

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)
John Akker
Peter Banks
David Bragg
Robert Jenkins
Sylvia Wargent
Sophie Weaver
Chris Wood (arrived at 7.45pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman

Councillor Powling confirmed that Councillor Moore had resigned from the Council on 7 November 2020. Thanks were given for all her hard work during the time at the Council.

19/244 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Borough Councillor John Jowers.

19/245 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning applications listed in item 19/247 and 19/248 as a member of the Mersea Island Society and Stop 350.

19/246 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were in attendance.

19/247 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- (a) 19 2648
Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation.
81 Kingsland Road, West Mersea – Mrs B Chandler

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

- (b) 19 2740
Consultation by BT: Proposed removal of public telephone box.
Junction of Church Road, outside 2 Church Road, West Mersea – Mr R Thompson

No comment.

- (c) 19 2736
Consultation by BT: Proposed removal of public telephone box.
Opposite Fairhaven Court, Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr R Thompson

No comment.

(d) 19 2715

Proposed 176.5 square metre new chalet style dwelling in the side garden of existing house with access via existing driveway.

3 Blackwater Drive, West Mersea – Ms B Chalmers

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on grounds of concerns about insufficient sewage capacity and also the application is contrary to current design standards and highway safety Policy DM 1 of the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies February 2011.

(e) 19 2769

Proposed modification and extension to the existing dwelling including creation of lower level floor; partial demolition of garage to provide covered parking area; replacement of outbuilding; provision of new outbuilding; associated landscaping works.

1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Tyler

No comment.

(f) 19 2790

Removal of rear elevation chimney stack and chimney breast. Lower pitch to single storey mono-pitch roof, rear elevation. Install in total x4 roof windows, x2 in flat roof and x2 in mono-pitch roof, all rear elevation. Reduce patio window size and install new kitchen window. Internal; form opening in internal walls and install doors.

Brownswood, 1 Grove Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Baker

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

(g) 19 2817

Rear extension to replace conservatory.

53 High Street North, West Mersea – Mr Haward

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

Councillor Akker abstained.

19/248 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 19 2243

2x shipping containers for storage of sports equipment for Mersea Island Rugby Football Club and West Mersea Cricket Club.

Glebe Recreation Ground, Colchester Road, West Mersea – Mrs P Palfreyman, West Mersea Town Council.

(b) 19 2402

Addition of lantern window to rear, patio doors, window renewal to house, roof lift to east elevation, render and cladding to façade.

15 The Lane, West Mersea – Mr J Davies

Application refused

(a) 19 2269

Freestanding advance sign.

Glebe Recreation Ground, Colchester Road, West Mersea – Mrs P Palfreyman, West Mersea Town Council.

Appeal Lodged

(a) 19 1956

Proposed extension of previously granted balcony (17 2552) with access and additional doors on front elevation (amended drawings received).

19 Shears Crescent, West Mersea – D Cook

19/249 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Bank balances as at 28 November 2019 are Barclays £143,354, Unity Trust £51536.95 and N S & I £70357.15. £4892.46 of these funds are the Devolution grant.

The summer quarter of parking of £27827, VAT £4599 and Neighbourhood Plan grant £6800 had all been received since the last meeting. The monthly bank reconciliation and monthly payments lists are up to date and on the website up to September 2020.

Bank account signatories are being updated to remove Councillor Moore and Councillor Akker has agreed to become a new signatory.

The budget has been completed for 2020/21 for approval.

Councillor Banks met with the Clerk to confirm that most aspects of the Transparency Code have been met. Some more work on the Contracts Finder requirements are being reviewed by Councillor Powling and some more information about the Councils land and property will be added to the website.

19/250 TO DISCUSS AND COME TO A CONSENSUS ON WHETHER WE SHOULD WORK WITH ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE PATH TO PROSPERITY PROJECT

Following discussion it was agreed to invite the project liaison officer to speak to the Council in the New Year. The Clerk will arrange the meeting.

19/251 TO AGREE AND ADOPT THE LONE WORKING POLICY

Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the Lone Working Policy.

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

19/252 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TO UPDATE THE COUNCILLORS MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Councillor Wargent will be added to the Assets, Facilities and Environment committee.

Councillor Wood will be added to the Personnel Committee.

Councillor Jenkins will be Cemetery Committee Chairman.

No other changes to committees were made.

19/253 TO DISCUSS AND COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THE RENOVATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Following discussion about the two quotes received it was agreed that a further quote will be requested and that Councillors would look at the war memorial to confirm the work was needed.

19/254 TO DISCUSS AND COME TO A CONSENSUS ON WHETHER WE SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE RURAL/ MARKET TOWN GROUP

Agenda item withdrawn.

19/255 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BUDGET FOR 2020/21

Following discussion the budget was agreed as the final draft for 2020/21.

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

19/256 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A RESPONSE ABOUT THE NUMBER 63 BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION

Councillor Akker stated that a member of the public had asked him to raise the issues faced by reducing the No 63 bus service. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Akker would talk to the County Councillor on behalf of the Council to seek his views on the proposed change to the service and send a response to Essex County Council by the deadline of 13 December 2019.

19/257 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE STRATEGY MEETING

Following discussion it was confirmed that another date for a strategy meeting would be arranged.

19/258 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor thanked everyone for their continued hard work and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 8.45pm