

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE WATERSIDE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT	Mr Stephen Collis (Chairman, Colchester Borough Council) Cllr David Bragg Cllr Peter Clements Cllr Bob Jenkins Cllr Sylvia Wargent Cllr Sophie Weaver Borough Cllr Patricia Moore (Colchester Borough Council) Mr Stuart Belbin (Coastguard and Angling Boats) Mr Graeme Chalklin (Packing Shed Trust) Mr Peter Clarke (Boatyard) Mrs Frances French (Fishermens Association) Mr Hardy (Coast Road residents) Mr Richard Haward (Oysterman) Mr Rob Moffatt (West Mersea Marine/Mersea Haven) Mr Paul Reynolds (Windsurfer and Kitesurfer Club) Mrs Faith Richardson (Mersea Island Society) Mr John Vince Mr Stephen Vince
IN ATTENDANCE:	Belinda Silkstone (Environment Protection Manager, CBC) Rebecca Bromley (Coastal Catchment Officer, Anglian Water Authority)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Petra Palfreyman (Town Clerk, West Mersea Town Council), Mrs Maureen Phillips (houseboat Mojo) and Ms Beverley Perkins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed: Mrs F French, Seconded: Mr S Belbin.

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

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed: Mrs F French, Seconded: Mr S Belbin.

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

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.  
Proposed: Mrs F French, Seconded: Mr S Belbin.

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

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON BATHING WATER QUALITY

Ms Bromley, Coastal Catchment Officer, Anglian Water Authority gave the following report:

On 19 July water samples from the sea just below Fairhaven Avenue were tested by the Environment Agency and it was still showing poor results, high e-coli content. Ongoing investigation to ascertain what is causing this reading.

Residents asked to report to Anglian Water or Colchester Borough Council if they notice any unpleasant or sewage type smells and give exact location. Borough Cllr Moore reported smells at Stone Point in East Mersea. Mr Reynolds reported smells near the houseboats. Discussion as to what houseboats discharge sewage straight into the river, which is currently allowed, and which have Macerators. Also to report on any actual sewage in the river.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LANE, FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Nothing to report.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE RE DOGS ON THE BEACH AREA BETWEEN SEAVIEW AVENUE AND BROOMHILLS ROAD, WEST MERSEA

Mr Collis reported that since the last meeting there had only been two reported incidents about dogs.

Mr Reynolds reported dog nuisance on the beach, dogs not under control and dog mess on beach. Cllr Wargent felt that this problem was over exaggerated.

Mr Collis would arrange for Mr Pickard (Colchester Borough Council Zone Warden) to meet up with Mr Reynolds regarding the problem.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON REPAIRS NEEDED TO THE BOARDWALK, COAST ROAD

Cllr Jenkins reported that the Boardwalk was showing signs of wear which is only to be expected. West Mersea Town Council will monitor the situation - at the present time West Mersea Town Council are short of funds for such repairs.

10. TO REVIEW AN UPDATE ON VILLAGE GREEN AND REMOVAL OF BOATS

All boats now removed and the Village Green is tidy. West Mersea Town Council removed a large vessel which was paid for by the taxpayer.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CRABTASTIC SIGNAGE

The Crabtastic signage has proved popular, especially with the children. The organiser of the signage will deliver it to Mersea Island School.

12. TO DISCUSS A LETTER RECEIVED RE HANDRAIL ON PONTOON

A letter was received requesting a handrail on the pontoon for assisting disabled and older people. Following discussion it was agreed not to install a handrail on the pontoon.

13. REPORTS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEETINGS:

- (a) Update on pontoon extension - The gates have been modified to allow larger boats to get through. The general feedback is that the gates have worked well and it has reduced people on the hammerhead. The new crabbing areas have worked well.
- (b) Mooring on the pontoon - There is a concern about the number of boats moored on the pontoon. A permit system is being reintroduced when all the permits have been issues then a survey will be undertaken to see what other vessels are being moored on the pontoon.
- (c) Boat bins at Coast Road - The bins are still being abused with non boat waste, and not all the bins are being used. It has been suggested that one of the Euro bins be removed, the remaining four bins should be left with their lids open. Thanks were given to the Fishermen/Oystermen regarding looking after the small wheelie bins on the pontoon and regularly emptying them. The bins were put in for the crabbers to put their waste in.
- (d) Dabchicks Blue Bin  
West Mersea Town Council to approach Dabchicks concerning the problems with this bin and to ascertain if it encroaches onto the Village Green.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Steve Vince commented on the flower planters and other structures belonging to Dabchicks encroaching upon the foreshore which is part of the Village Green and therefore illegal. Cllr Clements to look into this further and report back to West Mersea Town Council.

Mr Peter Clarke has asked for a commemorative seat to be placed at the side of the Fishermen's Ice Box Store.

Information Board on Victoria Esplanade - this has been agreed but needs further liaison between West Mersea Town Council and Graphic Designers at Colchester Borough Council.

Cllr Clements put forward a plan for a Beacon to commemorate WW1 - possibly on the old Searchlight emplacement on Victoria Esplanade. It was pointed out that this would require planning permission.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date to be arranged for March 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.15pm.