

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021

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: Patricia Moore

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

21/016 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Borough Councillors Davidson and Jowers.

21/017 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/027 as a member of Stop 350.
Councillors Banks and Weaver declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/025.
Councillors Bragg and Wargent declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 202891.

21/018 PUBLIC SESSION

4 members of the public in attendance.

A request was made for West Mersea Town Council to convene a Waterfront Committee meeting to address erosion of the beach and survey the breakwaters and programme preventative maintenance. Also to get an update on the structural problems with the pontoon and what funds are available for repairs.

A request was made to be advised when the Rugby club floodlights installation is going to be discussed as deferred from a previous meeting.

21/019 REPORTS FROM OUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore

There will be an extraordinary full council meeting on Monday to discuss and confirm Part One of the Local Plan.

The cabinet has voted to push Essex County Council to give up their covenant on the Alumno land as they would like it to be a cultural site and not student accommodation.

19 Shears Crescent retrospective planning application will go to full committee next week.

Packing Shed Trust boatmen have to pay £70 per year for a medical certificate and £70 for a licence and have asked Colchester Borough Council councillors to try and get it waived.

Waldegraves planning application was called in and is being heard by a small group rather than the full committee. There is no further information regarding the replacing of touring pitches with static vans and councillors are often not told the outcome of the call in.

21/020 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 21 0013

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (C3).

Barn to the South of, Maydays Farm, Haycocks Lane, West Mersea – Mr D & Mrs Sunnucks

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

(b) 20 2891

First floor extension to the property with new swimming pool elevated deck to the seaward elevation. New terracing to the garden elevation at ground level and new terracing at first floor level on the seaward elevation in conjunction with the first floor extension.

1 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr J Borges

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal be granted on the following grounds: Impact of street scene, height of pool, overlooking neighbours, noise disturbance from pump, flooding concerns.

Councillors Bragg and Wargent abstained.

(c) 20 2268

First floor extension, pool house/gym and other alterations. Revised description and plans.

3 Empress Avenue, West Mersea – Mr L Jones

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

(d) 21 0099

Construction of 2 storey side and 2 storey rear extension.

26 St Peters Road, West Mersea – Mrs J Holmes

No comment.

(e) 20 2692

Demolition of single garage and erection of a single and two storey side extension and single storey front and side extension with balcony. Retrospective. Revised application form.

19 Shears Crescent, West Mersea – Mr Cook

Deferred to working group.

21/021 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Application passed

(a) 20 2196

Ground and first floor side and rear extension and internal alterations.

20 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Daniels

WMTC recommendation: Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal in respect of this application on the grounds of overdevelopment.

Application refused

(a) 20 2260

Erection of 1no. single storey dwelling house, with associated parking and landscaping to the rear of 35 Barfield Road.

35 Barfield Road, West Mersea – Mr L Knifton

21/022 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Please see report attached.

21/023 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MEALS SERVICE AND HELPLINE

Councillor Powling thanked Kim Proctor from the Blackwater Pearl for stepping in to provide the hot meals while Mersea Outdoors is closed. The Helpline is still operating and assisting local families, the elderly and those in need of support and liaising with the school and porch pantry. A lockdown support fund of £1,404 has been awarded to the Council to assist with this.

21/024 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT SECTIONING OFF PART OF SEAVIEW CAR PARK DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

The new fence has been erected across the middle of the car park to section off the grass area which was getting muddy and churned up. The gateway is secured with a padlock and chain and the ground staff will monitor the surface and open and close as appropriate.

21/025 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO THE BRADWELL B DEVELOPMENT

Following discussion it was agreed that West Mersea Town Council adopt a policy of opposition to the Bradwell B development.

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

21/026 TO DEBATE THE STRATEGIC POSITION AND RESPONSES REQUIRED OF WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF TOURISM IN THE LIGHT OF THE ONGOING COVID CRISIS

Following discussion it was agreed that some actions needed to be taken to manage the tourism in West Mersea during COVID 19 and the Public Relations working group would meet to discuss the responses to share with the full council.

21/027 TO AGREE WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL'S 2021 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PUT INTO PLACE A STRATEGY TRACKER DOCUMENT

Following discussion it was agreed that the strategic priorities of the Council should be set and monitored on a tracker. A separate meeting to debate and agree the strategies will be arranged by a working group and presented to Full Council.

The working group comprises Councillors Akker, Baker, Banks, Powling, Weaver and Wood.

21/028 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling gave thanks once more to Kim Proctor for managing the hot meals service and all the volunteers that continue to do a fantastic job.

The red lines will be reviewed in June 2021 and a Transport Committee meeting will be arranged in the near future.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 8.50pm.