

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: Robert Jenkins (Chair)
Julie Baker
Sophie Weaver
Chris Wood

County & Borough Councillor: John Jowers

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
9 members of the public

22/191 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies were received from Councillors John Akker, Dave Bragg, Sam Jarvis, Carl Powling and Sylvia Wargent, no vote was taken. County Councillor Robert Davidson sent his apologies.

22/192 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of interest from members. All Members will be reminded that they must disclose any interests they know they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they become aware of the interest. They are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the meeting, if they have not previously notified about it.

None received.

22/193 **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 about items on the agenda and any other matters they wish to bring to the Council's attention.

Members of the public spoke about s106 agreements, village greens, bathing rafts, Sports Club leases and the skatepark.

22/194 **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

Councillor John Jowers advised that Mersea became part of a City on 23rd November. Councillor Jowers has contacted the Chief Constable and requested more patrols on the Sensory Garden and Skatepark. There is a new scheme for libraries, none of the 73 will be closed, and where underused they will be repurposed with mobile bank branches and passport offices. Under the boundary review Mersea is likely to remain as part of Harwich and North Essex.

Signature _____

Date _____

- 22/195 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
To confirm minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd November 2022

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 3rd November 2022.

- 22/196 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**
To approve payments

The Council RESOLVED to approve payments.

- 22/197 **CODE OF CONDUCT**
To adopt the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct for Councillors

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct for Councillors.

- 22/198 **POLICIES**
- I. To adopt the Personnel Committee Terms of Reference
 - II. To review the Privacy Policy
 - III. To adopt Minor Disputes Policy
 - IV. To adopt Email policy

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Personnel Committee Terms of Reference with the addition of item 18 under delegated powers; ‘To assess and monitor productivity levels within the Council and advise of ways of improving’.

The Council RESOLVED reviewed the Privacy Policy with addition ‘The Council will operate within GDPR legislation’.

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Email Policy with the amendment of ‘Clerk’ to ‘staff’.

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Minor Disputes Policy.

- 22/199 **20s PLENTY**
To discuss speed strategy and proposals for 20mph limit in West Mersea

Following discussion on identifying major traffic routes and obtaining traffic surveys completed by developers on speed and numbers. The item was deferred.

- 22/200 **SPORTS CLUB LEASES**
To receive an update on progress with 25 year leases for Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) and West Mersea Tennis Club

Councillor Wood provided an update to Council on the positive steps taken with a clear commitment from MISA and West Mersea Tennis Club to sign the leases.

- 22/201 **BATHING RAFTS**
To consider and agree reinstalling bathing rafts

Signature _____

Date _____

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council

A MMO Licence is required to put the bathing rafts out and to bring them back in again. The MMO has advised to apply for a 10 year licence. Clerk to confirm Public Liability Insurance cover. Councillor Jarvis to forward a breakdown of costs for the next meeting, decision deferred.

22/202 **MAYORS NOTES**

The Mayor was not in attendance.

22/203 **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

The public left the meeting.

22/204 **PERSONNEL**

To confirm Local Government Pay Claim 22/23 for staff employed on NJC (National Joint Council) contracts

The Council RESOLVED to confirm the Local Government Pay Claim for 22/23.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signature _____

Date _____