

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Locum Clerk
16 members of the public

Minutes prepared from meeting recording by Town Clerk and Locum Town Clerk

23/069 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Sylvia Wargent. Apologies were received from Borough and County Councillors as they are attending a meeting in Colchester. No vote was taken.

23/070 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 Wood declared an interest in agenda item 23/076 2. as he lives in the vicinity and for agenda item 23/080 as a member of Stop 350.

Councillor Jarvis declared an interest in agenda item 23/076 e. as he lives in the vicinity.

Councillor Baker declared an interest in agenda item 23/080 as she lives near to the Dawes Lane development.

Councillor Powling declared an interest in agenda item 23/082 as it is his planning application.

Councillor Weaver arrived.

23/071 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 the busy corner of Seaview Avenue and Esplanade and increased incidents of parking on, parking on Melrose Road and car parking at the Glebe.

A letter was received from a resident and members of the public spoke on agenda item 23/079 advising that the Council consider impact of its decision on residents and antisocial behaviour and querying why the car parks need to remain open.

Signature _____

Date _____

A member of the public spoke on Dawes Lane application, in support of the application and the public open space.

A member of the public spoke on Sanderlings Reach development access from Seaview Avenue.

A member of the public spoke on agenda item 23/082 to query need for judicial review, and a member of the North East Essex Badger Group attended meeting to be able to answer any questions from the Council.

A member of the public spoke on Flood prevention scheme.

Cllr Akker raised a point of order on the agenda as it does not follow normal practise of this Council as a Council member is named in items on agenda 23/076 and 23/077

23/072 COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports from our County and City Councillors

None present.

23/073 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 2nd March 2023

The Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 2nd March 2023.

Cllr Akker asked the Mayor whether there had been any progress in organising a Waterfront Committee meeting.

Cllr Weaver queried confirmation of £9000 budget for Kings Coronation, £5000 spend, £4000 contingency as grant application wasn't successful.

23/074 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

To approve payments to be made

A payment approval report was not available.

23/075 MOTION THAT WMTC TOWN MEETING BE POSTPONED TO A DATE OUTSIDE OF PRE-ELECTION PERIOD

The Council RESOLVED to agree that the West Mersea Town Meeting be postponed to a date outside of the pre-election period.

23/076 CLLR POWLING PROPOSES TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING COSTS FROM NEPP TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING WORKS TO BE FUNDED BY THE DEVOLUTION FUND

1. Double yellow junction marking for:
 - a. Firs Road / High Street North
 - b. Mersea Av / High Street North
 - c. Lower Kingsland / Kingsland Close
 - d. Lower Kingsland / Goings Lane
 - e. St Peters Road / Mersea Av

2. Dead end signage / no park access for cross lane

Cllr Powling advised that Essex County Councillor Lee Scott, portfolio holder for highways advised in a meeting with Councillors that Devolution funding could be kept, but it must be used on highways. Devolution

Signature _____

Date _____

funding could be used for junction protections and signage.

Cllr Akker advised that NEPP did not give a reason for rejection for the Council's proposal but requested £9000. Proposed add New Captains Road and Seaview/Esplanade to this list.

The Council RESOLVED to accept NEPP costs of £3300 for the six junction protections and for signage at £280.

- 1. Double yellow junction marking for:**
 - a. Firs Road / High Street North**
 - b. Mersea Avenue / High Street North**
 - c. Lower Kingsland / Kingsland Close**
 - d. Lower Kingsland / Goings Lane**
 - e. St Peters Road / Mersea Avenue**
 - f. New Captains Road / St Peters Road**
- 2. Dead end signage / no park access for Cross Lane**

Recommendation to new Council to pursue Seaview / Esplanade and Coast Road junctions.

23/077 CLLR POWLING PROPOSED TO DONATE THE REMAINDER OF THE COVID ACCOUNT TO THE PORCH PANTRY

The Council RESOLVED to donate the £304 remaining in the covid account to the Porch Pantry.

23/078 COLCHESTER ROAD IRON SIGN REFURBISHMENT

To discuss and agree to fund the material refurbishment of the Colchester Road direction sign from the Devolution fund to a maximum cost of £1500.

Cllr Powling advised that the Colchester Road Iron Sign is an Essex County Highways sign and do not want to refurbish and are happy for it to be replaced/refurbished, put to the Council as a heritage project.

The Council RESOLVED to agree to fund the Colchester Road Iron sign refurbishment from the Devolution fund to a maximum cost of £1500.

Cllr Bragg, Cllr Akker and Cllr Baker abstained. Cllr Wood opposed spending of Council money.

23/079 TO CONSIDER A SUGGESTION FROM NEPP TO LEAVE OPEN OVERNIGHT IN THE SUMMER MONTHS BOTH WILLOUGHBY AND ESPLANADE CAR PARKS AND TO CHARGE AN OVERNIGHT RATE OF £1 FROM 6PM TO 8AM

Discussions were held about public concern with leaving the car parks open overnight, including travellers and drug dealing. The employee that was paid to open and close the car park 7 days per week is no longer working and this is not suitable for a volunteer position. Considerations including solar powered CCTV and automatic barriers were discussed.

The Council RESOLVED to advise NEPP that the car parks should be locked overnight, and that new signage should be put in place.

23/080 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ABOUT THE PROCESS FOR RESPONDING

To decide upon action. Document to follow.

Planning Application 23 0420

Application to discharge conditions 7,8,10,12,15,16 & 19 from outline application 20 0351. Land at,

Signature _____

Date _____

Dawes Lane, West Mersea

The Council RESOLVED to defer this item.

23/081 PARTY POLITICAL LEAFLET

This Council reaffirms that a) it is non-political following the publication of the recent leaflet/survey by the Conservative and Unionist Party b) confirms it was not done in the name of the Council c) The Council publishes a statement to this effect.

Cllr. Akker, Cllr. Wood.

Following discussion the Council CONFIRMED that it is a non-political party.

23/082 MOTION THAT, FOLLOWING RESIDENT COMPLAINTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1992 BADGER ACT – A LEGAL OBLIGATION FOR WMTC. WMTC REQUEST JUDICIAL REVIEW FOR DEVELOPMENT LAND AT RUSHMERE CLOSE, FOLLOWING ECOLOGY CHANGES ON THE SITE

The Council discussed their concerns about the development. Badger Expert Julie Massie of North East Essex Badger Group advised there would not be any danger to the badgers with this development which they have been consulted about, and discussed with the developers.

Following discussion, the motion was proposed and seconded. The remaining councillors all abstained, and the motion was NOT carried.

23/083 CLERKS REPORT

No report available

23/084 MAYORS NOTES

Mayor to propose donations from his account to the following:

- West Mersea Lions
- Colchester Mayoral charities
- Proud of Mersea
- Porch Pantry
- Refresh Mersea

The Clerk advised Cllr Powling there is £1363 left in the Mayors allowance which is proposed to be allocated as follows:

- West Mersea Lions - £500
- Colchester Mayoral charities - £100
- Proud of Mersea - £100
- Porch Pantry - £196 (in addition to the agreed £304 from COVID fund to make up the funds of £500, per item 23/077)
- Refresh Mersea - £100

Cllr Powling CONFIRMED that he would be donating the sums listed above to the local charities and organisations.

Cllr Powling thanked everyone for their help over the last year. Special thanks was also given to Cllr Wargent for her many years dedicated service.

Signature _____

Date _____

23/085 **AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for inclusion on the next Council/Extraordinary General meeting agenda.

- Boardwalk
- Personnel
- Village Green 241
- Dawes Lane application
- MISA lease

There being no other business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

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Signature _____

Date _____