

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2022

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

Borough Councillor: Robert Davidson

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
5 members of the public

22/170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Sylvia Wargent, no vote was taken. County and Borough Councillor John Jowers sent his apologies.

22/171 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.

22/172 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.

Members of the public spoke about the advertising boards on Glebe 2, bathing rafts, Village Green 241 and Jet Skis.

22/173 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillor

Councillor Robert Davidson advised that his locality budget needs to be spent by the end of January and he is happy to be contacted by local charities. Pontoon repairs went through Colchester Borough Council planning at the last meeting, with repairs imminent. Mersea tourism is important for the Borough and advised the Council to contact Pam Cox, the Heritage and Culture Portfolio Councillor. City letters patent are being delivered by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex on 23rd November and the Borough will become a City.

Signature _____

Date _____

Hopeful that the City will receive a Royal visitor in the Spring. The Marine Patrols work out of Burnham and work along the Colne. Colchester Borough Council will be able to assist with co-ordination of patrols, please contact us.

22/174 **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of 6th October 2022

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 6th October 22.

Councillor Akker commented on item 22/154; the Traffic Management Order application to NEPP. The meeting was held last Thursday which he attended. Colchester Borough council resisted the changes on the basis of costs incurred and the decision was deferred. Councillor Akker is hopeful that principle officers of NEPP and CBC will have further discussions.

22/175 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

To approve payments made and to be made

The Council RESOLVED to approve payments.

22/176 **POLICY REVIEWS**

- I. Glebe Advertising Policy
- II. Lone Working Policy
- III. Public Relations Policy
- IV. Fixed Asset Register

The Council RESOLVED to agree the Glebe Advertising, Lone Working, Public Relations Polices and Fixed Asset Register.

It was noted to enquire about Planning regulations for the advertising boards at the Glebe and to improve Public Relations output.

21/177 **GATE LICENCES**

- To consider and agree gate licence fees for 2023
- To review Gate licence agreement

The Council RESOLVED to agree an increase of approximately 5% for gate licences for 2023 bringing the fees to £32 and £58 for a double gate.

The Council RESOLVED to agree the Gate Licence agreement.

22/178 **ALLOTMENTS**

- To consider and agree allotment lease payment to landlord
- To consider and agree allotment fees for 2023
- To review Allotment tenancy agreement

The Council RESOLVED to agree an increase of approximately 5% for allotment lease payment for 2023 bringing the payment to £4400.

The Council RESOLVED to agree a 5% increase in 2023 fees for Parish residents to £122 for a full plot, £67.50 for a half and £37 for a quarter plot, with a 15% increase for those outside the Parish, bringing cost of a full plot to £140, £78 for a half plot and £43 for a quarter plot.

Signature _____

Date _____

The Council RESOLVED to agree the Allotment tenancy agreement.

22/179 **BROOMHILLS GREENSWARD**
To consider planting of the greensward

The Council RESOLVED to agree to planting a Tamarisk tree donated by Councillor Jarvis and to purchase and plant native narcissus bulbs.

22/180 **COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES**
To consider Councillor allowances

The Council RESOLVED to contact the Monitoring Officer for relevant information from the Parish Remuneration Board.

22/181 **STRATEGY**
To consider recommendations from Strategy working group and agree Council strategy

The Council RESOLVED to accept the Strategy document.

22/182 **SPORTS CLUB LEASES**
To receive an update on progress with 25 year leases for Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) and West Mersea Tennis Club

The MISA lease is nearing completion, there has been disagreement on the third phase of the lease increases and how these are applied. The principles of the lease have been agreed and MISA have made payments in 2021 and part payments for 2022. The Tennis Club lease is based on the same principles.

22/183 **BOARDWALK**

- To seek support to explore the replacement of the rest of the structure, from the bridge to the beach
- To provide the Council with indications on the required actions, third party approvals, cost and timings for further consideration

The Council RESOLVED to agree to replacement of the Boardwalk.

The Council were advised that costs including MMO (Marine Management Organisation) application, consultant and contractor will be £50-£70,000.

22/184 **KINGS CORONATION**
To agree membership of a working group

The Council RESOLVED to agree Councillors Baker, Powling and Weaver of the King's Coronation working group, with Councillors Weaver Chairing the working group.

22/185 **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that;

- AGAR external audit was completed in early September and has been published on the website
- A head and shoulders photo has been requested from Councillors for the website, currently only received from Cllr Weaver

Signature _____

Date _____

- The playpark resurfacing has been completed and the swings have been reinstated
- The Putting green flowerbeds have been weeded and handed back to CBC
- New pro-cut has been received and is working perfectly
- Tractor has been serviced
- A new Code of Conduct has been adopted by CBC and training is to be offered for Councillors
- The Civic service last month was well attended
- CBC have been storing the Queens Platinum Jubilee oak tree and will deliver in November for planting

22/186 **MAYORS NOTES**

Councillor Carl Powling advised that the Civic Service went well and was well attended. The Chief Executive of CBC with the relevant officers David King the current leader of the Council is willing to talk to the Council about the beach huts, pontoon, bottom of Seaview car park, Council building and tourism Councillor Powling advised that he had attended the Colchester Oyster Festival and Brightlingsea’s Oyster Feast and that he wants to hold West Mersea’s own Oyster Feast at the end of the season in April.

The Clerk advised that holding an event in April would not be advised as this would be in the pre-election period as elections will be announced in mid March.

The public left the meeting.

22/187 **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

22/188 **PHONE CONTRACT**

To consider quotations for office phones, lines and broadband and for mobile phones and SIM cards

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quotation from GML as preferred contractor with the Clerk to go back and obtain final price.

Discussion and decision on mobile phones was deferred.

22/189 **VEXATIOUS & PERSISTENT COMPLAINTS**

To consider persistent and vexatious complainants

Councillor Bragg left the meeting at 9pm.

22/190 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

To receive an update and consider recommendations from the Personnel Committee

Following discussions the Council will defer this item until after the Finance and Strategy Committee have met to discuss the budget for 2023/24.

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

Signature _____

Date _____