

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2016**

PRESENT:	Councillors:	Carl Powling (Mayor) Peter Banks David Bragg Peter Clements Robert Jenkins Paula Moore Jeremy Mullis Sylvia Wargent Sophie Weaver
IN ATTENDANCE:	Town Clerk:	Petra Palfreyman
	Borough Councillors:	Robert Davidson Patricia Moore

**Public Session**

5 members of the public were in attendance.

Further concerns were raised over the parking issues at The Glebe and the effect it has on local residents.

A request has been made to revive the Bradwell Working Group.

Objections were made to a planning application for 20 City Road.

A question regarding the progress of the Village Green 241 signs was made.

Confirmation about the tennis club flood lights was requested.

**Reports from Borough Councillors**

Borough Councillor Patricia Moore expressed her disappointment that £70,000 of overpaid housing benefit has been written off by Colchester Borough Council.

Sign posts have been requested for the bottom of Yorick Road/Kingsland Road to stop drivers, especially with caravans, driving down the dead end and having difficulty turning. Depending on the type of sign needed, there might be a cost to West Mersea Town Council.

Borough Councillor Moore reported on a recent trip to the San Juan islands (similar size islands as Mersea) to see how they cope with tourists. The key to their success is traffic and parking management which is an issue on Mersea with no simple answer.

Councillor Robert Davidson reported that Myland and Boxted have had their Neighbourhood Plans approved and received help from Colchester Borough Council officers. These plans will now become planning policy.

Colchester Borough Council have a grant of £5,000 to encourage the community to switch to better energy suppliers.

Colchester Borough Council also can offer large discounts to bring property insulation up to the suggested standard.

There is consultation about a public space protection order which will be borough wide and will apply to any area where the public have access to. Zone Wardens would be able to use their powers on these sites, including dog fouling fines.

Some community buildings have been saved in Tendring with investments from the community. Could the owner of the White Hart be contacted to see if they would be prepared to sell to the community if there was enough interest?

In a recent statement the Police & Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst downgraded his pledge that every village would have a police constable, to saying that every village will have a special constable. Special constables still have powers to stop bad behaviour but the issue will probably be the number of hours they are contracted to work. The Policing Plan is available on their website to review.

6325 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

6326 TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Clements declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 16 2377.

6327 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 25 AUGUST 2016 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bragg, SECONDED by Councillor Banks that the MINUTES of the Meeting held on 25 August 2016, be CONFIRMED.  
ALL IN FAVOUR.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

6328 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING MEETING OF 8 SEPTEMBER 2016 - MATTERS ARISING

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Clements, SECONDED by Councillor Moore that the MINUTES of the meeting held on 8 September 2016, be CONFIRMED.  
ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

6329 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

(a) 16 2240

Extend the lounge area at ground floor level replacing garden room. Enlarge hall and WC. Form accommodation at ground floor and first floor for aged parent. Form family bedroom accommodation over garage. Extend bedroom. Form balcony area to bedroom.  
16 Estuary Park Road, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Whittaker

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

(b) 16 2346

Proposed balcony and convert garage.  
20 City Road, West Mersea – Miss K Hind

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL in respect of this application. This Council would be minded to grant consent if the balcony becomes a Juliet balcony.

- (c) 16 2372  
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 15 1820, to permit amended elevations.  
64 Kingsland Road, West Mersea – Mr C Richardson

WMTC unable to comment as the plan appears to be incomplete.

- (d) 16 2377  
Proposed single storey front extension.  
54 Firs Chase, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Crossley

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend CONSENT be granted in respect of this application.

