

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021**

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) John Akker Julie Baker Dave Bragg Robert Jenkins Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver Chris Wood
	Borough Councillors:	Robert Davidson John Jowers Patricia Moore
	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	In attendance:	9 members of public

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

**21/001 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Banks.

**21/002 MINUTES OF TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 25 APRIL 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Proposed by Mr Peter Clements, seconded by Councillor Wargent, the minutes of the Town's Annual Meeting held on 25 April 2019 be confirmed.

ALL IN FAVOUR.

**21/003 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE TOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2019**

No matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Councillor Powling gave a brief summary of some of the work the Council had carried out over the last year.

Red Lines – these are a temporary order and there will be a full consultation later in the year, around July or August.

Thanks were given to Petra Palfreyman for her work as the clerk since July 2016.

Coast Road and Fairhaven toilets have been refurbished giving them both a much needed upgrade. The Library toilets also had new taps and hand driers to make them more Covid safe.

Toilet cleaning and maintenance – a new contract for cleaning and maintenance has been agreed. This is cheaper than the previous contract and provides for extra lunch time cleans in busy periods.

Cemetery – there has been some trees works where old unstable trees have been removed and new ones planted. A new pathway has been put in Feldy View and the Cemetery Clerk has worked with the public to remove non-permitted items from graves.

Seaview Car Park has a new compactor bins which holds up to 8 times more rubbish than the standard bins. The bin is solar powered and advises the managers when it is full.

Waste collections – the Council has negotiated evening and weekend waste collections in Coast Road from the Monkey Steps to Coast Road toilets.

Willoughby car park and Victoria Esplanade car park now have new pay machines which accept credit cards. A height barrier has been erected in Victoria Esplanade car park to deter travellers and mobile homes staying over night. Thanks were given to Martin Dean, who has opened and closed the car parks for many years and has now retired.

The Council has employed a part time litter picker.

The Council has successfully carried out all its meetings virtually.

The Council reacted swiftly to the needs of the community when the pandemic first began in March 2020. Leaflets were printed and delivered to every household, a dedicated help line set up, a community fund set up and a band of 50 to 60 volunteers who helped with shopping, prescription collections, isolation and the delivery of the meals service. Thanks were given to the all the volunteers and especially Sam Wilson, Thira Lane, Kerry Ramsay, Paul Button, Steve the chef and all those involved from Mersea Outdoors with the meals service and Kim Proctor who stepped in when Mersea Outdoors closed for a month to provide the meals, Page Computers for providing the free helpline number and to Essex County Council for their support via Simon Walsh, Councillor Kevin Bentley, County Councillor John Jowers and our Borough Councillors Robert Davidson and Patricia Moore.

Thanks were given to Peter Banks and his Neighbourhood Plan group who have worked very hard to get the plan finalised and which will be going to referendum later this year.

The Mayor had the pleasure of delivering flowers to two residents reaching their 100th birthday.

#### 21/004 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public thanked the Council for their hard work, especially with their efforts during the pandemic and the work on the toilets.

A request was made for an update about works to Feldy View permissive footpath.

A member of the public advised that he had sat in the Local Plan meetings for the 3 days. The two sites and Dawes Lane and Brierley Paddocks will stay at 100 houses each.

A member of the public recommended that the community oppose Bradwell in the coming year. Good representation has been made for West Mersea and the Local Plan but overdevelopment is an ongoing risk to West Mersea.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.