

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)
John Akker
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver
Chris Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman
Borough Councillor: Robert Davidson
John Jowers
Patricia Moore

19/130 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Jenkins and Moore.

19/131 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Powling declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 19 1577.

19/132 PUBLIC SESSION

5 members of the public in attendance.

Concern was expressed about the demands of MISA (Mersea Island Sport Association) and expectations that the Council would pay for items such as a beer cellar cooler which are not fixtures and fittings, MUGA pitches and white line marking all for the total of £1500 that is paid to the Council.

Also concerns about how devolution was going to managed by just some of the Council.

A request for signage at Shingle Point following the accident last year in which a young boy almost drowned.

19/133 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor John Jowers

The road surfacing works are underway. A & B road are the priority and then rural roads and hopefully pavements. Thanks to Kevin Bentley for pushing this forward.

The future of the library looks optimistic thanks to the work of Councillor Patricia Moore. More news is due on this on 10 July 2019.

The lines at the bottom of Seaview Avenue have been repainted.

The Council are encouraged to support The Lane Flood Scheme.

Councillors raised questions about the decision made by the planning committee in respect of Coopers Beach and the expectation of work that would be carried out in the devolution pilot with the £4800 fund.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

A request has been made to remove a piece of metal sticking up at New Orleans beach.

First Buses will be asked if they can consider a bus direct to the hospital.

A consultation about the Dawes Lane development will be held on 9 July at the MISA pavilion at the Glebe.

There was a Licencing officers meeting today regarding policing residency on the caravan sites and it was confirmed that Colchester Borough Council have dealt with people living on the sites full time.

Highways need to look at the bigger picture regarding Coopers Beach.

There is still some confusion about advertising and what can be put up. With the owner's permission, an advert 1/3 of a square metre can be put up. If you would like to put up something bigger you can ask the licencing department for permission.

Councillors queried grass cutting along Victoria Esplanade, the consultation for Middlewick Ranges and how that will impact Mersea and the Dawes Lane site and how that might be considered in view of the current Brierley Paddocks application.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

The documents are not yet ready for the Local Plan committee on 22 July which are in support of the Garden Communities. The documents so far are incomplete and substandard. If they are found unsound by the Inspector then Part 2 will be abandoned and they will have to start again.

£5000 grants are still available for houses that have been flooded.

The Dawes Lane consultation is until the 22 July 2019.

Colchester Borough Council have introduced a voucher scheme for all recycling.

Enquiries are being made about the new freighters which are narrower, shorter and do not hold as much.

Essex County Council have a Green Space consultation on their website.

Councillors Jowers and Davidson walked along the beach to meet a plastic recycling group from Colchester who gathered a lot of rubbish. Concerns at the state of the seawall from Waldegraves on towards East Mersea.

Noted that meetings will be recorded in future.

19/134 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 16 MAY 2019 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Banks, SECONDED by Councillor Bragg that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 16 May 2019, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising: No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

19/135 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 6 JUNE 2019 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Weaver, SECONDED by Councillor Wood that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 6 June 2019, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising: Councillor Banks queried the validity of motion 19/122. The Clerk will refer to the EALC for advise in the first instance.

19/136 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 19 1363

Replacement of existing timber frame double bay shop front, with new powder coated double glazed design.

51 High Street, West Mersea – Mr S Hunnaball

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

(b) 19 1416

First floor extension above existing ground floor side extension, external finish changes
67 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Mr J Humm

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

(c) 19 1443

1.5 storey extension on existing bungalow.
5a Victory Road, West Mersea – Bowman

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

(d) 19 1418

Proposed new three bedroom bungalow.
77 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Wilson-Hinds

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal as the property is an over-development of the site.
This Council agrees with Essex County Council Highways Authority conditions.

(e) 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

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal as the drawings do not correlate with what has
been built and scale of balcony overlooks neighbours.

(f) 19 1577

Rear and side extensions.
2 Chandlers Close, West Mersea – Mr S Wright

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

(g) 19 1624

Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension.
3 Acorn Mews, West Mersea – Mrs Conway

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

19/137 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 19 0898

Loft conversion with large dormer on rear elevation.
22 Mersea Avenue, West Mersea – Mrs G Hurst

(b) 19 0954

Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of two new single storey extensions, extension to balcony
and alterations to existing windows. Amended description.
41 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr G Clark

(c) 19 0864

Demolish existing property and construct 3 detached dwellings.

55 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

WMTC Recommendation:

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment of the plot
- Insufficient parking; per Essex County Council highways authority comment

(d) 19 0538

Construction of 3 no detached single storey dwellings with new access road, fencing, landscaping etc; resubmission of planning approval of 16 0666, approved 25.05.16.

Land adjacent, 8 Upland Road, West Mersea – Mr G Lowe and Mr M Lowe

(e) 19 1082

Front porch.

3 Wellhouse Avenue, West Mersea – Mr K Coutts

Application Withdrawn

(a) 19 0659

Proposed new three bedroom bungalow

77 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Wilson-Hinds

19/138 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ABOUT THE FLOOD BARRIER SCHEME AND WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GROUP (CEG) AND TO AGREE THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SECTION 50 LICENCE AND TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENACTING THE SECTION 50 ROAD CLOSURE DEPLOYMENT TO THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Banks advised that the Community Emergency Group (CEG) has been set up by Coast Road residents with Jill Keene as the chairman, Mr & Mrs Westgate as joint treasurers and secretary Angela Warren-Thomas. A form is being submitted to make the group a legal entity, they are still looking for storage for the barrier in The Lane area and are looking at getting Public Liability insurance for the hardware and container. Essex County Council have also visited again.

