

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Borough Councillor: Patricia Moore

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
4 members of the public

22/126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Jarvis who is working abroad. Borough Councillors Robert Davidson and John Jowers also sent their apologies.

22/127 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. To receive declarations of interest from members.

None received.

22/128 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

Members of the public spoke about the WW2 tank traps on the beach, bathing rafts, putting green flower beds and jet skis, with one member of the public requesting a meeting with the Council on Village Green 241.

22/129 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORTS. To receive reports from our County and Borough Councillors

Councillor Patricia Moore spoke about the infrastructure on West Mersea beach, the bathing rafts and that it is vital for Mersea to have a Water Bailiff.

22/130 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.

- To confirm minutes of the Council Meeting of 14th July 2022
- To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 26th July 2022
- To confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 29th July 2022

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 14th July 2022.

Cllr Akker raised two points; progress on convening the Waterside Committee and Operation London Bridge Working Group needs to meet.

Cllr. Jenkins advised of an omission and proposed a correction to the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 26th July to state that under item 22/113 Financial Regulations amendment to section 4.10 of the Financial Regulations should have included; *'The RFO shall regularly provide the council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each month and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose "material" shall be in excess of £1000 or 15% of the budget.'*

Item 22/117 regarding Tennis Club, correction to minutes to not just clarify open access but need to agree signage that says these courts owned by West Mersea Town Council.

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes with the amendments of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 26th July 2022.

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes with the amendments of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 29th July 2022.

22/131 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS.** To approve payments made and to be made

The Council RESOLVED to approve payments with the exception of items 269 and 270 as these have not been completed.

21/132 **20MPH SPEED LIMIT.** Proposal from Councillor Bragg for a limit of 20mph on Coast Road between the Victory Public House and Dabchicks Sailing Club, and on highway between Alexandra Avenue and Willoughby Avenue on Victoria Esplanade (in both directions).

Cllr Akker reported that he had attended a CALC meeting where ECC and the National co-ordinator of 20s Plenty gave a detailed report and advised that speed limits need to be within a strategy for the area. Cllr Akker will share the information received and the Council can consider how to proceed. Following discussion it was agreed that this item to be moved forward as a strategy item for the whole Council.

22/133 **CAR PARKING FEES.** To consider recommendations for car parking fees for April 2023 to put before Neighbourhood Services and Waste Portfolio holder Councillor Goss

Following discussion the Council RESOLVED to recommend the following car park charges for 2023 to CBC Neighbourhood Services and Waste Portfolio holder.

Current Charges 2022	High Street	Coast Road	Seaview Avenue	Victoria Esplanade	Willoughby Avenue
Up to 1 hour	FREE	FREE	FREE		
Up to 2 hours		£3.00	£3.00		
Up to 3 hours	£1.50	£4.00	£4.00	£4.00	£4.00
Over 3 hours (to 6pm)	£6.00	£4.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00
Overnight charge (6pm to 8am)	FREE	FREE	£1.00		

Proposed Charges for 2023	High Street	Coast Road	Seaview Avenue	Victoria Esplanade	Willoughby Avenue
Up to 1 hour		FREE	FREE		
Up to 2 hours	FREE	£4.00	£4.00	£4.00	£4.00
Up to 4 hours	£6.50	£6.50	£6.50	£6.50	£6.50
Over 4 hours (to 6pm)	£8.50	£8.50	£8.50	£8.50	£8.50
Overnight charge (6pm to 8am)	FREE	FREE	£1.00		

Parking permits; Traders seasonal £95, Beach hut owners, windsurfers £85

22/134 **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER APPLICATION.** To consider request from NEPP Joint Parking Committee to fund the proposal at estimated cost of £9500

It was noted that when NEPP officers attended the Transport Committee in April to advise of the Traffic Regulation Order process at no stage was a cost to the Council raised. **The Council RESOLVED not to accept the proposal to fund the estimated costs of the Traffic Regulation Order.**

It was noted that the disabled parking bay on Victoria Esplanade is a matter for NEPP and not this Council.

22/135 **REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY WREATH.** To consider a donation for the Remembrance Day memorial POPPY wreath; suggested donation of £50

The Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day memorial poppy wreath.

22/136 **SECTION 106 MONIES.** To review whether any action is required in respect of Brierly Paddocks and Dawes Lane developments

Following discussion the Council RESOLVED that the S106 monies should be added to the Council Strategy and priorities and that a Working Group of all Councillors will look at Community needs post covid and in the cost of living crisis.

22/137 **MAYORS NOTES.** Cllr. Powling thanked all staff and Councillors for their work.

22/138 **NEXT AGENDA.** Items to be added to the next Agenda

Items to be added to a Finance and Strategy Committee meeting; Budget and strategy debate.

The public left the meeting.

22/139 **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

22/140 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.** To consider Christmas lights for lime tree on Church Green

The Council RESOLVED to accept the Festive Lights quotation.

22/141 **BOARDWALK.** To agree amended quotation

The Council RESOLVED to accept DeckSafe Solutions amended quotation.

22/142 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TENDER**

- To consider and approve Grounds Maintenance contractor
- To approve solicitors' fees for contract writing

The Council RESOLVED to accept Skippers Grounds Maintenance tender for the period of 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2026.

22/143 **CESSPOOL EMPTYING.** To consider and approve quotations for checking and emptying of Changing Places cesspool

The Council RESOLVED to accept the AA Tankers quotation for checking and emptying of the Changing Places cesspool.

22/144 **PUTTING GREEN.** To consider quotations for gardening works to putting green flower beds

The Council RESOLVED to accept BAA Landscapes quotation for gardening works to the putting green flower beds.

22/145 **BOILER REPLACEMENT.** To consider quotations for replacement office boiler

The Council RESOLVED to accept AMS Domestic Ltd quotation for the replacement boiler.

22/146 **WEST MERSEA PARK**

To consider works to West Mersea Park, including French drain, concrete bridge, removal of paths and new path to bandstand

The Council RESOLVED to accept Maydays Estate Services Ltd quotation for works to West Mersea Park.

22/147 **SHED BASE**

To consider and approve quotations for shed base for beach buggy

The Council RESOLVED to accept Roger Newton's quotation for the beach buggy shed base.

22/148 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- To receive a report from the Health and Safety Consultant
- To consider and agree additional H&S costs including; COSHH assessments, Manual handling assessments and training, additional risk assessments for parks, cemeteries, toilets, offices, Fire Risk Assessments for Melrose and Rushmere

The Clerk to see a report identifying urgent items for this budget and schedule items for 23/24 budget.

22/149 **PRO CUT**

To consider and agree pro-cut replacement

The Council RESOLVED to spend up to £7000 on a ProCut, but for two more quotations to be sought.

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