

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
5 members of the public
Special Police Inspector, 2 Special Constables

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Wargent, Borough Councillors Robert Davidson and Pat Moore.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** To confirm Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22nd April 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the **MINUTES** of the Council meeting held on 22nd April 2021, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING.** To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting

There were no matters arising

4. **TOWN MAYORS REPORT.** To receive a report from the Mayor of the Town Council

Councillor Powling gave a brief summary of some of the work the Council had undertaken over the past year;

- New Clerk been in post for nearly a year
- Thanked staff, brilliant local charities and community hubs, Community Support, Church, Lions, Neighbourhood Watch and First Responders
- Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, thank you to all those who worked on this project
- Fairhaven toilets have been refurbished
- New Changing Places Toilet facility will be opening soon, thank you to Councillors Weaver and Jenkins
- Rejection on 102 East Road Appeal, thank you for hard work from CBC and Councillors Akker, Wood and Baker. The Neighbourhood Plan will assist with preventing future developments.
- Planting of trees at the Glebe and in Feldy View Cemetery
- 3 Compactor bins have been installed
- Progress with draft leases for Mersea Island Sports Association and the Tennis Club
- Transport Working Group has been working to find solutions to parking
- Cardless pay machines installed into car parks to reduce thefts of cash
- Community response to COVID was amazing, thanks to every group who helped and supported

- 4 day event planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which Councillors Weaver and Baker have been working on, including Beacon lighting, Street Party, Music event and a picnic.
- Permissive footpath from Feldy View Cemetery to the sea wall was resurfaced
- Ukraine refugees have started to arrive on the Island with the community offering support, clothing and toys and links are being built with other villages
- The top part of Seaview car park has been registered with land registry
- Thank you to everyone for attending

5. **COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** To receive reports from County & Borough Councillors

No Borough or County Councillors were present.

6. **MERSEA COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** Mersea Community Support to give a report on their activities and support offered to the Community

The Chairman of Mersea Community Support, a registered charity reported on their aims, support and activities on offer to the residents of Mersea. A copy of the report is attached.

7. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.** Neighbourhood Watch Chairman to give a report to the Town

The Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch reported that they have been Chair for 21 years and that they have 71 signed up members. The Group shares safety advice, scam and rogue trader information received from Essex and Colchester Borough Neighbourhood Watches. People are encouraged to report on 101 or Crimestoppers. The Chairman gave a summary of some of the incidents over the past year.

8. **POLICE COMMUNITY SPECIAL.** West Mersea's Police Community Specials to introduce themselves to the Town

The Special Inspector and two Special Constables attended the meeting to introduce themselves. They want to inform and encourage people to report as they see things. There are monthly drop ins at the library on the 1st Thursday of the month between 1pm and 2.30pm.

9. **MERSEA ISLAND ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDEN ASSOCIATION.** MIALGA's Treasurer to report on Allotments

The treasurer of MIALGA reported that this is their 12th year on site. They have 99 plots on 4.5 acres. Full plots are 10 rods or 302 square yards. Currently they have 14 full plots, 73 half plots and 12 quarter plots. There are 150 paid up members and 9 people on the waiting list, who can expect to get a plot in 12-18 months. They are affiliated to the National Leisure Gardens Association and the allotments are regularly used by 200 members.

10. **MERSEA ISLAND FIRST RESPONDERS.** Mersea Island's First Responder Co-ordinator to give a report to the Town

The Mersea Island First Responder Co-ordinator spoke and answered questions from Councillors and Public There are 14 responders on Mersea with 3 in training. They have 3 kits with defibrillators and phones. Pre-covid average the responders dealt with 35-40 calls per month, this number has fallen as responders are not allowed to attend covid cases.

11. **PUBLIC FORUM.** The public are invited to raise questions

A member of the public spoke about the Bathing rafts to request that these remain.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.