

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: Robert Jenkins (Deputy Mayor)
John Akker
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Paula Moore
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver
Chris Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman

19/153 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Carl Powling.

19/154 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 19/162.

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest of planning applications and agenda item 19/167 as member of the Mersea Island Society and Stop 350.

Councillor Banks declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 19/167 as the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan.

19/155 PUBLIC SESSION

5 members of the public were in attendance.

Concerns were raised about a letter from Strutt & Parker on the Brierley Paddocks planning application site. A request and information was provided to support an increase in car parking charges.

A list of proposals to mitigate visitors' parking on the Esplanade was submitted and will be passed to the Transport committee for consideration.

19/156 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 19 1634

Refurbishment and extension to form bar/restaurant (A3/A4); 5 holiday letting rooms (C1) with reception; storage (B8); car parking and associated works, including demolition of ancillary structures. White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs B Lord

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

(b) 19 1659

Proposed extension and alterations.

Kansu, 53 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs S Ramsay

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

- (c) 19 0939
Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of new 1 ½ storey dwelling and garage. Revised drawings.
7 Prince Albert Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Harris

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

- (d) 19 1440
Erection of single two storey dwelling house.
Land adjacent Bellevue, 11 Kingsland Close, West Mersea – Mr W McRae

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

- (e) 19 1160
Proposed balcony to front with internal alterations.
The Coast Inn, 108 Coast Road, West Mersea – Cross

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application. We reiterate the condition that the proposal adheres to the objection on the grounds of privacy from neighbouring properties and remains for private residential use only.

19/157 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

- (a) 19 1158
Demolition of an existing bungalow. Erection of a detached replacement dwelling with associated external works. Resubmission of approval 18 2241.
30 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr S Priestley
- (b) 19 1235
Internal alterations with demolition of existing rear octagonal room and portico structure (and removal of existing terrace); altered windows and doors to sides and rear (with painted horizontal fibre-cement external cladding infill to match where required); and proposed new rear terrace with pergola structure and natural timber open-slatted horizontal timber screen.
31 The Lane, West Mersea – Mr B & Mrs A Gibson
- (c) 19 0198
Demolition of 1no. building and erection of 2no. dwellings. Demolition of existing building and site preparation permitted under approval reference 151500.
21 Prince Albert Road, West Mersea – Mr S Downes
WMTC Recommendation:
Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on grounds of overdevelopment.
- (d) 19 1298
Proposed two/single storey rear extension. Resubmission of 19 0146.
74 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Watkins
- (e) 19 1239
Expansion of existing dormer window over flat roof balcony.
8 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr K Doyle
- (f) 19 1363
Replacement of existing timber frame double bay shop front, with new powder coated double glazed design.
J K May Funeral Directors, 51 High Street, West Mersea – Mr S Hunnaball

- (g) 19 0978
Retrospective application for removal of flat roof and pitching new roof with dormer and covered stair for storage access.
44 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mr N Calcutt
- (h) 19 1329
Conversion of bungalow to a 2 / 1.5 storey dwelling with a single storey rear extension.
59 Mill Road, West Mersea – Butler
- (i) 19 1267
Continued use of the site for the stationing of 3 no. static holiday caravans on former amenity land, the continued use of former agricultural land for camping and the confirmation of the seasonal occupancy period of the holiday caravans.
Mersea Caravan Centre, Waldegraves Farm Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea – Mr D Lord

19/158 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Town Clerk confirmed the current account balance as of 17 July 2019 is £53,300.73, with a balance of £51,536.95 in the Unity Trust account and £70,357.15 in the NS&I account. The VAT to June 2019 will be completed once all the invoices have been posted. The first quarter car park income is due next week. The Internal Audit report will be distributed to the councillors and the Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer will work together on the issues raised.

It was reported that the financial position of the Council would be given when the financial data is brought up to date.

