

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023

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

Colchester City Councillor: Robert Davidson
County & City Councillor: John Jowers

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk
17 members of the public

23/007 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Sylvia Wargent who was unable to attend due to ill health, no vote was taken. Apologies were received from Colchester City Councillors Robert Davidson and Pat Moore.

23/008 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors will be reminded that they must declare in relation to this agenda any disclosable pecuniary interests which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other pecuniary interest, any other registerable interest or non-registerable interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion or participating in any vote upon the item.

Councillor Akker declared an interest in item 23/015 due to Committee membership of Mersea Island Society.

23/009 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 Mersea Island Sports Club lease, mentioning the path behind the tennis pavilion and the car park surface, Village Green 241, bathing rafts, advertising boards at the Glebe sports ground and the parking concerns at the Victoria Esplanade end of Seaview Avenue.

23/010 COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports from our County and City Councillors

Councillor John Jowers advised that he has allocated £4000 of his funds to Freedom Boat Adventures, £3000 to Layer Marney as they do not have a precept and had recently planted a Magnolia Tree at Harrison Court

Signature _____

Date _____

The Pontoon repair works will commence shortly. East Road works will commence shortly and not East Mersea Road works as previously reported. The meeting with Essex County Councillor Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport was cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances

23/011 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 15th December 2022
- To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 6th January 2023

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 15th December 2022 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 6th January 2023.

23/012 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

To approve payments to be made

The Council RESOLVED to approve payments.

Councillors Jenkins and Powling with authorise bank payments.

23/013 BUDGET

- To confirm 2023/2024 Precept application figure and increase to Band D tax payer
- To agree earmarked reserves

The Council discussed the budget items for 2023/24. Councillor Wood with Responsible Finance Officer will confirm Employers National Insurance figures for the Personnel Budget.

Following discussion the Council APPROVED earmarked reserves.

EARMARKED RESERVES	
Cemetery Entrance to road	£30,000
Sinking Fund - costs for feasibility survey. New Build	£30,000
Sinking Fund - Skatepark	£40,000
connect CP to main sewer	£10,000
Extension to Feldy	£60,000
General reserve – running costs	£161,000
Cover for pre-paid burial costs	£55,000
Boardwalk repair	£17,500
Willoughby car park entrance	£10,000
Coast Road Land purchase and works	£8,000
Coast Road Land purchase solicitors fees	£900
Wellhouse Park path repairs	£2,500
Display board Sensory Garden	£1,000
Crime and Safety - Community Specials	£1,000
War memorial renovation	£3,000
Office Misc repairs	£1,500
Elections costs	£4,300
Machinery replacement	£6,500
Repair Seaview car park gate	£3,000
Cycle racks Esplanade	£3,000

Signature _____

Date _____

Path Glebe 1 to 2	£7,500
Devolution fund	£6,654
WM Park - path removal	£1,950
WM Park - replace slabs around pergola with turf	£1,230
WM Park - re slab path pergola to main walk	£1,020
WM Park - drainage pipe	£3,750
WM Park - bridge	£1,220
Total Reserves	£471,524

23/014

POLICIES & TERMS OF REFERENCE

- I. To review Glebe Advertising Policy
- II. To review Data Breach Policy
- III. To consider and agree S106 Working Group Terms of Reference
- IV. To consider and agree Bathing Raft Working Group Terms of Reference
- V. To consider and agree Boardwalk Working Group Terms of Reference

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the revised Glebe Advertising Policy with the inclusion of term 'MISA to agree split of signs amongst the clubs in its membership).

The Council RESOLVED to confirm the Data Breach Policy.

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the S106, Bathing Rafts and Boardwalk Working Group Terms of Reference.

23/015

VILLAGE GREEN 241

To receive an update on meeting held with Councillors and Dabchicks Sailing Club and consider next steps

Councillor Jarvis provided an update on the meeting held in December with Councillors and the Dabchicks Sailing Club. Discussions will continue.

23/016

MISA AND TENNIS LEASE UPDATE

To receive an update on MISA and Tennis Club leases

Councillor Wood advised that the final lease document is awaited from the Solicitors. The legal process requires the Council to advertise the lease and the aim is to get the lease signed within the life of this Council.

23/017

BOARDWALK UPDATE

To receive an update on the boardwalk

Councillor Jarvis advised that work has been done on MMO Licence, Planning and Natural England approval. The Clerk advised that the Working Group should meet to produce a Project plan and for copies of applications and documents to be shared with the Council.

23/018

CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that formal complaints had been responded to. Councillors were copied into correspondence and the ICO formal complaint had also been dealt with.

There had been four Freedom of Information requests received since December, three of which had been completed, one is still outstanding.

Signature _____

Date _____

A tree survey report had been completed for Church Green and St Peter and St Paul's Churchyard. A Tree Preservation Order application had been made for the works and quotations for the works were being sought.

Funding of £40,000 has been granted for the Changing Places Toilet. The hand dryer has been delivered and installation has been organised. The required grant awarding signage proof is awaited. A joint press release is needed. The soak away is not working, and has been flooded and iced up. The LOLER hoist servicing is now overdue.

Awaiting to hear from Colchester City Council Monitoring Officer on Code of Conduct training for Councillors.

MISA to be advised that they need to apply for planning for the containers on Glebe 2.

Awaiting fire alarm system design from wholesaler to seek quotes. Cllr Powling is to organise.

Colchester City Council quarterly Park inspections have highlighted the debris at the bike humps.

The Blue Row bus shelter was removed Tuesday 17th January, a replacement shelter is awaited from Essex County Council.

The Working Groups will be given Project Plan templates to assist with feasibility, project specification and work plans.

The Clerk advised Council on the Clerks workload items that are currently being worked on and items that there is not time to complete.

The Clerk also provided reports for Council on the workload of Cemetery Clerk and Administrative Assistant.

23/019 **MAYORS NOTES**

The Mayor thanked Councillor Jarvis for his work on VG241 and the Boardwalk and reported that the meeting with Colchester City Council Assistant Chief Executive had not yet been arranged.

23/020 **AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for inclusion on the next Council agenda

Village Green 241
Village Green 185
Boardwalk
Kings Coronation Working Group
Update Allotment meetings and actions taken
Legal representation

23/021 **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 Council RESOLVED to exclude the public. The public left the meeting at 9.20pm.

Signature _____

Date _____

Councillor Bragg left the meeting at 9.20pm.

23/022 **ELECTRICAL WORKS**

To consider quotation for security lights to rear of Willoughby toilets, security lights for Council office front door and car park and works identified in electrical safety test

The Council RESOLVED to accept Holman Electrical Services quotation.

23/023 **FENCING**

- I. To consider quotations for fencing to Bike Ramps
- II. To consider quotations for fencing to Seaview car park and Church green
- III. To consider quotations for gates to Reymead Wood and Feldy View Cemetery

Item deferred.

23/024 **VEXATIOUS & PERSISTENT COMPLAINTS**

To consider and agree action under Persistent and Vexatious Complaints policy

Item deferred

23/025 **MOBILE PHONES**

To consider and agree mobile phone contract

The Council RESOLVED to accept the Curry's quotation for 4 mobile phones on a 24 month contract.

23/026 **UTILITY CONTRACT**

To consider and agree electricity and gas contracts for Council offices and Rushmere unit

The Council RESOLVED to accept the British Gas Lite 12 month contract for electricity at the Council Offices and Rushmere Close and for gas at the Council offices.

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

Signature _____

Date _____