The S50 licence is an agreement that Essex County Council would like West Mersea Town Council to sign as the statutory part for road closures so that West Mersea Town Council take the decisions (following advice from the Environmental Agency) to close the roads and that signs are erected in the appropriate place. Logistically this will be carried out by the CEG with West Mersea Town Council working group (Transport Committee) liaising with them. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council will sign the S50 notice. Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Wood. Councillor Bragg abstained.

19/139 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE SECURITY WORKING GROUP REGARDING

- i alarm call out response and/or key holder service at a cost of up to £500 per year
- ii additional security at Rushmere Close

Following discussion it was agreed to engage a key holder and monitoring company and to upgrade the alarm systems for all Council buildings. Only Councillors will be called out in the event of the alarm being triggered. Extra security gates will not be installed at this stage. The working group will review who will respond to the monitoring company in the event of the alarm being triggered.

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

19/145 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK REGARDING THE PROPOSED SIGNAGE AT SHINGLE POINT AND AGREE THE NEXT ACTION

This item was brought forward with agreement from the Council so that members of the public could hear the outcome.

The Clerk provided the following summary:

Following a near drowning incident in July 2018, the Council was contacted about getting some warning signage put up on the beach nearby. The incident was not on Council land or water. The owner of the water (from mean low water mark out in to the river) requested a buoy which Colchester Borough Council supplied and a sign was put on it by the owner, this has subsequently faded. A Colchester Estate agent offered to sponsor some signage and the RNLI Community Safety Partner offered to prepare an audit of the beach and advise suitable signage. After many months delay the RNLI provided a report with a variety of signs all along the beach. Unfortunately due to the delay the estate agents withdrew their sponsorship but the public are now asking the Council to consider signage.

Following discussion it was agreed to erect a warning sign to the left of the boardwalk (on Council land) costing up to £200.

The Clerk will research the signage which will be agreed by a working party. Councillors will research whether or not the sign needs planning permission as it is in a Conservation Area.

A member of the public stated that if it was more than that, they would raise the extra funds needed.

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

19/140 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE TO ENGAGE A CONTRACTOR OR INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE PEAK TIME RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

This item was deferred until after the weekend to see if there is still demand for bins in locations where bins have recently been removed. Councillor Powling will head the working group to include Councillors Akker, Banks, Jenkins and Wood.

19/141 TO DEVELOP A POLICY TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT NO IDLING LAW

Following discussion it was agreed that the PR working group would draft a policy for the Council.

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

19/142 TO CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Following discussion the Annual Governance Statement was discussed and reviewed.

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

19/143 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Following discussion the Annual Governance Statement was agreed.

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

19/144 TO CONSIDER, APPROVE AND SIGN THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Following discussion the Accounting Statements were considered, signed and approved.

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

19/146 TO REVIEW THE ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUM AND POLICY COSTING £5999.58

The Clerk stated that she had carried out an extensive review of the Fixed Assets Register and Insurance policy to align them and asked the Council to consider carefully whether they felt the Council was adequately insured. The Internal Audit report recommends that the Fidelity Insurance cover was increased to £1M at an additional cost of £132.05 per year.

The Clerk recommended to the Council Finance Working Group they all review the Fixed Assets Register and check that all assets are noted and adequately insured.

Following discussion, it was agreed to pay the insurance premium and increase the Fidelity Cover as suggested.

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

19/147 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A DONATION TO LOCAL CHARITIES FOR MARSHALLING THE ISLAND RACES EVENT

This is an event that will take place on Victoria Esplanade car park. Concerns were raised about a shortage of parking with 100 competitors and all visitors having to park in Willoughby and Seaview Ave car parks.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would not fund marshalling of the Island Races event on 13/14 July 2019.

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

19/148 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A

- i meeting date
 - ii external facilitator costing up to £450 per day
 - iii community engagement
- for the future West Mersea Town Council strategy and related committee and working group structure

Following discussion it was agreed to arrange a meeting on 23 July at 2pm to discuss the future strategy and committee and working group structure of West Mersea Town Council. An external facilitator will not be engaged. Community engagement will be reviewed once the strategy is taken to the full Council meetings. Councillor Akker will prepare an agenda, facilitate and minute the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Banks.

19/149 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

Deferred to next full Council meeting.

19/150 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:

Deferred to next full Council meeting.

19/151 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The group is meeting weekly and working on the draft wording on policies.

19/152 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling advised that his meeting to look at the Willoughby toilets refurbishment with the Deputy Leader of the Council was cancelled. Discussions are still ongoing between the chairmen of Wivenhoe and Tiptree.

The meeting with Mersea Homes advised there might be community benefits including a new car park, open space, a leash free dog walking area, children's natural play area and landscaping and draining solutions but no further sports fields or pitches. There will be a mix of housing of 100 dwellings.

Mersea Homes will be putting in a pre-application and there is a public meeting at the Glebe on 9 July 2019.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 10.00pm.