

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 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 Councillor: Robert Davidson

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

20/247 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Borough Councillors John Jowers and Patricia Moore.

20/248 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/251 as a member of Stop 350 and Mersea Island Society.

Councillors Baker and Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/251 as members of Stop 350.

Councillor Banks declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 20/259 and 20/260.

Councillor Weaver declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/256.

20/249 PUBLIC SESSION

5 members of the public in attendance.

A request for a grant to Freedom Boat Adventures was made. This is a community interest company which has been set up to build and manage a fully accessible boat, including toilet, from West Mersea to include all ages and disabilities to provide access on to the water. The boat will be built locally and will cost £160,000 to build and £40,000 a year to run, also generating some income from commercial activity.

The Council were advised that a number of families are still living at Cooper Beach Caravan park permanently. A member of the public asked the Council to note that the Government anticipates significant opportunities for the development of the fishing industry after 31 December 2020 also providing wider related opportunities for coastal communities.

The Neighbourhood Plan consultation has been extended to the 4 January 2021.

20/250 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson

The Cabinet will meet next week to decide the budget. West Mersea Town Council confirmed they were happy with the parking increases.

Colchester Borough Council have not been minded during the pandemic to move people out of the caravan parks, but Seaview caravan park will shortly be taken to court by Colchester Borough Council for breaching the rules. At a full council meeting in 2 weeks time, the Community Football Stadium will be handed back to Colchester Borough Council to manage. The Northern Colchester Powerhouse heating scheme will be going ahead with approx. 300 houses and some retail/commercial units.

The Essex County Council funding for E scooters, E bikes and cargo bikes are going ahead and the county will decide where and how they are used. Covid-19 rural areas going down but the rest of Essex is going up so likely to be Tier 2 on 2nd December. There is no news on the government reorganisation or the Local Plan Part 2. Congratulations were offered to Borough Councillor Davidson on his appointment as Mayor of Colchester.

20/251 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 20 2268

First floor extension and pool house/gym.
3 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr L Jones

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

(b) 20 2092

Various extensions and alterations, including the provision of first floor habitable accommodation (amended description).
34 Strood Close, West Mersea – Mr N Purdie

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

(c) 20 2421

Extension to living room at front of dwelling and open porch. Demolish existing porch. Demolish utility room at rear of dwelling. Construction of family room to rear of dwelling.
17 Upland Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs G Conway

No comment.

(d) 20 2486

Removal of conservatory and single storey lean-to with the erection of single storey flat roof rear extension.
88 Oakwood Avenue, West Mersea – Mr R Crane

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

20/252 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 20 1886

Two storey extension to front of dwelling, renovation of car port roof and change of windows to doors on rear (revised description).
29 Firs Chase, West Mersea – Mr Birch

(b) 20 1860

Single storey front extension and two storey side and rear extension. Demolish existing garage.
54 Garden Farm, West Mersea – Mr C Conway

(c) 20 1816

Application to vary conditions 2 & 7 of planning permission 19 2769.
1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea – Mr L Tyler

(d) 20 1965

Replace existing window with new patio doors and replace existing French doors with bay window (revised description and drawings).
8 The Lane, West Mersea – Mr J Vince

(e) 20 2020

Construction of 2 storey side and 2 storey rear extension.
26 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mrs J Holmes

20/253 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Akker, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 17 September 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

20/254 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 8 OCTOBER 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Banks, SECONDED by Councillor Weaver that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 8 October 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

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

20/255 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 29 OCTOBER 2020 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Akker, SECONDED by Councillor Wood that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 29 October 2020, be CONFIRMED. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

It was confirmed that the EALC grant to MIRFC was £10,000 and not £15,000. An amendment has been made to the additional comments under 20 0351 to note that a liaison group will be set up for the residents of Dawes Land and Brierley Paddocks.

20/256 TO CONSIDER A GRANT REQUEST FROM ESSEX OUTDOORS RE FREEDOM BOAT ADVENTURES

After hearing a request from Paul Button in the public session and following discussion, it was agreed that the Council would pledge to contribute £2,000 from the new budget after 1 April 2021.

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

20/257 TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCILS SAFE OPENING OF HIGH STREETS ACTION PLAN

Following discussion the Council agreed not to ask for any signage but to request information about hand sanitisers for the play parks and car parks and a better gate on the Coast Road hammerhead. The Clerk will request the information.

20/258 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RED ROUTE RESTRICTIONS IN WEST MERSEA

The red lines are an 18 month temporary order, after which time it will be reviewed. Some disabled bays and loading bays have now been allocated along the routes. There is some confusion about the times and seasons of the restrictions and when they apply. Some members of the Council felt they were not informed enough and there was not a community consultation.

The Council agreed to schedule a review of the lines at the beginning of June 2021 to see the impact on parking, residents and local business. Before the Temporary Order becomes permanent it would be put out for full consultation. Single red lines are timed and when the red lines are within restrictions they are 24 hour 7 days per week enforceable. Signage about when the restrictions apply will need to be improved.

Yorick Road red lines will be added in March 2021.

20/259 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Banks confirmed there had been an encouraging response from the planning team at Colchester Borough Council who are in the process of forming their response to the consultation. There are 44 documents in circulation. Due to the pandemic no details of numbers have been received from the library or MICA and the online response is being handled by the consultant. Feedback has been very complimentary.

The doctors have referred back to the NHS for a professional report of what would be best for Mersea in terms of site and size and a reply is awaited.

20/260 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRADWELL B

Report received from Councillor Banks, Bradwell Monitoring Committee Chairman.
The committee has not met since last meeting in August.

As far as Bradwell B is concerned it rolls on despite both Colchester Borough Council and now Maldon District Council not supporting it. It is clearly time Essex County Council got on board with an unequivocal position.

Since the closure of the Stage One Consultation the separate planning application for ground works was rejected by MDC but now BRB have appealed. I recently responded to that as West Mersea Town Council, you all received a copy from the Clerk.

The PM has released his 10 point plan for Zero Carbon, seriously lacking in detail and specifics, essentially both large and mythical, sorry, modular, reactors are mentioned. One suspects that support for Sizewell C is implied, both as a go ahead for the development Consent Order and for the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) method of us bailing the EDF (majority owned by the French State) out of effective bankruptcy.

They are tricky times on the Bradwell B front as pressure must not be lessened during this gap in apparent activity. The threat still exists and on different fronts.

20/261 MAYOR'S NOTES

The Mayor thanked the Councillors and staff for their continued hard work.

20/262 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

20/263 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE QUOTES TO REPAIR THE OFFICE ROOF

The Clerk explained that as part of the lease work for 10 Melrose Road, Colchester Borough Council commissioned an EPC survey. This has recommended that more loft insulation is required and Colchester Borough Council asked the Clerk to find a contractor to do this and they will pay.

The Clerk advised this tied in with the requirement for a new roof as in the recent storms and heavy rain, further leaks in the Clerk's office were revealed.
Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should instruct the roofers to replace the office roof tiles.
Proposed: Councillor Wood, Seconded: Councillor Bragg. Councillor Powling abstained.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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