

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
3 members of the public

22/064 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Wargent, no vote was taken. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillors Davidson, Jowers and Moore as they were attending a Colchester Borough Council meeting.

22/065 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** To receive declarations of interest from members.

None received.

22/066 **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 spoke to thank the Grounds staff for their work at the Monkey Beach to clear the pathway and moving the dog bin.

A member of the public spoke about issues with jet skis in waters off West Mersea.

22/067 **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.** To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

None present.

22/068 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** To confirm Minutes of the;

I. Council Meeting of 19th May 2022

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 19th May 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Akker raised a point regarding Committee Structure and increasing membership of committees by one to prevent, as happened last week, where a meeting could not take place as there were not enough Councillors present for the meeting to be quorate.

II. Extraordinary Council meeting of 31st May 2022

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 31st May 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

III. Assets, Facilities & Environment Committee of 5th May 2021

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Assets, Facilities & Environment Committee of 5th May 2021, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr Jenkins raised that point that the Skate Park sign had not yet been put up.

IV. Bradwell Monitoring Committee of 28th April 2022

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Bradwell Monitoring Committee of 28th April 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

V. Cemetery Committee of 23rd February 2021

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Cemetery Committee of 23rd February 2021, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

VI. Devolution Committee of 16th September 2019

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Devolution Committee of 16th September 2019, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

VII. Sports & Recreation Committee of 13th September 2021

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Sports & Recreation Committee of 13th September 2021, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

VIII. Transport Committee of 12th April 2022

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Transport Committee of 12th April 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

22/069 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made

Payment Report had been circulated amongst Councillors. **It was RESOLVED to approve payments, but to hold the final payment to RISE Adapt Ltd until project completion.**

22/070. **FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022**

I. To approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

It was RESOLVED to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

II. To approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

It was RESOLVED to approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

III. To note the Internal Auditor report to year end 31 March 2022 and to consider recommendations

It was RESOLVED to note the Internal Auditor report to year end 31 March 2022 and to take action as required.

22/071 **INTERNAL AUDITOR.** To approve appointment of internal auditor Jan Stobart for the financial year 22/23 at a cost of £450

It was RESOLVED to approve appointment of internal auditor Jan Stobart for the financial year 22/23 at a cost of £450

22/072. **TERMS OF REFERENCE.** To confirm Committee Terms of Reference;

I. Environment & Community Services Committee

II. Finance and Strategy Committee

III. Planning Committee

Item deferred to next Council meeting.

22/073 **PARKING WORKING GROUP**

- To receive the draft application for a Traffic Regulation Order
- To approve the specific proposals by the Parking Working Group and give authority to the Chair of the Working Group to enter discussions with NEPP and to make any amendments in line with the proposals outlined

The Parking Working Group draft text to accompany the application for a Traffic Regulation Order with proposals for Victoria Esplanade, Coast Road, St Peters Road and Firs Road/High Street was circulated amongst Councillors. The Group recommended that the disabled parking bay on Victoria Esplanade was not required as Blue Badge holders can park on yellow lines.

Following discussion it was agreed in addition to put to NEPP whether car parks can be chargeable to 8pm and for parking restrictions to be in place until 8pm and to request that signage be amended on Coast Road car park.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Parking Working Group proposals with amendments as discussed and to authorise the Chair of the working Group to discuss proposals with NEPP.

22/074 **BOARDWALK**

- To agree to contract an environmental consultant for works to Boardwalk, approx. £4000
- To agree MMO Licence application costs of approx. £4000

Cllr Jarvis advised that Phase 1 is a permanent repair to the broken bridge section to get the boardwalk open, with Phase 2 to replace the remaining structure. A full MMO (Marine Management Organisation), licence is required which will take 15-20 weeks and specialist help is required to complete the application. Natural England have agreed to the materials in principle.

There is a meeting of the Boardwalk working group on 4th July at 7pm.

The Council RESOLVED to spend £4000-6000 with a specialist Marine Consultant to assist with the MMO licence application and £4000 on the MMO licence fee and that where the application includes bathing raft anchors that this is not agreement to put in rafts/anchors.

22/075 **CHANGING PLACES.** To receive an update from Councillor Weaver

Councillor Weaver advised that the following items have been completed:

1. Keyclamp fittings have been secured
2. Upper Aco drain outlet has been reduced
3. Areas of damage to concrete ramp made good
4. Soak-away to end of ramp Aco drain provided, which will alleviate the issue of water pooling

The following items are outstanding and will be completed on Monday 27th June:

1. Fit end caps to upper Aco drain
2. Adjust/ease cupboard door
3. Free off removable shower waste trap
4. General clean inside

Building Control have assured that the final certificate will be received by Friday 24th June.

Changing Places have advised that the facility will be going live on their website in a couple of weeks.

Essex Short breaks have advised that if public toilets are open then the changing places opening times should be the same.

Councillor Jenkins advised that CCTV needs to be installed to cover the entrance.

22/076. **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE.** To receive an update from Councillor Weaver

Councillor Weaver thanked the team, advised that positive feedback had been received on FaceBook and that the raffle raised £2160 for Mersea Island Lions Club.

22/077 **CALC.** To receive an update from Councillor Akker

Councillor Akker advised that;

- the ECC Devolution scheme is coming to an end,
- Essex County Councillors will each get an extra pot of money to fix up to 36 potholes in their division,
- ECC are launching a speed watch pilot scheme for villages,
- Borough Councillors can put forward any recommendations from West Mersea Town Council to the Local Highways Panel.

22/078 **COLCHESTER LOCAL PLAN & WEST MERSEA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- To note the Council submitted a statement to CBC in support of the Local Plan Section 2
- To note that at the Local Plan Committee meeting held on 13th June the Local Plan was recommended for adoption and will go to full Council for decision in July
- It was also confirmed at the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan had their approval and was formally adopted by CBC

22/079 **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.**

STANDING ORDER 5 (e), to include an additional sentence; "No Councillor may stand for more than two successive years as Chairman."

It was RESOLVED that no Councillor may stand for more than 2 years as Chairman (Mayor) in an electoral term.

22/080 **PLAYPARK INSPECTIONS.** To note and consider ROSPA annual play park inspection reports and Colchester Borough Council quarterly inspection reports

Item deferred.

22/081 **BIKE RAMPS.** To organise 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.

Item deferred.

22/082 **DEVOLUTION.** To retrospectively agree spend on Devolution works to cut footpaths

It was RESOLVED to approve spend on Devolution works to cut footpaths.

22/083 **NEXT AGENDA.** Items to be included on the next Agenda

- Village Green 241
- Committee Membership

22/084 **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

22/085 **H&S.** To consider and agree;

- monthly retainer of 3 hours
- additional H&S costs
- Legionella testing

Item deferred.

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