

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 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

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

**21/047 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**21/048 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 21/051, planning applications 21 0392, 20 1467 and 21 0583, also agenda item 21/055 as a member of Stop 350 and the Mersea Island Society.

Councillor Baker declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Stop 350.

Councillor Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20 1467 as a member of Stop 350 and a pecuniary interest in 20 1467 as property backs on to proposed development.

**21/049 PUBLIC SESSION**

3 members of the public in attendance.

A request was made to the Council asking for help with the signage for Cross Lane as traffic is mistakenly being diverted that way. Also a lot of unwanted evening traffic. Could the gate be reinstated.

A member of the public spoke against the proposed development 21 0583

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group asked for the Councils agreement to non-material changes to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

The PROUD of Mersea signs are insulting and not very welcoming to visitors of the island.

The seawall behind the Dabchicks and permissive footpath up to Feldy View Woodland Cemetery are virtually impassable.

**21/050 REPORTS FROM OUR COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

No Borough Councillors present.

## 21/051 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 20 1847

Proposed demolition and replacement of existing buildings with detached single storey private dwelling and a two storey detached holiday let.

15 Rainbow Road, West Mersea – Mr M Thiel

No further comment to make.

(b) 21 0356

Single storey infill dining/living extension, single storey study extension.

Mersea Mudcakes, 2 Woodstock, West Mersea – Mr M O'Neill

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

(c) 21 0392

Technical details consent pursuant to permission in principle application ref 20 0346, for one single storey dwelling.

Land at, 2a Suffolk Avenue, West Mersea – Mr D Townend

Working Group to discuss response to Colchester Borough Council.

(d) 21 0389

Demolition of existing conservatory. Construction of family room with flat roof and pantry.

1 Blackwater Drive, West Mersea – Mr G Ritenour

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

(e) 20 2567

Layout revisions to first floor, creating a new first floor and roof over existing front projection, and a new enlarged dormer to the rear replacing the existing dormer roof (revised drawings).

56 Yorick Road, West Mersea – Mr S Clifton

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

(f) 21 0569

Proposed demolition of existing single storey storage room at rear and ground floor bathroom wall to form proposed ground and first floor extension at rear. Internal alterations.

9 Colchester Road, West Mersea – Mr A Bland

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

(g) 21 0484

Existing garage is proposed to be refurbished and converted into an ancillary accommodation (annex) to main dwelling.

Highview, 70 Colchester Road, West Mersea – Mr R Swinton

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

(h) 21 0472

To carry out alterations to existing bungalow by raising the roof line and extending the habitable accommodation into the roof space. No increase in footprint of dwelling. Formation of free standing timber balcony to rear elevation and lean to porch to front elevation.  
Dunoon, 3 Cross Way, West Mersea – Mr S Bloyce

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

(i) 21 0583

Permission in principle for 2 to 3 dwellings.  
Land to the West of Bower Hall Lane, Ashlyn, 11 East Mersea Road, West Mersea – Mr C Sestak

Working Group to discuss response to Colchester Borough Council.

(j) 20 1467

Outline application: Residential development of 56 dwellings including landscaping and access from East Road following demolition of existing dwelling. Revised planning statement and appendices.  
Land at, 102 East Road, West Mersea – Agent, Mr P Johnson

Working Group to discuss response to Colchester Borough Council.

## 21/052 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

### Application passed

(a) 20 2532

Change of use from grass area to gravel overspill car park in a conservation area. No demolition involved.  
The Coast Inn, 108 Coast Road, West Mersea – Mrs B Cross

## 21/053 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Please see report attached. Councillor Jenkins queried two direct debits which the clerk will review. Although the bank balances are high, there is almost £90,000 accounted for toilet refurbishments, office roof and toilet maintenance and there will be a number of creditors. There are healthy reserves which are earmarked for future costs as shown in the report and for the cemetery prepayments and more land for a new cemetery in future years. The first half of precept is due in on 1 April. Any excess in the Barclays 2 Covid Fund account will be shared among local charities once the Helpline Services have closed.

## 21/054 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FLOOD BARRIER, COAST ROAD, WEST MERSEA

The Essex County Council contact is looking to arrange a follow up stakeholder meeting to provide an update on progress with the design and delivery of the Flood Alleviation Scheme on the Lane, West Mersea. The Community Emergency Group is called the Old City Floodgate Group. This group will put the barrier out in advance of flooding when they get a warning from the Environmental Agency. West Mersea Town Council have a legal agreement for the road closure signage where we have to ensure that the signage is displayed. The Old City Floodgate Group will get training for all that is needed. The legal status of West Mersea Town Council in the Old City Floodgate group is that we are members but not directors so that we meet the statutory requirements. Works will start in May and will take 12 weeks. Essex County Council have asked for a list of events around that area so that it doesn't clash with the works. A site construction compound will be in Colchester Road for the duration of the works.

## 21/055 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION AND AGREE TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT STAGE

Councillor Banks gave a report on the progress of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan (WMNHP) after the recent consultation. He reminded Councillors that he had sent round the document from the consultant (Ian Poole) which included all the responses and the proposed amendments to the plan as a result.

Councillor Banks went on to explain the stage the WMNHP is at, namely that it has reached Regulations 15 and 16. Reg 15 is the point at which Colchester Borough Council will check over the detail before passing it to the government Examiner, Reg 16. Councillor Banks explained the significance to the weight of the plan as it undergoes these stages.

Councillor Banks answered a question as to outcomes of changes need to be made to the Plan as a result of undergoing Reg 15 and 16.

## 21/056 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT VACANCIES

- (a) Litter Picker - The Clerk advised there had been 10 applications for the position of Litter Picker and after the closing date next week, meetings will be arranged with the Clerk and Councillor Jenkins.
- (b) Town Clerk - The Clerk advised there had been 11 applications for the position of Town Clerk and the Clerk and Councillor Wood will be carrying out the initial sift later in the week to arrange who to interview as soon as possible.

## 21/057 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE AN ADDITIONAL £600 FOR EXTENSION TO FELDY VIEW VEHICLE TRACK

Following discussion it was agreed that an additional £600 for the extension to Feldy View vehicle track could be paid. This will upgrade the track from the Garden of Remembrance, through the footpath and in to Feldy View Woodland Cemetery.

## 21/058 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling confirmed that The Strood railings are in need of repair and Essex County Council have advised that West Mersea Town Council own them. This is disputed as they are on the highway. Councillor Kevin Bentley has agreed that Essex County Council will pay for the traffic management if West Mersea Town Council pay for the new railings and labour. Quotes are being obtained for this.

From 29 March to 31 March, 16 bays in Coast Road car park are being suspended for use by a film crew who are filming The Essex Serpent. The Helpline and Meals on Wheels service will end on 9 April 2021. NEPP are looking at the red lines, the signage and some other loading bays.

Councillor Powling thanked all councillors and staff for their continued hard work.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 8.40pm.