

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ASSETS, FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 17 JUNE 2019 AT 10AM

PRESENT	Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman) Councillor John Akker Councillor Peter Banks
IN ATTENDANCE	Petra Palfreyman (Town Clerk) Chris Frost (Resident, Fairhaven Avenue) Faith Richardson (Mersea Island Society)

19/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Bragg, Moore, Powling, Wargent and Weaver. Lesley Mullins (Refresh Mersea) and Allen Jesson (PROUD).

19/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

19/003 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Jenkins.

Matters arising: Councillor Akker raised a question about 18/064 which was answered by the Town Clerk to the effect that the matter is still being investigated.

19/004 REFRESH MERSEA

- (a) To receive an update from Lesley Mullins
- (b) Would Refresh Mersea undertake an overhaul of Sensory Garden for a possible donation towards costs?

This item has been deferred in the absence of Refresh Mersea.

19/005 TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON LOCATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL WASTE/RECYCLING BINS E.G.,

- (a) More bins at key points on West Mersea Town Council land
 - (i) Replace the old general waste bin at Seaview car park with a larger plastic bin
 - (ii) Introduce recycling bins in West Mersea Park
 - (iii) Extra bin at Monkey Steps

Voted in favour of (1) above and for (ii) above voted in favour of 2 Jubilee 70 ltr recycling bins. In respect of (iii) above Councillors voted in favour of an extra bin and a replacement bin for the one destroyed by fire on the 16th June. Cost not to exceed budget of £1700 unless additional funding available from PROUD.

19/006 TO DISCUSS OTHER WASTE ISSUES:

- (a) Evening collection on busy weekends/bank holidays (CBC)
- (b) More bins at key points on Colchester Borough Council land e.g., Two Sugars

It was agreed to continue our dialogue with Colchester Borough Council on (a) above and to investigate the cost/viability of hiring someone to clear rubbish from key sites on busy weekends and store in an additional bin at the Glebe (which we have available). Additionally to approach PROUD to see if they could cover the cost of emptying the bin (weekly charge £13.50): this item to be added to full Council agenda once costs established. In respect of (b) above it was thought we should continue our discussions with Colchester Borough Council over the Two Sugars Café site and to additionally investigate the possibility of a bin next to the bus shelter at the top of Seaview.

19/007 FAIRHAVEN TOILETS

- (a) How to proceed in short term
 - (i) Install footfall counters
 - (ii) Install control unit to limit flushing to urinal
 - (b) How to proceed in longer term
 - (i) What options are available to us?
- (a) (i) Above - counters have been installed at Fairhaven (removed from Willoughby).
- (ii) Above - Councillors agreed to have installed by Danfo a flush control system at a cost of around £330 including labour. This to be installed by end of June, if possible. Nb. Given high cost of water at this site of some £1600 for 6 months the cost should be recovered over a 2 month period.
- (b) (i) above - Options were thought to be -
- a. Sell plot for development as a café/shop with integral chargeable toilet.
 - b. Sell plot for development as a residential property.
 - c. Sell land and use proceeds to build an integral chargeable toilet as part of Changing Places programme. (should we succeed in grants and finding suitable location).
 - d. Close toilets and retain land.
 - e. Refurb the toilets - estimated cost £35,000 to £50,000, assuming no structural problems. To comply with Disabled Discrimination Act any major refurb would need to include suitable disabled facilities (not currently available).
 - f. Sell both Fairhaven and Willoughby sites for development and use proceeds to fund a new block on seaward side of the Esplanade.
 - g. Sell Fairhaven and use proceeds for a demountable/plumbed in toilet facility at entrance to carpark.

19/008 TO REVIEW THE OPTIONS FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF COAST ROAD TOILETS

Councillor Jenkins gave a brief outline of the Council's thoughts for a pop-up shop + semi-automatic toilets based on the existing structure or an internal refurbishment, as a temporary fix.

19/009 TO DISCUSS OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT IN WEST MERSEA PARK AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

This still considered a good idea and is accounted for in the budget but needs considerable grant funding. Possible sources are CIF (Max £10,000) or Cory, but this subject on what other calls we might have on funding for addition to skatepark. Councillor Banks to investigate if funding available from Magnox.

19/010 TO REVIEW ROSPA REPORTS FOR PLAY AREAS. AGREE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, SHOULD BE TAKEN

Areas of concern -

1. Wellhouse pathways cracking in places - groundstaff to attempt repairs.
2. Wellhouse Park - some shrinkage of wet pour in one small area - PP to obtain a quote for repair.
3. West Mersea Park (School gardens) - waste bin said to be a potential problem to an adjacent bench from wasps. We will consider re-siting when new recycling bins arrive.
4. West Mersea Park - climbing frame should ideally have a soft landing surface. Review in next budget.
5. Youth Field - climbing wall has several problems - groundstaff to remove. Establish a price for something similar and enter in next budget.
6. Zip wire - small part of landing surface degrading with wear. Groundstaff to attempt repair.
7. Skate park - some crack issues but none considered urgent. Review when extension to skate park considered.

19/011 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE AN AREA FOR A WILDFLOWER MEADOW IN THE LEGION FIELD

Agreed to defer this until next year and advice taken from Refresh Mersea and new Groundstaff.

19/012 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE COLLECTION OF LATE PAYMENTS OF GATE LICENCES

3 households refusing to pay the £25 fee. Agreed to seek advice of Rebekah Straughan.

19/013 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW COST EFFICIENT ELECTRIC HEATER FOR UNIT 2
RUSHMERE CLOSE

Defer for the moment pending an alternative solution proposed by Councillor Powling.

19/014 TO REVIEW THE TASK TRACKER

All items reviewed - Tracker will be updated.

19/015 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged at a later date.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.15pm.