

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Mayor)  
John Akker  
Julie Baker  
David Bragg  
Robert Jenkins  
Sophie Weaver  
Chris Wood  
Samuel Jarvis

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: Vanessa Allen  
Borough Councillors Patricia Moore  
John Jowers  
3 members of the public

**21/221 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wargent due to illness.

**The Council resolved to accept Councillor Wargent's apologies.**

Borough Councillor Robert Davidson sent his apologies due to illness.

**21/222 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Akker declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 21/226 due to membership of Stop 350 and Mersea Island Society.

**21/223 PUBLIC SESSION**

A member of the public spoke on agenda item 21/234 to request that no changes are made to the Glebe Advertising Policy other than to remove permission for Rugby Club to display a larger number of signs than permitted and to advise that the Oyster Football Club signs on Colchester Road are in disarray. Planning Enforcement officer was viewing the Rugby floodlights today as 28 days had passed.

A member of the public spoke about agenda items 21/238 and 239.

The Mayor is the first representative of the Town and receives invites throughout the year, agenda item 21/239 is unworkable as who will decide at which meetings the Mayor will need to be accompanied.

The motion 21/238 would tie the Council to WM11 to all 5 hectares being given to the Council as open space. Suggest substituting WM11 for WM12 for additional open space at Glebe for Sports facilities and community room.

## 21/224 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

### Councillor John Jowers

Residents pay a levy for flood defences of £1.5m per year and Councillor Jowers is proposing a 2% upgrade as inflation predicted to be 4-5%.

Mersea Recharge project; the dredged material from Harwich is to be transported to Mersea with funding of £300,000 from Environment Agency.

Councillor Sue Lissimore has spoken to Essex Highways about Strood railings and possibility of Highways doing the road management and a local contractor doing the work.

Trial of heat bio waste, a clean fuel and has been done in Germany.

The Local Plan Panel refused to vote on the Colchester Local Plan Part 2, the consequences are that Part 2 could go back out to consultation at a cost of £1.5m and 3 years.

Boundary commission decision is imminent.

### Councillor Pat Moore

Councillor Moore was disappointed to not be involved in the latest Doctors surgery meeting.

Borough Councillors Pat Moore and John Jowers left the meeting.

## 21/225 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

**It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 23 September 2021, be CONFIRMED.**

## 21/226 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

### (a) 21 2489

Proposed garage conversion and first floor extension to form annexe.  
106 Oakwood Avenue, West Mersea – Mr G Strange

**Following discussion it was resolved that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

### (b) 21 2486

Application for removal or variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 15 1833 (to vary the provisions of condition 3 of planning permission 14 5924).  
35 Victory Road, West Mersea – Mrs D Berryman

**Following discussion it was resolved that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

### (c) 21 2685

Application for variation of Condition 1 (reserved matters, as approved under 20 2492), Condition 3 (submission of RM), Condition 4 (details access) and removal of Condition 2 (submission of RM) and Condition 6 (schedule) of planning permission 19 2136.  
Land at, Brierley Paddocks, West Mersea – Ms H Vincett-Wilson

**Following discussion it was resolved that consent NOT be granted in respect of this application. Councillors Akker and Wood will draft a response to Colchester Borough Council Planning.**

### (d) 21 2739

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Change of Use from Commercial, Business and Services (Use Class E) to dwelling houses (Use Class C3) – conversion of an existing office to a 2no. bedroom dwelling house.  
John Gosling Ltd, 64 High Street, West Mersea – John Gosling

**Following discussion it was resolved that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

(e) 21 2608

Two existing commercial/storage buildings to be demolished. Erection of new U-shaped building incorporating 9 small E(g)/B1 office/workshop units.  
Haycocks Farm, Haycocks Lane, West Mersea – Mr S Barker

**Following discussion it was resolved that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

21/227 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED

Applications passed

(a) 20 2891

External alterations to the property with new swimming pool deck to the seaward elevation. New terracing to the garden elevation at ground level. (Revised description).

1 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea – Mr J Borges

WMTC Recommendation:

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend refusal on the following grounds:

- Impact on street scene
- Height of pool
- Overlooking neighbours
- Noise disturbance from pump
- Flooding concerns

(b) 21 1966

Loft conversion with dormer window and side facing first floor window. Single storey rear extension. (Amended plans received).

8 Suffolk Avenue, West Mersea – Ms P Dimopoulos

(c) 21 2166

Proposed side single storey and front two storey extensions.

82 High Street North, West Mersea – Mr M Parr

Appeal decision

(a) APP/A1530/C/21/3266894

West Mersea Holiday Park, Seaview Avenue, West Mersea.

Decision upheld.

