



## **West Mersea Town Council News**

**Elections:** Following the recent elections, West Mersea Town Council has some new councillors and a revised structure. Cllr. Carl Powling has been re-elected by the WMTC councillors as Mayor for the following year; with Cllr. Bob Jenkins elected as new Deputy Mayor.

WMTC now has two new councillors to add to the existing team of Cllrs Banks, Bragg, Moore, Powling, Jenkins, Wargent and Weaver. We welcome Cllrs John Akker MBE and Chris Wood to our team along with all the additional experience and expertise they will bring for us and the community we all serve.

The councillors are looking forward to the next four years working together for the benefit of West Mersea. There are a number of challenges for West Mersea, but also a wealth of opportunities ahead!

**Votes of thanks:** It would also be remiss to let this occasion pass without a few votes of thanks:

Many of you will know that WMTC friend and colleague Peter Clements MBE has retired from the council after 16 years of dedicated service. During that time Peter served as Mayor four times, and was a prime mover on many projects for Mersea, including refurbishment of St Peter's Well Meadow and West Mersea Park to name just two.

Always one for doing rather than talking he liked to get on with it, a good example was his recent Beacon on the beach undertaking, done and dusted in a few weeks. Sadly Peter's tireless campaign to find a location for a new doctors surgery, despite his best efforts, came to nothing. His long spell on the council has been eventful with sometimes 'teddies thrown from the pram,' but ultimately, all usually managed to find the funny side. Happy retirement Peter and good sailing – we will miss your positive presence.

Cllr. Paula Moore has delivered sterling work as previous Deputy Mayor and continues to serve as a Councillor. We would like to thank Paula for all her energy, commitment efforts and considerable delivery as Deputy.

We would also like to thank Dr. Bernard Hart for his time and contribution to the Council. Whilst his time with us after being co-opted was relatively brief his knowledge and expertise were invaluable.

**Committees and Working Groups:** Going forward, the newly formed council will now focus on a review of the strategic objectives for WMTC over the next term, and developing the Committees and Working Groups to meet these objectives, alongside the council's extensive portfolio of business as usual... from grass cutting to reviewing planning applications.

**Your Island Needs You:** There's one vital element missing from the Committees... YOU! Since 2009 Committees have also included co-opted Mersea residents, as they are very much community-focussed and would welcome your input and involvement to help shape the future direction of your West Mersea... so get involved!

To see what the Committees there are, and for more details please see the WMTC website [www.westmersea.org/About](http://www.westmersea.org/About) or contact the relevant chairperson:

**Committees:**

Assets, Facilities and Environment Committee - Chair: [cllr.jenkins@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.jenkins@westmersea.org)

Bradwell Monitoring Committee - Chair: [cllr.banks@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.banks@westmersea.org)

Cemetery Committee - Chair: [cllr.moore@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.moore@westmersea.org)

Communications Committee - Chair: [cllr.weaver@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.weaver@westmersea.org)

Sports and Recreation Committee - Chair: [cllr.weaver@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.weaver@westmersea.org)

Transport Committee - Chair: [cllr.powling@westmersea.org](mailto:cllr.powling@westmersea.org)

Personnel Committee - closed to public participation

**Public Toilets:** In the days leading up to Easter a major refurbishment was completed of the Willoughby public toilets on the Esplanade. The toilets have been much improved with new WC units, new hand washing facilities, baby change in both the ladies and gents, new disabled facilities, new efficient lighting, new waterless gents urinal, new internal wall panelling and external decoration. These improvements offer a vastly better experience for visitors and locals alike. In addition the Council's running costs are expected to be substantially reduced.

Funding came in large part from a generous grant from Colchester Borough Council in recognition of Mersea's position as an important tourist destination within the Borough and in part from Section 106 funding from housing developments. The balance came from increased parking revenues and from the precept.

The Council's aim in the 12 months is to explore how best to manage the increasingly dilapidated toilet blocks at Fairhaven and Coast Road. Public opinion will be sought and we would ask that interested parties attend the Waterside Committee and Assets, Facilities & Environment Committee meetings to be held during June, details will appear on the WMTC website <https://www.westmersea.org/Meetings-2019>