

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 6 MAY 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk:
Borough Councillors Robert Davidson
4 members of the public

22/026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Wargent due to ill health and Councillor Jarvis due to work commitments. No vote was taken.

22/027 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 an interest in relation to Agenda item 22/030 due to membership of Stop 350 and Mersea Island Society.

22/028 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. A period of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments

Councillor Akker raised a point of order to request that agenda item 22/036 be brought into the public section of the meeting for discussion. Councillor Akker in agreement with principle reason of confidentiality of Crown Estates lease but beneficial to have discussion in public.

A member of the public spoke in support of the bathing rafts and requested solutions for the Boardwalk and Flood Defence scheme.

A member of the public spoke about the popularity of the bathing rafts requesting that they remain and offered their assistance.

A member of the public spoke in support of the bathing rafts and requested that the Council consider funding options with Colchester Borough Council for the beach area and amenities.

A member of the public congratulated Borough Councillor Robert Davidson on his re-election and requested consideration of cycle tracks in the area.

Councillor Robert Davidson thanked the public for their support. Essex County Council Highways previously investigated a cycle path from Mersea to Colchester, but ran into issues with purchasing the land required. This is something that can be explored with ECC Highways as they need to take the lead. Councillor Davidson recommended that the Town Council write to CBC Chief Executive to highlight that tourism is important to West Mersea and Colchester and request that CBC contribute to tourism on Mersea. It would be beneficial to reinstate the Waterside Committee as it shouldn't fall on West Mersea to fund amenities.

Councillor Powling advised that the Old City Floodgate Group had been dissolved, which has resulted in ECC giving 3 options for the Flood Defence scheme for residents to consider.

22/029 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES. To confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of 7th April 2022

Councillor Akker requested amendment to previous minutes to correct sentence under 22/004, Borough and County Councillor John Jowers' report to: *"The full Colchester Borough Council had opposed a new Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell."*

It was RESOLVED that the MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 17th March 2022, with the recommended amendment be confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

22/030 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. To consider Planning Application received

(a) 22 0788

Replace conservatory roof and doors to a flat roof with a glazed lantern and new rear doors.
11 Firs Chase, West Mersea.

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

(b) 22 0841

Application to remove condition 3 attached to appeal decision PF3/1805A/42/2 with respect to planning application WM/55/65 to allow for the indoor and outdoor bowling greens to be used at the same time.
West Mersea Bowls Club, Colchester Road, West Mersea.

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

(c) 21 2723

Application for removal of variation of conditions 2 for the inclusion of a rear walkway and alterations to the approved fence to northern boundary, following grant of planning permission 20 1920. Revised description. Dukes Seafood, Coast Road, West Mersea.

It was resolved that the Council do not wish to comment on this application.

(d) 22 0811

Proposed rear extension. 28 Kingsland Road, West Mersea.

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

(e) 22 0863

Erection of a crop store attached to existing grain store, including extension to existing concrete hardstanding and formation of grassed bund. Maydays Farm, Haycocks Lane, West Mersea.

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

(f) 22 0880

Proposed single storey rear extension, first floor rear dormer, new front porch, internal reconfigurations, and additional dropped kerbs (revised description). 44 Melrose Road, West Mersea.

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

(g) 22 0882

Replacement of an existing boundary fence. 3 Firs Chase, West Mersea.

It was resolved that the Council do not wish to comment on this application.

(h) 22 0891

Alterations, single and two storey extension to the existing building (resubmission of 21 2625). 6 High Street, West Mersea.

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

(i) 22 0907

Construction of new garage/workshop and gym on land adjacent. 7 Waldegraves Lane, West Mersea.

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

(j) 22 0505

First floor extension, front single storey veranda extension and external alterations. Revised drawings. 56 Kingsland Road, West Mersea.

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

(k) 22 0913

Application variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) following grant of planning permission 20 2567. 56 Yorick Road, West Mersea.

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

22/031 PLANNING DECISIONS. To receive notification of Planning Decisions

Applications passed

(a) 220184

Construction of a single storey flat roofed rear extension and carrying out a loft conversion. 23 East Road, West Mersea.

(b) 22 0615

Rear extension. Resubmission of 21 3450. 30 Mersea Avenue, West Mersea.

(c) 22 0499

Front and rear extensions. 7 King Charles Road, West Mersea.

Application refused

(a) 22 0396

Demolition of existing domestic bungalow with proposed new domestic two storey house.
46 Victory Road, West Mersea.

22/032 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made

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

22/036 **BATHING RAFTS.** To consider whether to cancel the Crown Estates Bathing Raft Licence

Following substantive discussion it was agreed to set up a Bathing Rafts working group to discuss the issues.

Councillor Bragg gave his apologies and left the meeting at 9.55am. The public left the meeting at 10am.

22/033 **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

22/034 **MISA.** To discuss next steps with MISA lease

Councillor Wood reported that the meeting with MISA was positive and feedback is awaited.

22/035 **VILLAGE GREEN GRANT.** To consider Village Green sign grant

It was RESOLVED to reimburse the individual who ordered the Village Green sign £474 in full payment of the sign, for the Town Council to take receipt of the sign and that the sign will not be put up until the Village Green boundaries have been resolved.

22/037 **CHANGING PLACES CLEANING CONTRACT**

- To consider cleaning regime
- To agree budget virement to amend Toilet budget for 2022/23 to reflect Changing Places cleaning spend

It was RESOLVED to accept DANFO quotation of £22 per daily clean for 6 months that the facility is open (1st April to 30th September).

Councillor Weaver advised that details of a free-standing toilet roll holder will be sent to the office to order.

It was RESOLVED to transfer £3000 in the TOILETS budget from Fairhaven waterless urinals to Changing Places.

22/038 **VEXATIOUS & PERSISTENT COMPLAINTS POLICY.** To consider persistent and vexatious complaints

Following discussion it was agreed that the Mayor would request a formal meeting with the complainant to review and address existing complaints and to set a procedure going forward.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.45am.