

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 31 MAY 2018

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Peter Clements
Bernard Hart
Robert Jenkins
Paula Moore
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman

Borough Councillor: Patricia Moore

18/076 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence received.

18/077 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received.

18/078 PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public in attendance.

Concerns over a new houseboat near the Oyster sheds in Coast Road, that Glebe 2 cannot be leased to Sports Clubs as West Mersea Town Council lease it from CBC and the footpath from the Glebe to Dawes Lane.

A request for West Mersea Town Council to confirm their intentions regarding legal representations over the Local Plan.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Asked at a recent planning meeting that if the two sites are passed and they can take more than 200 houses would it still be kept to 200. The answer was that if the density was not at the required level, they will insist there is more housing and therefore it is essential that only one site is put forward to keep the numbers down.

Borough Councillor Moore has asked for a special session looking at caravans and will ask what the licencing department can and will do about caravans.

18/079 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a) **18 1058**

Two storey side extension.

5 Broomhills Road, West Mersea – Mr Crisp

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

- b) 18 0570
Two storey rear extension (revised drawings).
49 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr S Caslin

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

18/080 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

- a) 18 0087
Single storey side extension to dwelling.
2 The Mews, West Mersea – Mr P Everett
- b) 17 2957
Single storey rear extension and partial first floor extension to front and side. Refurbishment works to include a replacement roof and general modernisation of the dwelling.
7 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr K Cooper
- c) 18 0900
Proposed single storey rear extension and adjoining glazed canopy roof.
67 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Graham

Applications refused

- a) 18 0847
Outline application for residential development of a single dwelling with access off Empress Avenue, including layout with all other matters reserved.
Land off 10 Beverley Avenue, West Mersea – Mr R Boulding
- b) 18 0834
Proposed construction of new 2 bedroom bungalow, parking, refuse store, cycle store, amenity rear of 35a Barfield Road.
35a Barfield Road, West Mersea – Mr L Knifton

WMTC Recommendation: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application.

18/081 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk provided the Council with copies of the latest bank statements, income and expenditure to 31 May 2018, a copy of the accounts to 31 March 2018 and the invoice schedules for April & May 2018 and answered general questions relating to the documents.

18/082 TO AGREE MEETING DATES FOR 2018-19

The meeting dates for 2018-19 were agreed. Copy attached.

18/083 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE 'SPONSORSHIP' OF FOUR SPECIAL POLICE CONSTABLES FOR WEST MERSEA

Following discussion the Council agreed to sponsor 4 Police Specials for Mersea Island at a cost of approximately £1000 per Police Special which pays for travel and a small allowance.
The Neighbourhood Plan survey indicated that there were 56 people in West Mersea who expressed an interest in this role.

Police Specials have the same office and powers as regular Police Officers, wear the same uniform and are deployed to the same incidents. Their base would be Colchester Police Station (as the nearest Police Hub) and they must sign up to do a minimum of 16 hours per month. It is estimated that this would not all be in place for about 18 months.

18/084 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE WW1 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FROM COUNCILLOR WEAVER

Councillor Weaver reported that she still hopes to work with the school so they can start a project in September. Councillor Powling will arrange a meeting with the Royal British Legion and Mersea Island School and Councillor Weaver will contact Army personnel on the Island who have indicated they are willing to help.

18/085 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE KEY FACTS OF THE SPORTS CLUB LEASE

Councillor Moore confirmed that she would no longer wanted to chairman or be on the committee.

Councillor Clements summarised the progress as follows:

Rents agreed £500 & £1000

Contents of leases on buildings are agreed

Pitch allocations are to be agreed

West Mersea Town Council are checking the lease situation on Glebe 2 with Colchester Borough Council and need to decide whether we want a lease for the pavilion or a lease for each club. Also that clubs do not want to carry the responsibility if another club fails financially and that we should honour our proposal to cover two months utilities for a failing club as long as MISA inform us. If a club fails to pay, they lose the right to a pitch.

A working group was proposed with the new chairman of the Sports and Recreation committee and a representative from Rugby and Cricket.

Councillor Hart advised that a professional groundsman had visited the Glebe and a copy of the report would be sent to the Council.

The next Sports & Recreation committee meeting is on 18 June 2018.

18/086 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A NEW MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY

Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the new memorial bench policy. Copy attached.

18/087 TO DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FOR THE HIGH STREET, WEST MERSEA

The Clerk advised that the lamp columns along the High Street were no longer suitable for putting our Christmas lights on as they are too big and heavy but we can use them for rope lights.

The lights in the Lime Tree also need some attention as much of the string of lights has failed.

Following discussion, Councillor Powling said he would speak to Essex County Council and work out what we could do.

It was agreed to keep to the current amount in the budget and ask local businesses to support Mersea Lights up which will be run by the Mersea Centre and to set up a working group with Councillors Jenkins, Powling and Bragg.

18/088 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling thanked all the Councillors for their continued hard work and said that this year the Council would be concentrating on policies.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9pm