

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2019

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman

19/115 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Peter Banks.

19/116 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest of planning applications as member of the Mersea Island Society.

19/117 PUBLIC SESSION

2 members of the public were in attendance.

19/118 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- (a) 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, on the condition that the proposal adheres to the objection on the grounds of privacy from neighbouring properties and remains for private residential use only.

- (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

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

- (c) 19 1239
Expansion of existing dormer window over flat roof balcony.
8 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr D Cooper

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

(d) 19 1267

Continued use of the site for the stationing of 3no. 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

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

(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 on the grounds that the drawings do not correlate with what has been built and scale of balcony overlooks neighbours.

(f) 19 1289

Proposed garage extension.

15 Yorick Road, West Mersea – Mr P Easy

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

(g) 19 1298

Proposed two/single storey rear extension; resubmission of 19 0146.

74 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Watkins

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

(h) 19 1268

Rear extension.

Old City Hall, 13 The Lane, West Mersea – Mr French

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

(i) 19 1329

Conversion of bungalow to a 2/1.5 storey dwelling with a single storey rear extension.

59 Mill Road, West Mersea – Butler

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

19/119 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 19 0740

Proposed balcony, balustrades and increased size of existing openings.

West Lodge, 1 Willoughby Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Davonport

(b) 19 0795

Erection of new carport with annex above within front garden. External covered walkway to link new carport to existing dwelling. Amendment to granted application 18 2672.

Backwater Lodge, 20b Firs Chase, West Mersea – Mr D Cope

(c) 19 0010

Proposed 2no. 1.5 storey dwellings following demolition of existing bungalow.
95 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Chatterton

WMTC Recommendation: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the grounds of gross over-development of the plot.

19/120 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Town Clerk confirmed the current account balance as of 3 June is £130,325, with a balance of just over £5,000 in the Barclays Premium account and just over £70,000 in the NS&I account.
The NEPP final quarter parking payment of £6,051 was received.

19/121 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ADDING AN ADDITIONAL SIGNATORY FOR THE BARCLAYS BANK ACCOUNT

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Robert Jenkins would be the additional signatory.
Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Akker. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/122 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATED REPORT AND CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S POSITION RE DEVOLUTION PLAN AND AGREE THE NEXT STEPS

Councillor Powling advised that if West Mersea Town Council took part in the devolution pilot, the amount paid would be 68p per elector. The pilot would include minor repairs to Essex County Council controlled assets but nothing on or near roads. All capital work will still be carried out by Essex County Council. Colchester Borough Council will continue to manage their trees and all the spraying. After the pilot year, all parishes will be asked to take part on a voluntary basis with year 3 being compulsory. Councils will have access to an Essex County Council buddy to liaise with.

It was agreed to set up a working group with Councillor Powling as the Chairman and Councillors Jenkins, Bragg and Weaver on the group. The working groups will set up the terms for managing the pilot which will not involve the office or the ground staff. The working group will have a separate email address to manage the work involved.

Following discussion it was agreed that West Mersea Town Council would take part in the Essex County Council Devolution Pilot.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Jenkins.

19/123 TO AGREE AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES/DOCUMENTS:

- Complaints Procedure
- Customer Service Standard
- Risk Management Scheme
- Freedom of Information
- Health & Safety

Following discussion, it was agreed that the policies and document listed above would be adopted. All documents apart from the Health & Safety document will be available on the website. The Health & Safety document will be available in the office.

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

19/124 TO CONSIDER MAKING RECORDINGS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC VIA THE WEBSITE

Following discussion it was agreed to make Council meeting recordings available to the public via the website.
Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Akker. Abstain: Councillors Bragg and Wargent.

19/125 TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE DATE OF THE TOWN MEETING FROM 23 APRIL 2020 TO A DATE OUTSIDE THE COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL PURDAH PERIOD

The agenda item was withdrawn.

19/127 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGY AND RELATED COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP STRUCTURE

Councillor Wood explained the purpose of the agenda item.

Every organisation needs to have a clear strategy to provide a roadmap for its' operating. West Mersea Town Council needs to develop a revised strategy in order to anticipate the challenges and issues likely to present in the four years ahead, especially against a backcloth of unprecedented change and limited resources and clear opposition to further increases in the West Mersea Town Council precept.

We propose to agree to call a special meeting of Councillors, with the Town Clerk in attendance, in the format of a strategy meeting.

The purpose of the meeting shall be:

- 1) To debate and agree the strategic objectives and strategic priorities for the Council.
- 2) To review the committee composition and structures and working groups in response to an agreed strategy, to determine their purpose terms of reference and membership.
- 3) To place such proposals that result before a future Town Council for consideration and then approval.

Following discussion it was agreed to set up a working group to take this item forward from July 2019.

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

19/126 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE DISBANDING THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE IN FAVOUR OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Following discussion it was agreed to disband the Communications Committee.

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

19/128 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COAST ROAD BOAT YARD REFRESHMENT OUTLET.

As of earlier this week the refreshment stand has been removed. The Clerk had previously spoken to Mersea Marine who confirmed that they intended to apply for planning permission and it was likely with the 8 week planning process and 4 week appeal period, that it would stay there all summer, so the reason it had moved was not known. The Clerk also spoke to Colchester Borough Council planning who confirmed they were trying to get a 28 day stop notice served which would depend on several conditions. Colchester Borough Council did not visit the stand when it was operating and was unable to see the impact of trading. Now the stand has been removed Colchester Borough Council will still pursue an enforcement notice regarding the changes in the fence line and the importation of stones, which are contrary to what is currently permitted.

19/129 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor confirmed that Council work still remained very busy.

A function at Wivenhoe was attended and meeting with the Chairman of Tiptree and Wivenhoe to see how the Councils can work as a group to improve communications with Colchester Borough Council to the larger parishes.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.15pm.