

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2020**

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

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

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL (CORONAVIRUS ACT Part 2020 1 Section 78 Regulations 2 – 17)

20/264 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence received.

20/265 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/268 and 20/269 as a member of Stop 350 and Mersea Island Society.

Councillors Baker and Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/268 and 20/269 as members of Stop 350.

20/266 PUBLIC SESSION

4 members of the public in attendance.

Concerns were made about the lack of progress painting the Rugby Club container and some suggestions were made to the policy for alterations or installations at The Glebe.

A question was asked why the target date for 102 East Road has been extended if the application is going to be rejected.

Concerns were raised about the state of repair of the breakwaters along Victoria Esplanade beach.

20/067 REPORTS FROM OUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor John Jowers

Formal acceptance of Part One of the Local Plan has been agreed meaning there will not be any more than 920 houses in the Borough. Part Two will confirm that there is no need for additional sites.

£6M has been awarded to the Winter Food Banks and a further £2.2M to district councils for small businesses focusing on catering and hospitality.

West Mersea Town Council has carried out good work liaising with the CCG about the new surgery.

The Salcott crossing now has a bus stop which cost £30,000.

Borough Councillor Jowers asked the Council to advise if there should be a 30mph speed limit from The Strood.

The Local Government review has not taken off yet and the white paper has been delayed.  
The possibility of Bradwell as a large station is less likely.  
The Strood railings need repairing and Mersea Avenue and St Peters Rd need curb stones.  
The deferring of decisions on developments is so the reasoning and wording is accurate in case it goes to appeal.  
Borough Councillor Jowers will make a request to Local Highway Panel for widening the footpath outside The White Hart. This will be supported by a request from West Mersea Town Council.

Borough Councillor Robert Davison

Part One of the Local Plan has been approved by the Inspector and Part Two will be approved in the spring.  
The limit of 920 houses will be fixed after the full Council meeting in January 2021 and will confirm the 5 year supply.  
Covid-19 is increasing and after 16 December Essex might be put in to two segments. There is a concern that there will be another spike after Christmas.  
Colchester Borough Council rubbish collections for over Christmas are now on their website.  
There is always a presumption to give planning permission and the officers must be seen to give the applicant all the help they need so that if it goes to appeal the inspector cannot say they have judged prematurely.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Waldegraves planning application was called in and will now be decided whether it will go to full council or delegated powers.  
Firs Chase caravan park will be having a licence review and Seaview Caravan Park will be given a legal warning and the licencing committee have said they will request sight of the relevant documentation instead of just asking if it is held.  
Councillor Kevin Bentley has suggested that the planning department reword the conditions for large developments so that they have to finish the roads to a standard that can be adopted.  
Covid-19 vaccinations have started.

#### 20/268 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 20 2532

Change of use from grass area to gravel overspill car park in a conservation area. No demolition involved.  
The Coast Inn, 108 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mrs B Cross

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

(b) 20 2492

Application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission 20 0960. Revisions to layout design and appearance of a selection of the proposed house types.  
Land at Brierley Paddocks, West Mersea – Mr D Poole

Defer until next Council meeting.

(c) 20 2567

Layout revisions to first floor, creating a new first floor and roof over existing front projection, and a new enlarged dormer to the rear replacing the existing dormer roof.  
56 Yorick Road, West Mersea – Mr S Clifton

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

(d) 20 2570

Conversion of an existing garage to form a granny annex and an extension to link with the existing bungalow.  
6 Norfolk Avenue, West Mersea – Mr J Blackmore

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

(e) 20 2620

Erection of a single storey rear orangery. Resubmission of 20 1501.  
Yew Tree House, 16 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mrs N French

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

(f) 20 2621

Listed building application for the erection of a single storey rear orangery. Resubmission of 20 1502.  
Yew Tree House, 16 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mrs N French

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

(g) 20 2646

Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. First floor extension above existing lean-to.  
Cornerways, 2 Spruce Close, West Mersea – Mr T Crane

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

(h) 20 2692

Demolition of single garage and erection of a single and two storey side extension and single storey front and side extension with balcony (retrospective).  
19 Shears Crescent, West Mersea – Mr Cook

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal in respect of this application.  
Councillors Bragg and Wargent abstained.

(i) 20 2673

Refreshment of entire building including re-construction of dilapidated extensions, new porch, new rear extension to form restaurant and bars with 6 hotel rooms.  
White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application, with a condition that the footpath is widened in line with accessibility standards.

(j) 20 2682

Extension and alterations to existing dwelling, including the erection of a detached garage. Reconfiguration of proposed access to neighbouring site as an alternative to that approved as part of application 19 2136 and 20 0960.  
43 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Agent, D Poole

Defer until next Council meeting.

## 20/269 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

### Applications passed

(a) 20 1920

Erection of two wooden sheds adjacent to the existing seafood bar for extension and improvements to food preparation and storage areas, formation of new disabled customer toilet, erection of fencing/gates to front of site, improvements to site surfacing.  
Dukes Seafood, Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr D Whiting

(b) 20 2180

Proposed single storey rear extensions, internal and external alterations, together with detached outbuilding (carport/garage/plant room/store). Revised description.

29 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs D Massey

(c) 20 2195

External garage – proposed external staircase to first floor, velux windows added and garage door replaced with bifolds.

15 Alexandra Avenue, West Mersea – Mr N Sunnassee

Applications refused

(a) 20 2173

Erection of a detached dwelling.

Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, 126 Coast Road, West Mersea – Ark Homes

Application appealed

(a) 20 1193

Proposed extension and alterations. Changes to approved scheme 19 1659.

Kansu, 53 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs S Ramsay

20/270 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Please see report attached.

20/271 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BUDGET FOR 2021/22

Following discussion, the budget for 2021/22 was confirmed and the precept agreed at £326181. This equates to a Band D rate of £3163.90 for West Mersea.

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

20/272 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A £50 DONATION TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FOR THE POPPY WREATH SUPPLIED FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Following discussion it was agreed to donate £50 to the Royal British Legion for the Poppy wreath.

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

20/273 TO CONFIRM THE STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Following discussion it was agreed some amendments would be made to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and to confirm the Code of Conduct. All amended documents are on the website.

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

20/274 TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

Fixed Asset Register – amendments agreed.

Risk Management Scheme – amendments agreed.

Alterations or Installations at the Glebe Policy – amendments agreed.

Cemetery; Firs Road/Barfield Road Cemetery Rules & Regulations – no amendments needed.

Cemetery; Feldy View Woodland Cemetery Rules & Regulations – no amendments needed.

Cemetery; Management of Memorials Policy – no amendments needed.

Drone Usage Policy – amendments agreed.

Grant Awarding Policy – no amendments needed.  
Memorial Bench Policy – no amendments needed.  
Training & Development Policy – no amendments needed.

All amended documents are available on the website.  
Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Jenkins. ALL IN FAVOUR.

#### 20/275 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR A MURAL IN WEST MERSEA

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Weaver and Councillor Wargent would look at planning permission, sites available and speak to local artists for ideas and help.

#### 20/276 TO DISCUSS INSTALLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED MIRFC FLOODLIGHTS FOLLOWING COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL PLANNING DECISION (20 1531)

It was agreed to defer this item until next Council meeting.

#### 20/277 MAYOR'S NOTES

The Mayor thanked all the staff and Councillors for their continued hard work, notably Councillor Banks for his work with Bradwell, Councillor Wood for his work and as Chairman of the Sports & Recreation committee and Councillor Jenkins and the Clerk for their work with the Coast Road toilets refurbishment.  
All Councillors and the Clerk wished Councillor Wargent a Happy Birthday.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.20pm.