

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

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

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

21/376 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Jarvis and Wargent and Borough Councillor Robert Davidson. No vote was taken.

21/377 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests from members relevant to items under discussion at the meeting

None received.

21/378 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** A period of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments

A member of the public advised that the red fencing to the Village Green had been removed on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

A member of the public advised that there is still the possibility of 'small nuclear' at Bradwell. BAANG are not anti nuclear, but are anti Bradwell as a site due to its unsuitability.

21/379 **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.** To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

Councillor Pat Moore

Councillor Pat Moore advised that the planning application on the Village Green has been withdrawn and the fencing is coming down.

There is a reception for Councillors and Clerks at the Town Hall.

Community 360 are looking for volunteers to provide physical and moral support to those suffering with Mental Health and are raising awareness of fuel poverty and tackling cold homes in the south east.

Grants of up to £50,000 for charities doing environmental projects.

CBC passed the budget and the CBC part of Council tax will increase by 2.47%. There was a decision to write off £10,372 unrecoverable Council Tax debt.

The Local Plan meeting has been deferred as part 2 has not come back from the Inspector yet, and is unlikely to come before full Council until after the elections in May.

There is a Covid Commemoration event at the Mercury Theatre, tickets will be allocated by ballot.

Covid 19 Business Grants are still available for those in the hospitality sector.

Rough sleepers were housed during storm Eunice.

The Boundary Commission Consulting on Boundary Changes open from 22/02/22 to 04/04/22.

#### Councillor John Jowers

Councillor Jowers reported that the Environment Bill has been debated, there was discussion on conservation of oysters and the idea of a park and bike, there is funding available.

The flood defence scheme was budgeted to cost £186,000 and has cost £486,000 to date, both the Government and Environment Agency have contributed to funding.

Success of the Mersea Harbour recharge project which cost £1.55m.

From 22/23 50% of Councillor Jowers' annual CBC grant funding will be amalgamated amongst ECC Councillors for Colchester into a £40-50,000 fund. Councillor Jowers welcomes any suggestions for projects. Councillor Weaver has done well with the Changing Places Toilet facility with some of the funding coming from ECC.

There is a Planning application to modify some of the conditions on the incinerator at Rivenhall.

**21/380 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** To confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd February 2022

**It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.**

Councillor Akker advised that today was the 3rd of 8 days scheduled for the Planning Appeal for 102 East Road.

Councillor Wood attended the meeting at 7.25pm

**21/381 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** To consider Planning Application received

22 0184. Construction of a single storey flat roofed rear extension and carrying out a loft conversion. 23 East Road, West Mersea – Mr G Sexton. Consultation expiry date: 21.02.22

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

**21/382 PLANNING DECISIONS.** To receive notification of Planning Decision

#### Application passed

21 2995. Proposed siting of 1 additional static holiday caravan on the northern element of West Mersea Holiday Park. West Mersea Holiday Park, Seaview Avenue, West Mersea – Park Holidays (UK) Ltd

**21/383 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made, details circulated.

**It was RESOLVED to approve payments, with the inclusion of payment to ELAS Ltd in settlement of contract.**

**21/384 CHANGING PLACES**

- To receive an update
- To agree additional costs for cesspool

Councillor Weaver reported that the unit is in place and groundworks to ramp have been completed, Building Control will be visiting site shortly.

**It was RESOLVED to agree additional costs for cesspool works as long as Colchester Borough Council are in agreement.**

Councillor Weaver will advise CBC Asset Manager and CBC Parks and Recreation Officer of cesspool details and location.

**21/385. QUEENS JUBILEE**

- Meeting date to be set for working group
- To set and agree project plan,
- To consider draft budget
- To grant authority to a Councillor (other than Chair of working group) to approve spending against the draft budget agreed by the working group to enable booking of services
- To consider planting of a mature tree

Councillor Weaver reported that a 4 day event had been planned, starting with Lighting of the Beacon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7pm. All events need volunteers.

**It was RESOLVED to increase the budget to £12,000 with a contingency of £3,000 with authority to spend within the guidelines with authority of Mayor or Deputy Mayor and with the Town Clerk.**

Councillor Powling will apply for the road closure for the Street Party on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

A mature Oak tree has been sourced from CBC Woodland and Open Spaces Project Officer, following discussion it was agreed that the tree should be planted in School Gardens with a metal plaque and protection.

**21/386 POST ITEM.** To discuss proposal from Proud of Mersea

Following discussion it was agreed to direct Proud of Mersea to the Councils Grant Awarding Policy.

**21/387 PARKING WORKING GROUP.** To receive an update from the Parking Working Group

Councillor Akker provided an update, advising that the working group had met. Two subgroups have been looking at Coast Road and the Esplanade and are drawing up proposals which will be brought before the Council. NEPP have not indicated time table for removal of red lines. Councillor Akker will have an informal discussion with NEPP regarding the technical aspects of alternatives.

**21/388 NEXT AGENDA.** Items to be added to next agenda

21/389 **MAYOR'S NOTES**

The Mayor thanked;

- Richard Taylor, Mark Dixon and Allan Bird for the Recharge project,
- Councillor Jowers for the repairs to Strood railings,
- The Council for their work on the Queens Platinum Jubilee,
- Mersea Island Lions for their donation of £500 towards a replacement bench on Church Green and for their work during COVID, and
- Councillor Jowers for agreeing to light the beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

21/390 **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

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

The public left the meeting at 9pm.

21/391 **LEASE 10 MELROSE ROAD.** To agree and sign lease for Council Offices

Item deferred

21/392 **COUNCIL BUILDING REPAIRS.** To consider quotations received for repairs to window cills and lintels, quotations circulated.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Stroods Specialist Contractors**

21/393 **FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME.** To discuss and agree

- I. Collaboration Agreement with ECC and Old City Floodgate Group
- II. Section 50 Licence Agreement 01 (Ref S50:1619) Flood barrier
- III. Section 50 Licence Agreement 02 (Ref S50:1680) Sump pits

Following discussion it was agreed to seek legal advice.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm