

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2022

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

Borough Councillors: Pat Moore
Borough and County Councillor: John Jowers

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
3 members of the public

22/086 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Sylvia Wargent, Sam Jarvis and Chris Wood. No vote was taken. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Robert Davidson.

22/087 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** To receive declarations of interest from members.

None received.

22/088 **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

A member of the public requested that the basketball net at the Glebe be replaced and to enquire when the bathing rafts will be going out.

22/089 **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.** To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

Councillor Jowers spoke of highway issues at the junction of Firs Road and High Street North and in Melrose Road. Essex County Councillor Lee Scott, Portfolio Holder for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport will be attending a meeting at Mersea on Friday morning to look at the traffic problems and pot holes on Mersea. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been invited to attend.

The Levelling up and Regeneration Bill will be important to all local authorities. Councillor Jowers recommended that the Council ask for a briefing on the consequences of the bill from Colchester Borough Planning Department.

The Local Plan is in place and is exempt from any changes, Colchester Planning Department will be starting work soon on the next Local Plan.

Councillor Moore advised that;

- Colchester Borough Council has written of £170,000 of debts
- Opening of the fisheries will be 02/09/22
- Dabchicks Licence application will be heard on 04/08/22
- Councillor Davidson's summer party will be held on 23/07/22 at Brick House Farm. Tickets are £20 per head
- Waterside Committee needs to be convened.

Councillors Jowers and Moore left the meeting.

22/090 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** To confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of 23rd June 2022

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 23rd June 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

22/091 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made

Payment Report had been circulated amongst Councillors. **It was RESOLVED to approve payments.**

22/092 **BIKE RAMPS.** To consider a working group to consider plans for work to Bike ramps; including removal of debris from the top half of the bike humps, replace with new soil and remould tracks. Renew all the fencing and posts.

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from a resident to work on improving the bike humps. The Council referred the item to the Community Facilities Committee to meet with the proposer and the ground staff to agree plans to repair the bike ramps.

22/093 **ROSPA PLAYPARK INSPECTION.** To note and consider ROSPA play park inspection reports

The ROSPA park inspection reports had been circulated. Councillor Akker raised concerns with some of the risks identified at the Skate Park. The Council referred the item to the Community Facilities Committee.

22/094 **TERMS OF REFERENCE.** To confirm Committee Terms of Reference;

- I. Environment & Community Services Committee
- II. Finance and Strategy Committee
- III. Planning Committee
- IV. Community Facilities Committee

It was RESOLVED to accept the Committee Terms of Reference.

22/095 **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL APPLICATION.** To approve Local Highways Panel Application form for Bridleway signage

Following discussion it was RESOLVED to approve the Local Highways Panel Application with the following additions;

1. A No through road sign to be added
2. Any redundant signage to be removed.

22/096 **PARKING WORKING GROUP.** To receive a report on amendments sought by NEPP regarding the application for a Traffic Regulation Order

It was RESOLVED to agree with the proposals with the amendments of Esplanade yellow lines to 8pm. This will harmonise parking charges and restrictions, the yellow lines to continue until 8pm and for car parks to be chargeable until 8pm. Car park charges will not form part of the NEPP application, this will be discussed when parking charges are next reviewed.

It was agreed that further junction protections at Firs Road/High Street North and Lower Kingsland Road near to Kingsland Beach and Kingsland Close would be included.

Melrose Road and Oakwood Avenue amendments would be investigated and consulted on for the next round of road improvements.

22/097 **VILLAGE GREEN 241.** To receive an update

Cllr Powling advised that Councillor Jowers had met with Essex County Legal team. Awaiting a definitive map.

22/098 **HEALTH AND SAFETY.** To receive a report from the Health and Safety Consultant

A report had not been received.

22/099 **OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE.** To consider a working party including the Mayor to confirm Council actions

Councillors Akker, Jenkins, Powling and Weaver joined the Working Group.

22/100 **CLERKS REPORT.** To receive an update from the Clerk

The Clerk advised that;

- There is Chairman's training available for all Councillors
- Annual Governance and Reporting Statements were submitted to the external auditor 28/06/22.
- Queens Platinum Jubilee budget was £12,000 of which the Council spend £11,776
- Changing Places toilet facility Council spend £34,386.50
- Enover funding event attended by Town Clerk and Cemetery Clerk
- Boardwalk quotes have been requested from several organisations for the bridge repair
- Grounds maintenance works to go out to tender
- Churchyard tree found to have a large cavity, tree surveyor has been booked at a cost £310 to survey this tree and all limes in Churchyard, large lime on Church green and all 'monitor' trees on November report
- Now have a tablet to enable cemetery inspections to be completed digitally
- The Church and Museum have been booked for the Civic Service 23rd October
- Coast Road toilets problems with urinals, due to filters and drainage. Cleaning and maintenance contractors recommend replacing at end of summer season
- Progress at allotments with tidying up of site and Grounds staff have measured plots.
- Changing Places opened 27 June. Quotes being sought for cesspit emptying. CCTV installed, CCTV Policy to be written
- Queens Platinum Jubilee tree planting celebration to be organised by QPJ committee. Oak Tree being stored by CBC in their nursery until November
- Jubilee medals – request received for the Council to be involved in a Community medals parade to thank volunteers, (RNLI, Fire, Coastguard and First Responders) who received Jubilee medals

22/101 **DELEGATED AUTHORITY.** To consider delegated authority for the Town Clerk to respond to planning applications

The Council wishes to leave the authority with the Planning Committee.

22/102 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.** To consider increasing the number of Councillors on Committees

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Weaver will join the Planning Committee.

22/103 **NEXT AGENDA.** Items to be added to the next Agenda

- 20mph speed limit

The public left the meeting.

22/104 **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

22/105 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

- I. Full Council to sign-off proposal (unanimously approved) from Community Facilities Committee, to refurbish Tennis hard courts and hard court fencing, in-line with proposals/quotations received, ahead of entering the proposed new lease agreement with West Mersea Tennis Club and factoring-in West Mersea Tennis Club's proposed contribution towards improvements to the courts

Item deferred. The Council requested sight of the three quotations for the tennis court refurbishment and for further fencing quotations to be sought.

- II. Rushmere Close broadband,
- III. Play Park safety surfacing for swings in West Mersea Park, (single point swing in Youth field and twin swing in school gardens),
- IV. Legionella testing

The Council RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of the Community Facilities Committee for items II, III and IV.

22/106 **DATA CONVERSION.** To consider data conversion quotation to import data from Council burial records database to EDGE Epitaph system.

Item deferred

22/107 **VEEXATIOUS & PERSISTENT COMPLAINTS.** To consider persistent and vexatious complainants received

Item deferred

22/108 **HEALTH AND SAFETY.** To consider and agree;

- I. Monthly retainer of 3 hours,
- II. Additional H&S costs
- III. COSHH assessments
- IV. Manual handling assessments and training
- V. Additional risk assessments for parks, cemeteries, toilets, offices, litter picker

Item deferred

22/109 **YOUTH FIELD PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY SURFACING.** To consider quotes to resurface basket swing, cableway (zip wire), quad flyer, low rotator and sling rotator.

Item deferred

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm