

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) John Akker Julie Baker David Bragg Robert Jenkins (Deputy Mayor) Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver Chris Wood
IN ATTENDANCE:	Town Clerk:	Vanessa Allen
	Borough Councillors	Pat Moore Robert Davidson
	Borough & County Councillor	John Jowers
		5 members of the public

A minutes silence at the start of the meeting was observed in solidarity with those in Ukraine.

21/394 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

21/395 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests from members relevant to items under discussion at the meeting

Councillor Akker declared interests in agenda due to membership of Stop 350 and Mersea Island Society. items 21/400 and 21/417. Councillors Wood and Baker also declared interests in agenda item 21/417 due to membership of Stop 350.

21/396 **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 in opposition to plans to develop 56 Lower Kingsland Road stating that would be affected by loss of light and overlooking. The Neighbourhood Plan Policy WM7 does not support plans where neighbours suffer a loss of light and overlooking.

A member of the public requested that the Glebe car park be repaired as it is full of potholes.

A member of the public spoke on the Council adopting a Vexatious and Persistent Complaints Policy to state that raising legitimate complaints, such as those of Public Safety, Disabled Access, open space and on procedure should not be restricted. The member of the public advised that they had received documentation from Essex Legal Services regarding VG241. Councillor Powling advised that he will arrange a meeting to go over the documentation.

21/397 **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.** To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

County and Borough Councillor John Jowers

Councillor Jowers advised that 28 Mersea children didn't get into Thomas Lord Audley School this year, 14 now have places due to an additional intake class, however there are concerns there will be future problems as Mersea is having an additional 200 houses on Mersea and more on the Wick.

Concerned by the number of people who thought that by accepting the Neighbourhood Plan they were accepting more housing.

The Public Amenity Recycling Centre is going back to ECC, it is not under threat as its more than 9km from Shrub End Recycling centre.

The Red Lines are being burnt off and complaints have been received about Esplanade trees.

The Flood Defence scheme is over budget. For 99 out of 100 times only The Lane barrier will need to be erected and this can be put up in 10 minutes.

ECC are ahead with pot hole repairs as the teams are not out gritting.

The Colchester Local Plan is close to completion and has been put back until after elections.

The Ministry of Defence Estates have permitted development rights and originally 2000 houses were proposed on Middlewick between Abbots Road and Weir Lane. Colchester Councillors are keen for a substantial Country Park and 1000 houses. If the houses aren't to be in Colchester they will go to the villages. Councillor Jowers is concerned about the impact this will have on Thomas Lord Audley School.

Councillor Akker requested that praise for Colchester Borough Council Planning Department Managers and Officers be recorded for their strong rebuttal and case put forward at the 102 East Road Appeal.

Councillor Robert Davidson

The Local Plan has been delayed as time has run out before elections, now planning for a July date.

There is talk of a connection road between Mersea Road and Old Heath and a large park.

The Neighbourhood Plan has taken 4/5 years of hard work and nearly 100 local people involved which will provide safeguards to protect bungalows.

Colchester Mayor Nike Cope unexpectedly passed away and will be having a green burial with a memorial at the Town Hall.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April Pam Donnelley takes over as Chief Executive.

The budgets have been agreed with Band D properties seeing an increase of £6 for CBC and an ECC increase of £60 mostly to cover social care.

Locality budget, Borough Councillors have paid £450 for Village Green sign.

26<sup>th</sup> March Covid Memorial Service at the Mercury Theatre.

Reception for Parish Councillors at Town Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Councillor Pat Moore

Councillor Pat Moore advised that she is calling in planning applications in Kingsland and Yorick Roads as they go against the Neighbourhood Plan.

Ukrainian help; One Colchester putting a working group together to determine the best use of resources to support and house people. East Light Community Homes will match any money raised for Ukraine families up to £10,000.

CBC would like to be kept informed Ukrainian families that are arriving so that they can offer help. Please advise if you are sponsoring a Ukrainian family.

21/398 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** To confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of 24th February 2022

**It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 24th February 2022, be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.**

Item 21/378 refers to VG241 sign that is currently on the ground. Councillor Powling will contact the contractor to request that it is reinstated.

21/399 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** To consider Planning Application received

- (a) 22 0276 - Demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with part two storey extension to front and first floor extension to rear. 19A Reymead Close, West Mersea.

**The Council do not wish to comment.**

- (b) 22 0295 - Two storey front and single storey side extensions together with new car lodge. 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

- (c) 22 0315 - Listed building consent for roof alterations (amendment to 21 0718). 35 Bocking Hall, Pig Unit, East Mersea Road, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

- (d) 22 0396 - Demolition of existing domestic bungalow with proposed new domestic two storey house. 46 Victory Road, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED to OPPOSE this application on the basis that it contradicts the emerging Neighbourhood Plan Policy WM7.**

- (e) 22 0410 - Advertisement Consent. Marketing signage board to advertise new homes and provide direction to sales suite area (does not benefit from PD rights). Land at, Brierley Paddocks, West Mersea.

