councils Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 and a statement of cost savings over the past year. A copy is attached.

5. OBSERVATIONS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor John Jowers congratulated the Council on another busy year.

Roads; in a poor condition generally. The portfolio holder has now changed to Councillor Kevin Bentley, who lives locally. There are 37 teams working 3 shifts a day over 24 hours. These teams also drive the gritting lorries.

The Strood – Borough Councillor Jowers confirmed that West Mersea Town Council own The Strood, which in contrary to what Councillor Powling has recently been told. Borough Councillor Jowers said that he has seen the deeds which confirm this, however, Essex County Council will find a way to help the Council. Borough Councillor Jowers acknowledged Jane Gardner and advised the audience that it was Jane who was instrumental with much of the CIF funding from which West Mersea has hugely benefitted.

The Lane; Flood Barrier – this project is still ongoing.

Essex County Council have put £50M in to Colchester Borough Council last year

The new Chief Fire Officer Jo Turton made an unannounced visit to Colchester Fire Station last week and is keen to visit all the stations and get to know the area.

B R H Burrough Esq has been appointed as the new High Sheriff of Essex.

The police precept has increased although they are the lowest funded but the second most efficient.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson reported that the Local Plan starts in May and June determining the village and town sites. Borough Councillor Davidson will be objecting along with others. The Neighbourhood Plan is critical as it will determine the type of houses we require. By the end of year Councillor Banks hopes to get to referendum which Colchester Borough Council will run and as long as we have a significant majority it will become a planning document which Colchester have to take notice of.

There are also some statements in the Local Plan encouraging caravan site expansion and Borough Councillor Davidson will be objecting to that also.

Colchester is the 20th biggest place out of 47 in the UK for creative clusters and growth. In Colchester Borough there are 865 creative digital business employing over 6500 people – approximately 6% of the population.

Expressions of interest are invited for catering and leisure facilities at the old boating lake in Castle Park and one of the bowling greens has been closed and agreed to put a pitch and putt course there with 25 year leases.

Zone Wardens should be congratulated for their help with the litter hot spots and commended the first island free litter initiative that has been started. Borough Councillor Davidson has given funding for new litter picks to be purchased for more litter warriors.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson said congratulations to West Mersea Town Council for a successful year and that he has enjoyed working with us and that the Councillors all do a great job completely on a voluntary basis.

The Mayor Councillor Powling thanked the County Councillor and the Borough Councillors for all their help and support over the last year.

6. TALK FROM JANE GARDNER, DEPUTY POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

A copy of Ms Gardner's speaking notes attached. Subjects also raised by the public and Council were ANPR cameras on The Strood, which has been rejected as the crime rate on Mersea Island is low, West Mersea's interest in having Special Constables on the island and anti-social behaviour.

7. PRESENTATION FROM KATE EVANS, STOP THE TRAFFIK MODERN SLAVERY COMMUNITY COORDINATOR – TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MODERN SLAVERY THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH

Kate Evans gave a presentation to raise awareness of modern slavery throughout the borough. Presentation attached.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.