

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN'S MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2019

at the Royal British Legion Hall, Barfield Road, West Mersea

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) Peter Banks Dave Bragg Peter Clements Bernard Hart Robert Jenkins Paula Moore Sophie Weaver
	Borough Councillors:	Robert Davidson John Jowers Patricia Moore
	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	In attendance:	50 members of public

19/001 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Wargent.

19/002 MINUTES OF TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 19 APRIL 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

Proposed by Councillor Jowers, seconded by Ms Shehadeh, the minutes of the Town's Annual Meeting held on 19 April 2018 be confirmed.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/003 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2018

No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

19/004 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor, Councillor Carl Powling, presented the Town Council's Annual Report, as set out in the Minute Book. Copy attached.

19/005 TOWN COUNCIL'S UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

The Clerk presented a summary of the Town Council's unaudited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018. Copy attached.

19/006 OBSERVATIONS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Essex County Councillor John Jowers gave a summary of the past year.

The Lane Flood Barrier Scheme is ongoing at a proposed cost of £186000.

The Strood railings were repaired by Essex County Council following issues regarding the ownership.

There is an 18 month programme of repairs which will include Barfield Road and East Road.

£300,000 was allocated to Cobmarsh to put sand and gravel around the island to protect the Harbour.

Harwich will be dredged in 2021.

The Lane new signage has been completed.

Requests have been made to get the Strood white lines repainted.

The Community Initiative Fund has helped many projects on the Island.

There is a big issue with planning and we will not get away with none as Mersea is an Urban Centre.

The Garden Communities (24000 houses for West Tey & 9000 near the University) has been rejected by the Inspector which has also delayed Part 2 of the Local Plan.

The Island must have a Neighbourhood Plan and this will allow the community to have a say in what it gets.

Borough Councillor Jowers confirmed he is the chairman of The Essex Association of Local Councils.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

A member of the Neighbourhood Plan group, which is a community group and which will be an important planning document that Colchester planners have to take note of.

Colchester Borough Council collect the Council Tax and keep £90 per year for which we get rubbish collected, planning facilities and other services. The rest goes to other services. S106 from planning gain is divided 60% to Mersea 40% to Colchester.

The Community Initiative fund is now being run by the EALC and has changed. The maximum grant is now £10,000 but they will be awarding smaller grant of £500 more often.

The Locality budget of £2,000 from CBC councillors is also available.

Posters –all posters have been removed but the local CBC councillors want to see if this can be changed to allow charities to advertise.

The library has been the subject of many meetings and must be run by professionals.

Caravan monitoring – needs to be better as we know a lot of people live there full time.

Special Police Constables – 14 full time Specials in Colchester district which have made 200 arrests. East & West Mersea Parish Councils have contributed to Specials for Mersea.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Colchester Borough Council haven made many decisions as the elections take a lot of time and money.

The expansion at Away Resorts (East Mersea) has been stopped and would have created a president for West Mersea sites.

The situation regarding the closure of the library will be monitored.

The Zone Wardens who collect the litter and deal with dog fouling etc have been pulled off this work to work in central Colchester.

Requested that extra black bags could be supplied at each bin so that overflowing bin bags could be replaced.

19/007 PUBLIC FORUM

The following comments and questions were raised.

Could the meeting be held outside the purdah period.

Planning issues regarding proposed developments.

A request for more toilets of the seaward side of the road.

A date for the basketball backboards and nets to be put up.

The white lines at the bottom of Seaview Avenue are not visible enough.

Potential plans to open and widen Dawes Lane if developments go ahead.

A query regarding the date the 2019 account will be finalised.

A query regarding previously budgeted funds for heating at the Tennis Club.

19/008 TALK FROM CHIEF INSPECTOR ROB HUDDLESTON, COMMUNITY POLICY TEAM, ESSEX POLICE

Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston gave a summary of his personal and career history – summarised in the link below. A brief questions and answer session was also held in which CI Huddleston acknowledged issues specific to West Mersea.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/news/news-and-features/2019/03mar/meet-colchester%E2%80%99s-new-district-commander/>

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.