6330 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Applications Passed

- (a) 16 1709  
Proposed single storey rear extension.  
22 Garden Farm, West Mersea – c/o Agent
- (b) 16 1903  
Single storey side extension.  
16 Garden Farm, West Mersea – Ms M Culley
- (c) 16 1771  
Proposed first floor extension.  
7 Firs Hamlet, West Mersea – Mr & Mrs Lewin
- (d) 16 1857  
Proposed 2 storey side extension with first floor extension over existing balcony.  
Brierley, Cross Lane, West Mersea – Mr Wild
- (e) 16 1938  
Installation of a fence along the front and adjacent edge at the front of property (retrospective application).  
81 East Road, West Mersea – Mr P Thomas
- (f) 16 1906  
Construction of new detached 3 bed dwelling with integral garage.  
Land adjacent 46 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea – Mr S & Mrs L Chandler
- (g) 16 2171  
Proposed new dwelling.  
Land adjacent 2 Beach Road, West Mersea – Mr P Smith

Application Refused

- (a) 16 1703 \*  
Removal of roof to single storey dwelling. Construction of first floor and roof and internal alterations.  
8 Beach Road, West Mersea – Mr M Matthews

\* WMTC recommended opposite

6331 TO AGREE A DONATION TO THE REGATTA COMMITTEE

Following discussion it was agreed to donate £250 to the Regatta Committee (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

Proposed: Councillor Clements, Seconded: Councillor Weaver.

6332 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE MERSEA LIGHTS UP COMMITTEE

Following discussion it was agreed to pay for the Christmas tree which is put up on the outside of the MICA (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

Proposed: Councillor Clements, Seconded: Councillor Moore.

6333 TO AGREE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THE SASKIA CELEBRATION CAN BE FUNDED BY WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Following discussion it was agreed that the additional costs relating to the Saskia celebrations could be funded by West Mersea Town Council (in accordance with its powers under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

Proposed: Councillor Moore, Seconded: Councillor Wargent.

6334 TO AGREE A POLICY FOR DEALING WITH REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Following discussion it was agreed that West Mersea Town Council would consider donations to local charities only.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded Councillor Moore.

6335 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT A PROPOSED SHUTTLE BUS AND PARK AND RIDE IN WEST MERSEA

Following discussion it was agreed that the proposed provision of these facilities would be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

6336 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT THE WHITE LINE ROAD MARKINGS AT THE BOTTOM OF SEAVIEW AVENUE

Councillor Powling will contact Colchester Borough Council to try to arrange this.

6337 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT THE CHANGING PLACES AND BEACH MATTING PROJECTS

Councillor Moore provided an update about the proposals for a Changing Places site in West Mersea.

Councillor Weaver provided an update about the beach matting project to be sited around the disabled platform.

6338 TO DISCUSS AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CO-ORDINATOR

Councillor Powling advised that there would be a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October in which a co-ordinator would be discussed and/or agreed.

6339 TO AGREE TO COMPLETE TASK TRACKERS FOR ALL MEETINGS

Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman of each committee would complete a task tracker for the meeting. For Council meetings and Planning & Finance meetings this would be the Clerks responsibility.

6340 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

Bradwell Working Group – agreed to set up a meeting in the near future as per public request.

Communications Committee – advised that Councillors would be given dedicated West Mersea Town Council email addresses. Councillor surgeries have been planned to December 2016.

Facilities & Assets Committee (formerly Environment) – nothing to report.

Local Community Action Panel – not a West Mersea Town Council committee. The notes of the last meeting are available. Councillor Powling mentioned a recent incident on the island and confirmed that the housing association involved were very supportive and want to work with West Mersea Town Council to help overcome future problems.

Personnel – nothing to report.

Sports and Recreation Committee - next meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016.

Transport & Waterside Committee – advised that at the last meeting concerns were raised about the speed on the water, parking, the tame seal and overcrowding on the hammerhead. Minutes of this meeting are available.

6341 LETTER RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Letter of thanks – received from the Abberton Rural Training Centre in respect of the bikes West Mersea Town Council donated.

6342 MAYOR'S NOTES

Councillor Powling stated that it had been a busy few months and would continue to be busy with the Neighbourhood Plan, which will address many local issues. Some positive feedback in respect of the Councils response has been received, both verbally and in writing. At a meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September the Council voted in favour of proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 6343 Mayor to MOVE that the press and public be excluded during the transaction of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

6344 TO AGREE THE CATERER FOR THE CIVIC SERVICE ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

The quotes for the catering for the civic ceremony were reviewed and following discussion, a caterer was agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Clements, Seconded Councillor Bragg

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.