19/159 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE INCREASING CAR PARK CHARGES FOR SEAVIEW, VICTORIA ESPLANADE, WILLOUGHBY, HIGH STREET (LIBRARY) AND COAST ROAD CAR PARKS FROM APRIL 2020

Coast Road

Up to 1 hour – free
Up to 3 hours - £3
Over 3 hours - £5
Season ticket - £65
Overnight – free

High Street

Up to 1 hour – free
Up to 3 hours - £1
Over 3 hours - £5
Season ticket - £65
Overnight - free

Seaview Ave

Up to 1 hour – free
Up to 3 hours - £3
Over 3 hours - £5
Season ticket - £65
Overnight - £1

Victoria Esplanade

Up to 3 hours - £3.00
Over 3 hours - £5
Season ticket – no longer required

Willoughby

Up to 3 hours - £3.00

Over 3 hours - £5

Season ticket – no longer required

Beach Hut Watch/Windsurfers permit

Increase to £50

Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Weaver. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/160 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE SITING FOR TWO STORAGE CONTAINERS ON GLEBE 2 FOR THE CRICKET AND RUGBY CLUBS AND ANY OTHER CONDITIONS REQUIRED

Following discussion it was agreed that the storage containers would be permitted subject to Colchester Borough Council approval and conditions imposed by West Mersea Town Council.

Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. Councillor Moore voted against.

19/161 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE CONSIDERATION FOR AN ENCLOSED DOG AGILITY COURSE

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Bragg would calculate some costs and it would be discussed at the next Assets, Facilities and Environment committee meeting.

19/162 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A DONATION TO MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST OF £150

Following discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £150 to Mersea Island Festival Trust (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/163 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE MAKING A REQUEST TO COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP TO INCLUDE THE TOWN HARD IN THE OFF STREET PARKING ORDER AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT, TO ALLOW FOR LEGAL ENFORCEMENT OF UNAUTHORISED PARKING. ESTIMATED COSTS £2000

Following discussion it was agreed to make a request to CBC and NEPP to include the Town Hard in the Off Street Parking Order at an estimated cost of £2000.

Proposed: Councillor Akker, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/164 TO DISCUSS RECENT INCIDENTS AT THE BOARDWALK AREA, COAST ROAD AND AGREE THE NEXT ACTIONS

The Clerk advised that a post had been removed in the Boardwalk area by users of quad bikes, jet skis and small boats and used the Boardwalk as access to the beach. Some cars had also been seen parked on the meadow. Following discussion it was agreed that new posts and rails would be erected in that area with costs not exceeding £500.

Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Moore. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/165 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES AT UNIT 2 RUSHMERE CLOSE, COSTING £1772 PLUS VAT

This item is deferred for more information to be obtained.

19/166 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A DONATION TO WEST MERSEA TOWN REGATTA OF £250

Following discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £250 to West Mersea Town Regatta (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Banks. Councillor Bragg voted against.

19/167 TO CONSIDER THE COMMENTS MADE TO COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL SINCE THE OBJECTION MADE BY WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2019, AND TO CONSIDER MAKING COMMENTS TO THE PLANNING OFFICE, REGARDING THE OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR BRIERLEY PADDOCKS

Councillor Akker asked for information on what contact had taken place between the Town Council and Colchester Borough Council following the objection made on 11 February 2019 with regard to S106 monies. The Clerk confirmed that some months ago the S106 officer for Colchester Borough Council had requested a list of potential S106 projects/spending. The Clerk had requested suggestions from the Council by email and these were collated and discussed with Councillors Powling and Jenkins. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Wood would write a further submission to Colchester Borough Council Planning. Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Moore. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/168 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Councillor Jenkins advised that Colchester Borough Council Borough Councillors Julie Young & David King visited to see the Willoughby toilets refurbishment that they had contributed to. Colchester Borough Council are keen to build a partnership and would like to see a Strategic Plan that considers the whole community, including dementia care and areas of the community that need help. The Colchester Borough Council Cabinet has agreed to make the Public Spaces Protection Order regarding dogs enforceable which will help with areas such as The Glebe. There are two Police Special Constables already attested and a third attesting in August 2019. Councillors Banks and Moore attended a Colchester Borough Council meeting in which there was a unanimous vote in favour of school funding and have declared a climate emergency for the Borough.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.40pm.