Appeal lodged

(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

21/228 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN 17TH SEPTEMBER AND 6TH OCTOBER 2021, REPORT CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to approve payments made between 17 September and 6 October.**

21/229 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE WELLHOUSE SLIDE REPLACEMENT PARTS, REPORT CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to replace the slide with original Kompan parts. Supply and fit quotation to be accepted.**

21/230 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ADDITIONAL SCREEN FOR CLERK, QUOTATION CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to move this item to be discussed immediately before agenda item 244.**

21/231 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR UNIT 2 RUSHMERE CLOSE, QUOTATIONS CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to move this item to be discussed immediately before agenda item 244.**

21/232 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE GATE LICENCE FEES FOR 2022, REPORT CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to increase single gate licence for 2022 by £5 to £30 and for double gate licence to increase by £5 to £55.**

21/233 TO RECEIVE CHANGING PLACES UPDATE

Councillor Weaver gave an update on the Changing Places facility. The Council had sought tenders for the works and 4 quotations had been received. Awaiting permission from Colchester Borough Council to demolish the wardens hut. NEPP have advised that power can be re-routed to the parking machines and the CCTV will be put onto the new facility. Colchester Borough Council Estates Manager has instructed his team to draw up a lease.

Councillor Weaver is confident of meeting funding deadlines.

Councillors thanked Councillor Weaver for her time spent on the project. Councillor Weaver advised that a public consultation document was being drafted which will be sent out once permission from Colchester Borough Council is received.

21/234 TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO THE GLEBE ADVERTISING BOARDS POLICY, CURRENT POLICY CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED that the policy should stay as it is and be upheld, with the removal of the sentence; *'In recognition that the Rugby Club has entered into certain commitments with its sponsors West Mersea Town Council is willing that the existing boards remain in place until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021: the situation to be reviewed in good time to make any changes at the end of October'*.**

21/235 TO CONSIDER TERMINATION OF CURRENT HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANT SERVICE AND DISCUSS REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTSOURCING TO CONTRACTOR

**It was RESOLVED to produce a specification and obtain quotations from Health and Safety Consultants and to cancel the current contract.**

21/236 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND TO DISCUSS AND AGREE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING GROUP BUDGET. TO SET A DATE FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

**It was RESOLVED to give the Queens Platinum Jubilee a proposed budget of £10,000.**

A summary of tentative plans made so far was given including lighting of the beacon on Thursday 2nd June, a street party on Friday 3rd June, a dance on Saturday 4th June and a record breaking event on Sunday 5th June. All Councillors are members of the working group.

21/237 THIS COUNCIL WISHES TO FORMALLY RECORD AGAIN APPRECIATION FOR THE DETAILED CONSIDERATION UNDERTAKEN BY THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan inspector has been appointed and should complete by the end of November and there will be a referendum in January 2022. The Council thanked all those involved in the work for the Neighbourhood Plan.

21/238 RESOLUTION; FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE INVOLVING THE COUNCIL; THAT IN REGARD TO POLICY WM11, REFERRING TO THE GLEBE SPORTS GROUNDS, THAT FURTHER FACILITIES SHALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT POLICY BE UPGRADES TO THE EXISTING PAVILION, OR A NEW PAVILION AND A SPORTS AND COMMUNITY ROOM, AND THOSE LISTED SOLELY WITHIN THAT POLICY

Following substantive discussion the motion was deferred.

21/239 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A COUNCIL POLICY THAT ANY MEETING WITH THIRD PARTIES WHERE WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL IS REPRESENTED, MUST ALWAYS INCLUDE A MINIMUM OF TWO COUNCILLORS

Following substantive discussion the motion was withdrawn.

21/240 TO SET A DATE AND PRINCIPAL ITEMS FOR WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGY MEETING AGENDA

Councillors will share suitable dates and arrange a meeting.

21/241 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MERSEA ISLAND MEDICAL PRACTICE MEETING

**It was RESOLVED to move this item to be discussed immediately before agenda item 244.**

21/242 ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT AGENDA

To receive Parking Working Group recommendations.

21/243 MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Powling gave the new vicar Reverend Jude Bevan away at a Service held in St Peter and St Pauls. The Mayor thanked Councillors and staff for their work. The Council will be busy now with organising Queens Platinum Jubilee.

**It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

The public and Councillor Bragg left the meeting 9.15pm.

21/230 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ADDITIONAL SCREEN FOR CLERK, QUOTATION CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation for an additional screen for the Clerk.**

21/231 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR UNIT 2 RUSHMERE CLOSE, QUOTATIONS CIRCULATED

**It was RESOLVED to accept Holman Electrical Services quotation for works to Unit 2 Rushmere Close.**

21/241 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MERSEA ISLAND MEDICAL PRACTICE MEETING

Councillors will be invited to view plans for Glebe 3. Section 106 community land will be given to West Mersea Town Council/Colchester Borough Council.

21/244 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE TENDERS RECEIVED FOR CHANGING PLACES TOILET FACILITY, OUTLINE TENDER DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED, DOCUMENTS AND PLANS AVAILABLE FOR COUNCILLORS TO VIEW IN COUNCIL OFFICES

A tender summary document was shared with Councillors.

**Following substantive discussion it was RESOLVED to accept RISE Adapt as preferred contractor.**

An Extra Ordinary Meeting to be called to discuss and agree the details of the Letter of Appointment, contract terms and conditions, Project Manager and delegated powers of authority to spend, Lease with Colchester Borough Council, Certificate of Lawfulness, contingency planning, confirmation of CIF funding time frame, connection to services.

There being no other business, the public meeting closed at 9.50pm.