

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Chair)
John Akker
Julie Baker
Dave Bragg
Robert Jenkins
Sophie Weaver
Chris Wood

Colchester City Councillor: Robert Davidson
County & City Councillor: John Jowers

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
7 members of the public

22/205 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies were received from Councillors Sam Jarvis and Sylvia Wargent, no vote was taken.

22/206 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors will be reminded that they must declare in relation to this agenda any disclosable pecuniary interests which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest, any other registerable interest or non-registerable interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or participating in any vote upon the item.

None received.

22/207 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A period of up to 15 minutes (maximum of 3 minutes per person) for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments about items on the agenda and any other matters they wish to bring to the Council's attention.

Members of the public spoke about rewilding of St Peters Well Meadow, village greens and antisocial behaviour at Sensory Gardens and the lack of Police support and visibility.

22/208 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

Councillor John Jowers has contacted the Chief Constable and requested routine patrols in Mersea. The Flood Defence Scheme will finish at Phase 1, £3000 of Cllr Jowers locality budget has been granted to the Freedom Boat Adventures, repair work will start on East Mersea Road in mid January and pothole repair works have commenced.

Signature _____

Date _____

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council

Councillor Robert Davidson advised that Colchester's City status brings the expectation of growth in jobs and investment, with the Council focusing on Heritage, Tourism and Culture. The impact on Mersea is likely to be more visitors. Garden waste collections have been paused due to the weather and icy pavements. The Police are at the Community 360 hub everyday between 10am and 3pm to discuss crime prevention, and there is also a Coffee with Cops session at Abbots Hall on 19th December.

22/209 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
To confirm minutes of the Council Meeting of 24th November 2022

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 24th November 2022.

22/210 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**
To approve payments to be made

The Council RESOLVED to approve payments and for the water charges to be examined.

22/211 **BUDGET**
To agree and finalise the budget and precept for 2023/24

The Mayor moved this item for discussion after agenda item 22/221

22/212 **DEVOLUTION**

- To consider invoice received for works completed in July
- To consider devolution project fund balance

The Council RESOLVED to approved payment of Devolution works invoice.

Following discussion it was agreed to defer the decision on whether to return balance of Devolution funds to Essex County Council and to consider where the Devolution funds could be spent.

22/213 **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE**
To receive an update on the Queens Jubilee photobook and tree planting

CLlr Weaver advised that 3 copies of the Jubilee photobook had been produced, at a total cost of £110. Copies each for the Council, Library and Museum.

CLlr Weaver advised that the tree planting is still to be organised, a position in West Mersea Park Youth Field needs to be found. The oak tree will grow to a height of 25m with a spread of 10m.

22/214 **BATHING RAFTS**
To consider and agree reinstalling bathing rafts

Item deferred.

Signature _____

Date _____

22/215

CHANGING PLACES TOILET

- To receive an update on funding
- To confirm agreement to proceed with grant funding from Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- To consider and agree installation of powered hand dryer
- To consider and agree installation of signage
- To consider and agree connection of toilet to mains sewage

The Council RESOLVED to accept £40,000 grant funding as per conditions; to instal plaque detailing funders Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Essex Short Breaks, to install a powered hand dryer, to install a sign outside advising that the emergency alarm will only alert someone outside the unit and connection to main sewer. (1 abstention)

The Council RESOLVED to accept hand dryer purchase (£349) and installation quote (£295). (1 abstention)

The Council RESOLVED to purchase the required signage. (1 abstention)

22/216

COMMUNITY FACILITES COMMITTEE

To appoint another committee member following resignation of Councillor Bragg

The Council RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs Akker and Weaver to the Community Facilities Committee.

22/217

KING'S CORONATION WORKING GROUP

- To receive an update
- To consider and agree terms of reference

Cllr Weaver advised that Colchester City Council is encouraging rural villages to celebrate. The Royal Pageant Master has advised that beacons will not be lit for the King's Coronation and that there will be an official guide in the new year for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day celebrations on 06/06/24.

The King's Coronation Working Group were confirmed as Cllrs Akker, Baker, Weaver and Wood, with Cllr Weaver Chairing. Cllr Weaver will convene a meeting in the new year.

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the King's Coronation Working Group Terms of Reference

22/218

PLANNING COMMITTEE

To receive an update

Cllr Akker reported that at the last meeting held on 7th December the Planning Committee were updated on the Brierley Paddocks development. Cllrs Akker and Baker had met with City and Country Mersea Ltd, to discuss the areas that had been allocated for a possible new doctors' surgery and for business units. No conclusions had yet been reached and they would be contacting the Council in due course. Cllr. Akker also stated that there had been some consideration of a further planning application for housing on some of the open spaces but that this was now not being pursued.

Signature _____

Date _____

- 22/219 **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**
To consider incidents in Melrose Road and determine action

Cllr Akker advised that there is a strength of feeling from residents about the anti social behaviour around Sensory Gardens and requested that the Mayor contact the Chief Inspector and Chief Super Intendant and invite Deputy Crime Commissioner Jane Gardener to visit Mersea. Cllr Akker will forward the crime incident number to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

- 22/220 **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER APPLICATION**
To consider the rejection from NEPP Joint Parking Committee unless there was a payment estimated at £9,500 and consider action

Cllr Akker advised that the NEPP meeting this week had been cancelled. Cllr Akker advised that he understood there was to be discussion with the Council and Colchester City Council on the Traffic Regulation Order.

- 22/221 **COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**
To receive a report following a CALC meeting on 2nd December 2022

Cllr. Akker attended the CALC meeting and will share documentation from Colchester City Council Economic Strategy specialist who put forward proposals for setting up grants to help local businesses.

The public left the meeting at 8.50pm.

- 22/211 **BUDGET**
To agree and finalise the budget and precept for 2023/24

The Council discussed some of the budget items.
Cllr Bragg left the meeting at 9.15pm.
Due to the time the item was deferred.

- 22/222 **CLERKS REPORT**

Item deferred.

- 22/223 **MAYORS NOTES**

Item deferred.

- 22/224 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
To RESOLVE that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

- 22/225 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**
To consider and agree recommendations from Personnel Committee

The Clerk and Cllr Powling left the meeting

The Council RESOLVED to make a cost of living payment to staff.

Signature _____

Date _____

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council

The Clerk and Cllr Powling returned to the meeting

22/226

ELECTRICAL WORKS

To consider and agree quotation for security lights to rear of Willoughby toilets, security lights for Council office front door and car park and works identified in electrical safety test

Item deferred.

22/227

FENCING

- I. To consider and agree quotation for fencing to Bike Ramps
- II. To consider and agree quotations for fencing quotations for Seaview car park, Church green, Reymead Open Space and Feldy View Cemetery

Item deferred.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Signature _____

Date _____