

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 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:	John Jowers Patricia Moore

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

20/111 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

20/112 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/114 and planning application 20 0960 as a member of Stop 350.

Councillor Powling also confirmed that his business will be dealing with the refurbishment of the Library toilets to get the job completed quickly so that they are easier to clean and can be opened.

20/113 PUBLIC SESSION

8 members of the public in attendance.

Concerns were raised about the plans for Brierley Paddocks development, that the Brierley Paddocks private drive is being used, that Colchester Borough Council have reneged on their 6 month deferral without explanation, that they are close to the properties in Seaview Avenue, that unnecessary commercial properties are included in the development and that red squirrels are in the area.

Concerns about the frequent movement of ships under the CGN/EDF Bradwell project and that sailing and fishing etc would be placed under the control of CGN/EDF which would prejudice the activities.

Borough Councillor John Jowers

Re Brierley Paddocks if it is a private drive, registered and you have the deeds then you should have a good case and the developers and planners should be advised.

If the Garden Communities are not accepted it will go out to consultation again and the numbers may increase. The River Blackwater is vulnerable because of Bradwell B and is also a conservation is under the Marine Management Organisation. Maldon District Council are in favour of Bradwell B.

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

The Brierley Paddocks private drive is a legal decision and James Ryan (Colchester Borough Council) was advised they have permission. A request for a longer period to respond can be made to reply to the consultation. Suggestions could be made to turn the plan around so the social housing is on the eastern side. Loss of habitat could be mentioned for the red squirrels.

The Councillor who calls in the application will submit a written paper with their reasons for call in.

All comments will be sent to Councillors sitting on virtual committee but no facility for the public to speak.

20/114 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 20 0885

Proposed extension and associated internal alteration works.

15 Gainsborough Close, West Mersea – Mr Taylor

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

(b) 20 0973

Erection of a timber prefabricated single storey granny annexe for ancillary use to the main dwelling.

63 Queen Anne Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Ward

Following discussion it was agreed that consent be granted in respect of this application. It was noted there is no disabled access for future use.

(c) 20 0960

Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 19 2136. Erection of 101 dwellings and 0.5 commercial D1/B1 uses with associated parking, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage system (SUDs).

Land at Brierley Paddocks, West Mersea – City & Country Mersea Ltd

Councillors Banks and Wood to draft a reply to be circulated to all Councillors for approval before submitting to Colchester Borough Council.

(d) 20 1005

Construction of an extension to the existing clubhouse, a children's play area and associated facilities.

West Mersea Holiday Park, Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Parks Holiday UK Ltd

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

20/115 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 20 0520

Single storey rear extension and associated alterations.

22 Churchfields, West Mersea – Mr F & Mrs Clark

(b) 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

(c) 20 0603

Single storey Edwardian style white UPVC conservatory to the rear of the property.

Land between 9 & 11 City Road, West Mersea – Mr A Rosser

WMTC Recommendation: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend consent be granted in respect of this application on the condition that due diligence is carried out with reference to the contamination report.

(d) 20 0427

Conversion of an existing office building to a short term holiday let and remedial structural works, general refurbishment and the addition of a first floor balcony. Resubmission of 19 2277.

110 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr Chatterton

(e) 20 0495

Proposed cartlodge.

Rose Cottage, 126 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mr R Open

Appeal lodged with CBC

(a) 20 0346

Permission in principle for one or two single storey dwellings.

2A Suffolk Avenue, West Mersea – Mr D Townend

20/116 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 22 APRIL 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Weaver, SECONDED by Councillor Wood that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 22 April 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

20/117 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 23 APRIL 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Akker, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 23 April 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

20/118 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 6 MAY 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Wood, SECONDED by Councillor Bragg that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 6 May 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

20/119 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Council have received £6500 from the Community Fund to assist with the volunteering/COVID 19 response.

The February elections cost £4333.05.

The first part of the precept of £163,638 has been received in April.

Gate licences and allotments are all more or less in.

Full report attached.

20/120 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A RESERVES POLICY FOR WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the Reserves Policy. The agreed figure of reserves is £115,262 which is approximately 1/3 of our running costs.

The Reserves Policy will be published on the website.

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

20/121 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR A 7 YEARS LEASE AT NIL COST AND A 'LETTER OF COMFORT' FOR 10 MELROSE ROAD

Following discussion it was agreed to accept the proposal from Colchester Borough Council for a 7 year lease at nil cost, a letter of comfort which states that Colchester Borough Council would look favourably at the renewal of the lease on similar terms in 7 years time and that the 1954 Act offer some protection which provides for rights to a new lease on similar terms. There currently is no lease in place, only a committee report from November 1982 which confirms users rights. The new lease will continue to make West Mersea Town Council liable for interior and exterior repairs and redecoration of the property.

