

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2020**

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Robert Jenkins (Deputy Mayor) John Akker Peter Banks David Bragg Sophie Weaver
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	Borough Councillor:	Patricia Moore

**20/019 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillors Powling, Wargent and Wood.

**20/020 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 20/022, 20/023 and 20/026 as a member of the Mersea Island Society and Stop 350.

**20/021 PUBLIC SESSION**

6 members of the public were in attendance.

A query was raised questioning why West Mersea Town Council still have to pay business rates on the toilets and could West Mersea Town Council request some of it back?

Concerns were raised over the litter and drugs in West Mersea Park. It was confirmed that a CCTV camera will be installed in the gazebo area.

Comments were made against a planning application at 13a Grove Avenue (19 3144).

Comments were made that the proposed extra yellow lines at the top of Beach Road are not needed.

Concerns were raised over recent tree works. It was confirmed the work is as a result of a professional tree survey.

A request for a Village Green map and VG 241 was made. Councillor Patricia Moore suggested that the Borough Councillors would help fund the map.

**20/022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**(a) 19 3144**

Extensions and alterations to existing bungalow to provide 2 storey 4 bedroomed house. Demolition of existing detached garage, with new garage incorporated into the scheme. External landscaping works to remove existing hedging and replace with low level gabion wall and timber gates.

13A Grove Avenue, West Mersea – Mr J Day

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the following grounds:

- out of keeping with the street scene
- the hedge must be kept and maintained

**(b) 200138**

New detached garage to the front of the existing house.

79 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea - Mrs M Filtness

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

- (c) 20 0164  
New front porch and part single, part two storey, rear extension.  
67 Garden Farm, West Mersea – Mr S Rouse

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

#### 20/023 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

##### Applications passed

- (a) 192612  
Proposed new porch, external staircase and alterations to external façade.  
White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea – Mr B Lord
- (b) 19 2641  
Reconstruction of existing single storey side extensions.  
42 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Brown
- (c) 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 C & Mrs M Baker
- (d) 19 2885  
Proposed garage conversion and new parking scheme with associated hard landscaping alterations including extended drop kerb.  
11 Glebe View, West Mersea – Mr J Claxton
- (e) 19 2460  
Extension and internal alterations.  
1 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Redfern

##### Application refused

- (a) 19 2317  
Construction of a 3 bed house with two parking spaces to the front.  
51 East Road, West Mersea – Mr J Davies

##### Appeal decisions

- (a) APP/A1530/C/18/3218452  
Appeals are allowed and the enforcement notice is quashed.  
Land at Coast Road, West Mersea
- (b) APP/A1530/C/17/3192101  
Appeals are dismissed and the enforcement notice is upheld.  
Foreshore and saltings, West Mersea
- (c) APP/A1530/C/17/3192307  
Appeals are dismissed and the enforcement notice is upheld.  
Land at Coast Road, West Mersea

#### 20/024 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Bank balances as at 30 January 2020 are Barclays £107275.21, Unity Trust £51482.95 and N S & I £70357.15. of which £4892.46 of these funds are the Devolution grant.

December 2019 parking quarter was £4699.35.

VAT reclaimed to December 2019 is £9122.52.

The allotment and gate licences are all coming all.

The monthly bank reconciliation has been balanced.

Next years precept is with Colchester Borough Council waiting approval and the budget for next year is being entered onto Quick Books.

The Internal Auditor appointment is being arranged and dates have been agreed with the accountant for the End of Year accounts so that the Annual Return can be completed.

Budget not spent this financial year has been earmarked to carry forward to 2020/21.

There is now a detailed running budget for each committee which is updated as payments are made.

A statement will be prepared to go on the website in time for when the precept is agreed.

#### 20/025 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillors Akker and Banks would collate the comments on behalf of West Mersea Town Council. The Council wanted it to be clear that the comments would be restricted to unauthorised encampments only. A copy of the response will be forwarded to all Councillors before the deadline of 19 February 2020

Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Weaver.

#### 20/026 TO DISCUSS THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL TRAFFIC ORDERS PUBLIC NOTICE AND CONSIDER AND AGREE ANY FURTHER ACTION

Following discussion it was confirmed that due to errors in the consultation paper, the deadline would be extended beyond the 6 February 2020. Councillor Powling has spoken to Councillor Bentley who advised that the proposal for St Peters Road could be modified according to the public's response. The Council confirmed that they would not take a position on the proposals other than to confirm they would like the grass verges protected and the sight lines clear.

The public should be encouraged to respond to the consultation with their suggestions for solutions for the parking issues.

#### 20/027 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE EXTENDING THE DANFO TOILET CONTRACT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO REVIEW NEW CONTRACTS AND SUPPLIERS

Following discussion, it was agreed to extend the contract for up to 6 months to allow time to consider the requirements of a new contract.

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

#### 20/028 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE AN INCREASE IN CEMETERY CHARGES WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 2020 AND GRAVE DIGGING INCREASE WITH EFFECT FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2020

Following discussion, the price increases for cemetery charges and grave digging were agreed. Councillor Akker requested to note the excellent work carried out by the Cemetery Committee. The schedule of increases is attached.

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

#### 20/029 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillors Banks and Bragg would set up a working group to look at where and what trees could be planted. 100 trees have already been offered to the Council from Eco Colchester. Other local help with this was also offered.

20/030 TO DISCUSS VILLAGE GREEN SIGNAGE AT VG241

Agenda item requested by Borough Councillor Patricia Moore. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Akker would work with residents to resolve the boundary queries of VG241 before the map outlining the area is agreed.

20/031 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FOLLOWING THE COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2020

It was reported Councillor Akker together with Councillor Wood had held exploratory discussions with the Chairman of East Mersea Parish Council about licensing arrangements applying to caravan sites. There was concern that these arrangements were not being properly applied and steps were being jointly considered for future action. Councillor Akker said that he had spoken at a meeting of the Borough's Licensing Committee on 22 January indicating concern.

20/032 MAYOR'S COMMENTS

No comments were provided as Councillor Powling was not at the meeting.

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