

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPORTS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 11AM

PRESENT Councillor Chris Wood (Chairperson)
Councillor John Akker
Councillor Julie Baker
Councillor Dave Bragg
Councillor Robert Jenkins
Councillor Carl Powling
Councillor Sophie Weaver

IN ATTENDANCE Vanessa Allen, Town Clerk

Graham Marfleet, MIRFC
Nick Reay, WM Tennis Club

21/013 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for received from Councillor Wargent and Mathew Townend Chairman of Mersea Island Football Club.

21/014 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received.

21/015 PUBLIC SESSION

Written representation was received stating that MISA clubs have reviewed the new lease with the clubs uniformly agreeing that the new lease is far inferior. Previous lease too many hours of both club and council officers over a 5 year period has been shelved, only issue requiring change was the 7 year period being extended to 25 year for funding purposes. MISA would like the Council to use the original lease with changes. Continuing with new lease would require MISA to instruct solicitors, with associated costs and request Council pay their legal expenses.

Written representation had been received to query the 32 advertising boards along the rugby pitch on Glebe 2 in contravention of Glebe Advertising Policy of 16 boards as specified by CBC planners.

An update of the lease was requested with questions as to why a new lease was drawn. The new lease is not appropriate and MISA would like to go back to the old lease of 25 years and not 7.

Councillor Wood advised that the lease document will be shared with MISA, a clause omitted which includes contractual maintenance of grounds of building has been included. The new lease reflected the negotiations and no feedback had been received from MISA. It was agreed that all parties would meet to discuss the terms of the new lease.

The tennis club enquired when they would receive a copy of their lease.
Councillor Wood advised that a copy of the lease would be available in 10 working days.

Clerk requested Rugby Floodlight Risk Assessment and regular checks to be completed with the Council receiving copies of documentation.

21/016 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2021 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairperson as a true record.
Proposed: Councillor Weaver, Seconded: Councillor Wood. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising: The Legionella Report came back clear and was shared with MISA.
Colchester Planning enforcement have advised Mersea Island Rugby Club that the current lights are not approved, that the approved lights should be fitted within twenty eight days, failing that the Council will start enforcement action and serve a Breach notice. A retrospective application would not be invited and would not delay enforcement action.

There is Planning permission for the new sign at the Glebe entrance, the old signs need to be removed before the new sign goes up. Individual clubs need to agree their share of costs. Council to invoice clubs for portion of sign and order. Councillor Wood will advise of estimated delivery date of sign.

21/017 CHAIRPERSON 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

21/018 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE NEW CLAUSE 36.2 TO MISA LEASE THAT WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL WILL CARRY OUT GENERAL MAINTENANCE TO THE RECREATIONAL GROUNDS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, GRASS CUTTING, LANDSCAPING, PITCH LINE MARKING, MAINTENANCE OF GOAL POSTS AND ANY OTHER GENERAL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE PROVIDED IN ABSOLUTE DISCRETION

Councillor Wood proposed including the clause, contracting the Council for maintenance of grass cutting, landscaping, pitch line marking and goal posts. Following discussion it was suggested amending the clause to state 'maintain WMTC owned goal posts.'

Meeting to be arranged with Councillor Sue Lissimore, (Deputy Leader and Resources), Councillor Andrew Ellis (Housing and Planning), Stephen Brown, Asset Manager. Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd and Councillor John Jowers to discuss Glebe 2 lease.

The Council to proceed with lease, entering in good faith in assumption that it can sign.

21/019 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TERMS OF TENNIS CLUB LEASE

Tennis Club lease is ready to be shared, clause 24.2 allows community access to tennis courts. The area is public land and access must be allowed, free and available at all times.

21/020 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR MISA

Details needed for how often pitches are cut and white lined. Skippers to be contacted to vary their contract, to cut whole Glebe areas as required and white line as necessary, including strimming to fence line. MISA to provide schedules of maps and pitches.

21/021 ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.47am.