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

20/122 TO RECEIVE A HELPLINE AND FUNDING UPDATE

Some volunteers and the chief coordinator has now returned to work and the number of Helpline calls has reduced to about 20 per day with up to 100 prescription deliveries a day carried out by the Community First Responders. The prescription deliveries will now just be for vulnerable and shielding. Hot meals delivered are approximately 40 per day/250 per week and is all run by Mersea Outdoors and volunteers. Volunteers are also delivering all the recycling containers. The Helpline has been successful with a good core of volunteers.

Donations are still being received and we await the invoices from Essex County Council for the hot meals food, PPE and volunteers mileage expenses. Thanks were given to all volunteers. Councillor Akker also recorded his thanks to Councillor Powling and all the volunteers and stated that we should take pride that we lead the way with the scheme for many communities.

Councillor Akker questioned whether the Council should support the food banks and vulnerable families. The Clerk also mentioned about setting up Munch Club to support families with children throughout the summer.

20/123 TO DISCUSS A FURTHER PHASED OPENING OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS AND TO AGREE ANY EXPENDITURE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF MAKING THEM SAFER IN TODAY'S COVID-19 CRISIS

Following discussion it was agreed to install touch sensors and dryers and LED lights and a deep clean in the Library toilet to make it more COVID 19/user friendly at a cost of £3680.

The funds will be from £2000 currently in the budget comprising of £1000 contingency in the general budget and £1000 contingency in the toilet budget. Any balance will come from a transfer reserves.

Willoughby toilets opening hours will also be extended to 6pm with a mid day clean.

Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Banks. Councillor Powling abstained.

20/124 TO REVIEW OR CONFIRM THE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was agreed that each committee would consider their Terms of Reference at the start of the next committee meeting.

20/125 TO AGREE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Following discussion, the following chairmen and councillors were agreed for each committee

Assets, Facilities and Environment Committee

- Councillor Jenkins (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Banks, Bragg, Powling, Wargent and Weaver.

Bradwell Committee

- Councillor Banks (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Bragg, Wargent and Weaver.

Cemetery Committee

- Councillor Jenkins (Chairman). Councillors Baker, Bragg, Powling, Wargent and Weaver.

Devolution Committee

- Councillor Powling (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Bragg, Jenkins and Weaver.

Finance Committee

- Councillor Powling (Chairman). Councillors Baker, Banks, Bragg, Jenkins and Wood.

Personnel Committee

- Councillor Powling (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Bragg, Jenkins, Wargent and Wood.

Sports & Recreation Committee

- Councillor Wood (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Bragg, Jenkins, Powling and Weaver.

Transport Committee (joint with CBC)

- Councillor Powling (Chairman). Councillors Akker, Baker, Banks, Bragg and Jenkins.

Waterside Forum (joint with CBC).

- All Councillors.

20/126 TO AGREE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN:

CALC

ENORI

Finance

Loft reorganisation

Public relations

The Lane barrier

VE day

Deferred to next meeting.

20/127 TO DISCUSS OUTBREAK CONTROL PLANS AND TEST AND TRACE DETAILS RECEIVED FROM COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

This Council will not be pursuing this item as it is being managed by Colchester Borough Council.

20/128 MAYOR'S NOTES

The Mayor expressed thanks to the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The Mayor and a local volunteer are currently opening and closing the car parks. There have been some issues with BBQ's and motorhomes and Colchester Borough Council are aware.

Mersea Island Watersports are willing to provide a boat and personnel for a volunteer Water Bailiff and Essex Police are willing to support this scheme and get the personnel accredited so that they can take action and refer to the Police to prosecute or enter in to a speed awareness. All volunteers must have Power Boat 2 qualifications. Colchester Borough Council have given their support but West Mersea Town Council may have to fund the scheme or training. Borough Councillor Jowers recommended the Council speak to Mersea Haven and offered his support to the scheme and potentially some funding. Thanks to Councillor Baker for getting the contacts.

20/129 Mayor to MOVE that the press and public be excluded during the transaction of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

20/130 TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAFF SALARY INCREASES

Following discussion it was agreed to increase staff salaries from 1 April 2020 with a larger increase for the senior groundsman.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 1.05pm