

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019

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

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

Councillor Powling welcomed Councillor Akker and Councillor Wood on to the Council.

19/094 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, AND MAYOR TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Councillor Carl Powling was elected Town Mayor for the ensuing year.
Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Wargent.
Councillor Powling signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

19/095 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR, AND DEPUTY MAYOR TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Councillor Robert Jenkins was elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.
Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Wood.
Councillor Jenkins signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

19/096 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

This item was not required.

19/097 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

19/098 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

19/099 PUBLIC SESSION

Seven members of the public in attendance.
The following subjects were raised or queried:

Congratulations to the new Councillors.
Planning applications for Victory Road, The Dukes and Waldegraves Caravan Park.
The restrictions for building without planning permission (permitted development) have now been increased.
Concerns that Council Tax is not increased when a property is developed.
The threat to the character of the conservation area from fishing and yachting to eating and drinking.
Budget items not agreed affecting the precept.
The evacuation plan if Bradwell B goes ahead.
A request for signage for Village Green 241 and a request for the Colchester Borough Council Councillors to be involved.

19/100 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor John Jowers

Congratulations to all on the elections and to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
Within an evacuation plan in the past the surgery held 5000 iodine tablets.
Essex Compact – 10000 voluntary organisations in Essex. Also over 100 in Mersea.
Advised the work carried out on the waterfront by local, Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council.
Aspects of the Local Plan are under close scrutiny.
Major road renovations have started in West Mersea.
The Lake at Rewsalls Farm (East Mersea) is going ahead.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Thanked everyone for support during the elections.
The Dukes application has been called in.
Permitted development – the current restrictions finish at the end of May and a smaller allowance will apply after that.
Agreement to look in Village Green signs 241

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

Congratulations to Councillors Powling and Jenkins on being elected Mayor & Deputy Mayor and all the Councillors.
Colchester Borough Council Annual meeting next week. One Green Party Councillor sitting in the Chamber but doesn't get a place on the panel unless unanimously voted in.

19/101 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 4 APRIL 2019 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Jenkins, SECONDED by Councillor Banks that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 4 April 2019, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

19/080: The Lane Flood Barrier Scheme; Update requested.

19/081: West Mersea Library; Letter from West Mersea Town Council to Essex County Council to be added to the website.

19/084: Caravan sites; Requested update from the Clerk. Colchester Borough Council will not use East Mersea Parish Council evidence, they have to collate their own.

19/102 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 26 APRIL 2019 – MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bragg, SECONDED by Councillor Banks that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 26 April 2019, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

19/103 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 18 2223

Conversion of existing 2 storey chalet to 2.5 storey house with new rear and side extension. Single storey carport to replace existing garage. Revised drawings.
18 City Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Langley

Application withdrawn by applicant.

(b) 19 0950

Extension to provide restaurant to existing sales of seafood and ancillary items, beverages and associated landscaping to create parking and outdoor seating area.
Land adjacent The Oyster Bar, Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr Whiting

To recommend refusal of the application on the grounds of over development of the plot. It contravenes the emerging Local Plan Policy SS12b that "development of existing undeveloped areas of foreshore will not generally be supported" and again in sub sections (iv) and (v). It will also "hinder the future creation and maintenance of a continuous signed and managed English Coastal Path" covered by Policy ENV2 Coastal Areas. The parking provision specified is wholly inadequate.

(c) 19 1072

Rear single storey extension.
8 Kingsland Road, West Mersea – Mr C Monk

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

(d) 19 1082

Front porch.
3 Wellhouse Avenue, West Mersea – Mr K Coutts

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

(e) 19 1075

Two storey side extension and alterations.
5 Willoughby Avenue, West Mersea – Mr G & Mrs D Keys

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the following grounds:
Overbearing and restriction of light amenity to neighbouring property.

(f) 19 1102

Retrospective: Construction of Coastal Defence Works and protection of surface water outlet.
Mersea Caravan Centre, Waldegraves Farm Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea.

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application, subject to protection and retention of Coastal Footpath.