Application WITHDRAWN

- (f) 22 0499 - Front and rear extensions. 7 King Charles Road, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED that CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.**

- (g) 22 0505 - First floor extension, front single storey veranda extension and external alterations. 56 Kingsland Road, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED to OPPOSE this application on the basis that it contradicts the emerging Neighbourhood Plan Policy WM7 and is over development.**

- (h) 22 0515 - Application for variation of condition 3 following grant of planning permission of 14 4585. Land forming part of, Seaview Holiday Park, Seaview Avenue, West Mersea.

**It was RESOLVED that CONSENT be granted as long as previous conditions apply.**

21/400 **PLANNING DECISIONS.** To receive notification of Planning Decision

Application passed

- (a) 21 3476 - Proposed rear extension, with external fenestration changes to the property. 9 Estuary Park Road, West Mersea.

- (b) 21 2831 - Application to vary condition 3 of planning permission 14 4591 – subletting restriction. West Mersea Holiday Park, Seaview Avenue, West Mersea.
- (c) 21 3299 - Demolition of existing residential dwelling and construction of new replacement dwelling and associated car parking. 15 Firs Chase, West Mersea.
- (d) 21 3450 - Rear extension. 30 Mersea Avenue, West Mersea.

#### Application withdrawn

- (a) 22 0046 - This planning application is for the temporary installation of a safety fence and gating system to facilitate delivery of a flood alleviation scheme on The Lane, West Mersea that was granted planning permission by Colchester Borough Council (ref. 19 3061) on 20 September 2020. Land adjacent to, Dabchicks Sailing Club, 143 Coast Road, West Mersea.
- (b) 22 0410 - Advertisement Consent. Marketing signage board to advertise new homes and provide direction to sales suite area (does not benefit from PD rights). Land at, Brierley Paddocks, West Mersea.

21/401 **FINANCE REPORT.** To receive the finance report.

Finance Report had been circulated amongst Councillors. **It was RESOLVED to accept the Report noting that expenditure was on target and against budget.**

21/402 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made

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

21/403 **CHANGING PLACES.** To receive an update

Councillor Weaver reported that the project is nearing completion with the cesspool installation completed, Building Control are happy, and there is a snagging list of works which will be completed shortly. Councillor Weaver thanked Councillor Jenkins for his work assisting with the project.

21/404 **QUEENS JUBILEE.** To receive an update

Councillor Weaver reported that plans are on target. Fireworks have been booked and Councillor Jowers will light the Beacon and read the proclamation at 2pm on the same day. There will be more publicity in the local press shortly.

21/405 **POST ITEM.** To discuss funding request from West Mersea Beach Club

**It was RESOLVED to grant £100 to West Mersea Beach Club**

21/406 **BOUNDARY COMMISSION.** To consider response to consultation

Councillor Akker will draft an objection on behalf of the Council.

21/407 **POLICY REVIEWS.** To review and agree policies

- I. Vexatious or Persistent Complaints Policy
- II. Risk Management Scheme

**It was RESOLVED to accept the Vexatious or Persistent Complaints Policy and the Risk Management Policy allowing for the Clerk to make amendments to policy to reflect processes and practices of work.**

21/408 **PARKING WORKING GROUP.** To receive an update

Councillor Akker provided an update, advising that the 16 members of the working group had met on 16<sup>th</sup> March. The red lines are being removed with yellow lines being reinstated as they were prior to red lines. The Group has outline proposals for improvements, with a full report to be presented to the Transport Committee.

21/409 **OPEN SPACES SOCIETY.** To consider joining the Open Spaces Society at cost of £45 per annum

**It was RESOLVED to join the Open Spaces Society.**

21/410 **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that

- Land Registry have completed registration of Seaview car park
- Tree works have completed
- Sensory Garden Tree seat to be installed by beginning April
- Willoughby car park gate has been installed
- Health and Safety report was circulated

21/411 **NEXT AGENDA.** Items to be added to next agenda

- Changing Places update
- Queens Jubilee update
- Appeal 102 East Road debate where decision has been received
- Boardwalk

21/412 **MAYOR'S NOTES**

Councillor Powling spoke of the community support to get supplies out to Ukraine, offered condolences to Mrs Cope on the sudden passing of Nick Cope and thanked Councillors and staff for their hard work.

21/413 **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 8.45pm.

21/414 **LEASE 10 MELROSE ROAD.** To agree and sign lease for Council Offices

21/415 **HEDGE CUTTING.**

- To consider and agree allotment and Feldy View woodland cemetery hedge cutting quotations
- To consider quotations for flail attachment

**It was RESOLVED to accept the D& R Landscapes quotation to cut both Allotment and Feldy View Woodland Cemetery hedges.**

21/416 **CHURCH GREEN TREE SEAT.** To consider quotations for replacement Church Green seat

**It was RESOLVED to accept AF Iron and Paintworks Co. Ltd quotation.**

21/417 **PLANNING APPEAL.** To note that the appeal will be concluded on 22nd March and to consider a proposal by Councillor Akker for the Council to spend up to £3000 on the provision of legal advice.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.