

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 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

18/178 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

18/179 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Clements and Jenkins are committee members at the MICA.

18/180 PUBLIC SESSION

5 members of the public in attendance.

The following comments were made:

The Council were thanked for a successful Civic Service the previous Sunday.

The Mersea Walks leaflet needs to be updated to include coastal footpaths.

Confirmation that the insurance company had been contacted and a risk assessment for the WW1 beacon event was requested.

The owner of 30 Victory Road confirmed that planning permission was being sought for a new scheme. The Council would be viewing the plan later in the meeting.

Further thanks were given for the Civic Service.

The Mersea Walks leaflet is a useful leaflet and a good guide.

Requested more transparency about meetings with developers and a report of the number of meetings that take place and who they are with.

18/181 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a) 18 2223

Conversion of existing 2 storey chalet to 2.5 storey house with new rear and side extension. Single storey carport to replace existing garage.

18 City Road, West Mersea – Mr P Langley

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

- b) 18 2237
Proposed 2 storey dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow.
95 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Chatterton

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

- c) 18 2241
Demolition of an existing bungalow. Erection of a detached two storey replacement dwelling with associated external works.
30 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr S Priestley

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application. Councillors Clements & Powling abstained from voting.

- d) 18 2310
Outline: Proposed 3 bedroom detached dwelling.
77 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Wilson-Hind

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the grounds that the proposed dwelling will be an overdevelopment of the plot.

- e) 18 2200
Single storey rear extension to plot 68. 2 storey rear extension to plot 70.
68 & 70 Firs Chase, West Mersea – Mr R & Mrs A Ward

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

- f) 18 2386
Proposed residential annexe. Resubmission of 18 1587.
86 Coast Road, West Mersea – Ms Harding

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application. Councillor Wargent abstained from voting.

- g) 18 2304
First floor front extension, two storey rear extension and single storey side extension and general modernisation.
12 Kingsland Beach, West Mersea – Mr D King

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

18/182 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

- a) 18 1243
Change of use of part of domestic garden. Existing domestic garages and residential annex to 4 holiday lets. Including the erection of small front gables. Formation of external private patios. Parking spaces and shared amenity space.
10 Colchester Road, West Mersea – Mr T Allery

WMTC Recommendation: Following discussion it was recommended to refuse the planning application as it is an intensification of development within the coastal protection belt in a prominent area.

- b) 18 1997
Detached single storey music room.
52 High Street North, West Mersea – Mr G Jewitt
- c) 18 1761
Conversion of former police station (B1) to residential dwellings (C3) including extensions and alterations to form 2no 4 bedroom terraced houses with car ports and associated facilities.
Police Station, East Road, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

18/183 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk gave details of the current bank balances. Queries were raised by Councillor Jenkins and Moore regarding the Transport Committee budget. The monthly payment schedules and cash book to date did not have any queries. The bank statements had been reviewed and signed by Councillor Bragg to comply with paragraph 2.2 of the Financial Regulations.

18/184 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PLACEMENT OF A NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD TO HIGHLIGHT THE HERITAGE AND BIOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION OF OYSTERS TO THE ISLAND

Following discussion, the Council agreed the principal of having an oyster information board, subject to deciding where it will be located, how big it will be and what it will look like. Councillor Banks confirmed that there could also be a budget for future maintenance of the board.
Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Hart.

18/185 TO DISCUSS A LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE MICA CENTRE RE A DONATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Following discussion it was agreed to donate £100 to the MICA Centre for the Christmas tree in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Banks. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Further discussions confirmed that the ground staff could also spend up to one morning helping out with the lights at the MICA and use the rest of the day to put lights up at the library. If the MICA raise funds to repair our lights, one of the ground staff will repair them in his own time.
Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Moore. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Councillors Clements and Jenkins abstained from voting.

18/186 TO DISCUSS A QUOTE RECEIVED FOR THE MERSEA WALKS LEAFLET REPRINT

Following discussion it was agreed to set up a Working Group to review and update the leaflet. The working group consists of Councillors Hart, Moore, Powling, Wargent and Weaver.

18/187 TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS A REQUEST TO MAKE THE GLEBE PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH A FORMAL PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Following discussion it was agreed to start the process of making the permissive footpath at the Glebe a formally adopted footpath. The Clerk will contact Essex Highways.
Proposed: Councillor Clements, Seconded: Councillor Moore. ALL IN FAVOUR.

18/188 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WW1 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICES CELEBRATION FROM COUNCILLOR CLEMENTS

Councillor Clements confirmed the following plans for The Mersea Beacon of Light Event.

A beacon will be erected in Victoria Esplanade Car park with chain link fence around it. The oak post will be carved with the name and date of the event and the fire basket will be made, all by local tradesmen.

On the evening a Town Crier will request silence and there will be music from a bagpiper. School children will lay stones under the beacon with the names of the fallen and a short narrative about each will be told. A bugler will play the Last Post and the beacon will be lit. Songs will be sung by the children and all can join in. The Town Crier will read the Proclamation of Peace. Church bells all over the island will be rung. Refreshments will be available from Two Sugars and the Surf Shack. The Clerk advised that a risk assessment and Health and Safety must be considered both in the preparation and during the event.

18/189 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling congratulated the Clerk on passing the Certificate in Local Council Administration course (CILCA). This means the Council can now adopt the General Power of Competence.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 8.50pm.