(g) 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

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

19/104 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 19 0443

Removal of existing conservatory. Extend living room and bedroom on ground floor to rear of dwelling. Form porch to front of dwelling. Remove dormers and reform with Suffolk type dormers to give additional floor space first floor. Internal re-modelling.
13a Kingsland Road, West Mersea – Mr Coxah

(b) 19 0532

Proposed 1st storey rear extension.
154 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Westgate

19/105 TO REVIEW MEETING DATES

Following discussion it was agreed to agree the Council meeting dates but will review the Town Meeting date. The website will be updated with the dates.

19/106 TO CONFIRM STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Following discussion it was agreed that the Standing Order and Financial Regulations did not require any amendments.

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

19/107 TO RESOLVE TO ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE UNTIL THE NEXT RELEVANT ANNUAL MEETING, AS DEFINED IN THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND SI 965 THE PARISH COUNCILS (GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE) (PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS) ORDER 2012, HAVING MET ALL THE CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY, BEING;

- AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF THE COUNCIL MUST HOLD OFFICE AS A RESULT OF BEING DECLARED ELECTED (I.E., NOT CO-OPTED).
- THE CLERK MUST HOLD A RECOGNISED PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION (E.G., CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION, CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN LOCAL POLICY) AND HAVE PASSED THE 2012 CILCA MODULE RELATING TO THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE.

Following discussion it was resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence until the next relevant Annual Meeting.

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

19/108 TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LEANNE ROWLAND AS THE INDEPENDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2019/20 COSTING UP TO £500

Following discussion it was agreed to reappoint Leanne Rowland as the independent internal auditor as a cost of up to £500.

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

19/109 TO CONFIRM THE FIXED ASSETS REGISTER

Following discussion, the Fixed Assets Register was agreed. The Clerk confirmed there is more work to do to tie it in with the insurance cover.

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

19/110 TO REVIEW THE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following discussion, some minor amendments were made to the Terms of Reference as follows:

Assets, Facilities & Environment – Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Bradwell - Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Weaver. ALL IN FAVOUR.

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

Communication - Proposed: Councillor Weaver, Seconded: Councillor Jenkins. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Personnel - Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Banks. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Sports & Recreation - Proposed: Councillor Banks, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Transport - Proposed: Councillor Bragg, Seconded: Councillor Moore. ALL IN FAVOUR.

19/111 TO AGREE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- Assets, Facilities & Environment Committee; Councillors Akker, Banks, Bragg, Jenkins (Chairman), Moore, Powling & Weaver.
- Bradwell Monitoring Committee; Councillors Akker, Banks (Chairman), Bragg, Wargent & Weaver.
- Cemetery Committee; Councillors Bragg, Jenkins, Moore (Chairman), Powling, Wargent & Weaver.
- Communications Committee; Defer the decision to elect the committee.
- Personnel Committee; Councillors Akker, Bragg, Jenkins, Moore, Powling (Chairman), Wargent & Wood.
- Sports & Recreation Committee; Councillors Bragg, Jenkins, Moore, Powling, Weaver (Chairman) & Wood.
- Transport Committee; Councillors Akker, Banks, Bragg, Jenkins, Moore, Powling (Chairman), Wood.
- Waterside Committee; CBC meeting; all Councillors can attend.

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

19/112 TO AGREE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN

- ENORI; Councillors Banks (Chairman), Wargent & Weaver.
- Finance; Councillors Jenkins, Moore (Chairman), Powling and Wood.
- Security; Councillors Bragg (Chairman), Moore and Powling.
- Public relations; Councillors Akker, Moore, Weaver & Wood (Chairman).
- Loft reorganisation; Councillors Moore, Wargent (Chairman) & David Cooper (Mersea Museum). All Council.
- Devolution; Councillors Bragg, Jenkins, Moore and Powling (Chairman)
- The Lane Barrier; Councillors Akker, Banks (Chairman), Moore and Powling.
- Colchester Association of Local Councils representatives; Town Clerk or Councillor Moore.

19/113 TO CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO WEST MERSEA BEACH CLUB

Following discussion it was agreed that a donation of £100 made to Mersea Beach Club.

Proposed: Councillor Wargent, Seconded: Councillor Akker.

19/114 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling congratulated the new Council and hopes all enjoy their new positions. Welcome to the new Councillors and the experience they bring. Councillor Powling is looking forward to working together and moving forward.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.47pm.