

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2020

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Robert Jenkins (Deputy Mayor) John Akker Julie Baker Peter Banks David Bragg 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)

20/131 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Carl Powling.

20/132 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 20/134 and 20/141 as a member of Stop 350. Councillor Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 20/134 and 20/141 as a full member of STOP 350.

20/133 PUBLIC SESSION

1 member of the public in attendance.

Concerns were raised about the Bradwell B consultation and the suitability of the site.

A query was made regarding the date of the next joint Waterside committee meeting with Colchester Borough Council as the last one was June 2019.

Borough Councillor John Jowers

Borough Councillor Jowers confirmed that he was on the Development Regulation Committee at Essex County Council.

Colchester Road to Mill Road will be repaired shortly.

The Brierley Paddocks application has been called in – probably August 12th. The Brierley Paddocks plans for affordable are close to Seaview Avenue boundaries and a request has been made to change this. Also concerns about the exit on to East Road.

Further requests made for repairs to bollards in The Lane.

Councillor Jowers attended the Commons hearing for Dabchicks but stated piece of land opposite the Yacht Club was swapped for a bus stop in a land transfer deal by the Urban District Council.

An offer for financial help with the water bailiff voluntary was made and Mersea Avenue is due to be resurfaced in future.

£170,000 S106 money will come to West Mersea Town Council which was previously destined for the MICA.

The original parking scheme will go ahead apart from St Peters Road which will have staggered parking.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

Colchester Borough Council have been asked to confirm that they have commented on the consultation and Sir Bernard Jenkin wrote in Mersea Life for 3 July about his discussions to government, their responses and what is happening and he is working hard to try and stop it. Several requests have been made for next years parking restrictions at Lower Kingsland Road which will need Town Council support.

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

Parking enforcement are still being deployed doing other work, although they have been seen on the island recently.

20/134 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 20 1048 (Change of Use)

Use of the site for the stationing of 57 no. static caravans in lieu of 117 caravan pitches and associated landscaping and access works. Amended description.

Mersea Caravan Centre, Waldegraves Holiday Park, Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea – Waldegraves Holiday Park

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

- This is a significant plan at a time when the Local Plan has not been finalised.
- Loss of those touring sites is a risk to the island because it could result in those caravans parking up in car parks if they cannot get on established sites.

Councillor Akker abstained.

(b) 20 1087

Proposal to install new modular extension and new canopy.

Tesco Express, 1 Barfield Road, West Mersea – Mr A Horwood

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

(c) 20 1193

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

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

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

(d) 20 1177

Proposed alterations and extensions to an existing dwelling.

57 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Mrs M Saunders

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

(e) 20 1192

Single storey side/rear extension.

9 Brambledown, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs I Bielecki

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

(f) 20 0736

Proposed renovation of existing property including partial removal of roof, new second storey extension to side and balcony to front. Amended plans received.

7 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr Taylor

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

(g) 20 0993

Two storey extension on the side of the property.
12 Upland Crescent, West Mersea – Mr J Kingston

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

20/135 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 19 2972

Proposed two storey rear extension, new car port to front and new front boundary wall with relocation of vehicular crossover.
24 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

(b) 20 0719

Single storey rear extension, hip to gable roof extension and ridge raise to accommodate loft conversion and other alterations. Amended description and drawings.
10 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr P Reed

(c) 20 0757

External staircase to first floor flat to allow internal renovation works, single storey rear extension connected to existing rear extension. Revised description.
14 Church Road, West Mersea – Cook

(d) 20 0756

Amendment to extension application approved under 18 1692 to allow the demolition and rebuilding of existing bungalow with amended roof.
Tides Reach, 92 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr J Harrison

(e) 20 0602

Demolish existing property and construct 3 detached dwellings with bike stores, sheds and parking (revised application; previous proposal approved under 19 0864).
55 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr B Lord

20/136 TO CONSIDER RESEARCHING ECONOMIC HARDSHIP WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS

Councillor Akker asked the Council to acknowledge there is hardship within the community and there has been some fantastic help from various groups around the island. Councillor Akker has consulted with the school and will do more research to see how some help could be given and make a proposal to the Council. The Clerk agreed to share information about the Munch Club and Holiday Hunger schemes.

20/137 TO AGREE SIGNAGE FOR VILLAGE GREEN 241

Councillor Akker advised that this is a complex issue and will go back to Essex County Council for more information.

20/138 TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM THE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following discussion all Committee Terms of Reference, as per the website were agreed.
Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Banks. ALL IN FAVOUR.

20/139 TO AGREE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN:

CALC; Councillor Akker

ENORI; Councillor Banks (Chairman), Councillors Wargent and Weaver

Finance; now a committee

Loft reorganisation; Councillor Wargent (Chairman), David Cooper (Mersea Museum), all Councillors

Public relations; Councillor Wood (Chairman), Councillors Akker and Weaver

The Lane barrier; Councillor Banks (Chairman), Councillors Akker and Powling.

VE day; no longer required

20/140 BRADWELL B

- (a) To report on the letter campaign to stakeholders regarding the Bradwell B Consultation during Covid-19 restrictions.

Councillor Banks reported on the extent of the letter campaign that he and Councillor Akker had put together which included a summary of the responses received from Parish, Town, Borough, District and County councils. The letters sent to councillors and MPs had received no response, however, the communication to BrB had always been answered, even if a rebuttal on our requests.

- (b) To approve West Mersea Town Council response to Bradwell B Stage One Consultation.

Councillor Banks outlined the proposed response he had compiled and the subsequent suggestions he had received for additions. These were discussed and Councillor Banks was unanimously supported to complete the document for submission with the Town Clerk's signature.

- (c) To discuss and agree a strategy of and next actions by West Mersea Town Council once phase 1 of consultation is closed – especially communicating our opposition to Bradwell B.

Councillor Wood would write a press release, to include a summary of the Consultation response, for posting onto the council website and social media.

20/141 TO REVIEW THE PLANNING DECISION ON DAWES LANE DEVELOPMENT BY COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL PLANNING AND AGREE RESPONSES AND NEXT ACTIONS

Councillors attending the meeting were dissatisfied with how the meeting was run and managed, statements made by Colchester Borough Council officers, that the Neighbourhood Plan is taking too long, that the public could not speak, that there was no discussion about the opposition and that it cannot be called in at the moment. Several points the planners have are factually incorrect and Dawes Lane is not fit for the purpose it is intended and the 54 pages of data submitted was never really considered.

The council need to consider next steps but cannot call in without a plan and there are reserved matters to be discussed. Concerns over effective screening of the development. It was confirmed that West Mersea Town Council had not requested a cascade of the contributions and it was recommended that Councillor Akker ask the planners to confirm this.

20/142 MAYOR'S NOTES

There have been two tenders raised for refurbishment of Coast Road toilets and the maintenance of all the toilets.

So far five contractors have been met for Coast Road and two visits for the maintenance. Coast Road toilets have been opened this week and the Library toilets upgrades are being carried out and should be open week commencing 6 July 2020.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 1.20pm.