

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT Councillor Robert Jenkins (Chairman)
Councillor David Bragg
Councillor Peter Clements
Councillor Carl Powling
Councillor Eric Straughan
Councillor Sylvia Wargent
Mrs Lesley Mullins

IN ATTENDANCE David Tucker, Town Clerk

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor May, Mr Ian Crossley and Mr Trevor Wright.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2015 AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor Powling, Seconded: Councillor Clements.

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

3. KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

Mersea Island Street Scene

(a) The Clerk advised that he had written to Essex County Council Highways to determine the procedure for removing obsolete street signs. He was also asked to determine the legality or otherwise of the 'Tides' advertising board on a driveway in 11 East Road.

(b) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the owner of the empty shops in Barfield Road regarding the possibility of boarding the frontages. He had been told that the owner had considered bricking up the frontage but had discounted the idea. Talks with a potential tenant were underway, which the owner of the properties hoped would be successful. The possibility of boardings with suitable art work was under consideration by the Committee, and the Clerk was asked to ascertain whether closing in the properties would lead to an increase in business rates.

Refresh Mersea

Mrs Mullins presented a plan showing proposals for enhancing Glebe Corner, together with a number of other suggested enhancements for the West Mersea street scene (attached). Following discussion it was agreed to go ahead as proposed, with the exception of the planting of additional trees on Glebe Corner until the sanction of Essex County Council Highways had been obtained. The West Mersea Groundsmen would be instructed to cut back the hedge behind the flower boats. The Groundsmen would also be asked to tidy and cut the grass on the small grass triangle across the road from the Sensory Garden. The Chairman thanked Mrs Mullins on behalf of the Committee for her considerable work and efforts in her project.

Councillor Straughan was asked to find out who owns and is responsible for the area of greensward next to the cemetery.

Fountain Area - Queens Corner

The Clerk advised the area is West Mersea Town Council's responsibility and would be tidied pending a review of the conditions of the Fountain and potential enhancement.

The White Hart

The Clerk advised he was in the process of completing the paperwork for an application to list the building as a Community Asset.

Blue Plaques

Councillor Wargent was asked to produce a list of 10 buildings suitable for this project.

Flower Boats - Glebe

See Mrs Mullins report attached.

Following a request from Councillor Bragg that the tree next to the Millennium Oak be cut back, the Clerk advised he would see the work was carried out.

Signage; Glebe/Waterfront

The Clerk advised that he had not yet received a response from Colchester Borough Council's Planning Department regarding whether planning was required for the Glebe advertising signs.

The Esplanade and other waterfront signs were being dealt with by the Waterside Committee.

Anti-Litter Campaign

The Clerk reported that weekend inspections of the various litter bins were being carried out by the West Mersea Groundsmen and no further problems had been reported.

A "Deep Clean" on a half yearly basis was discussed. The Clerk pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Groundsmen to attend to the ditches in the parks and the Glebe, and he would ensure this was carried out as soon as possible.

A dog waste bin has been ordered for the outside of the 'new' Glebe children's play area.

Mersea Park - Play Area

Councillor Powling presented an outline proposal for installing new play equipment to the North of School Gardens.

Following discussion it was agreed to go ahead with a more detailed plan, following which quotations and grant funding would be sought.

Surgery Car Parks

Councillor Clements proposed that the land adjacent to Reymead Wood be used as a car park for Surgery staff.

Following discussion it was agreed planning permission would be sought for change of use of the land.

Christmas Lights

The Clerk was asked to check whether planning permission needed to be renewed for the Christmas Lights.

Task Tracker

See report attached setting out action points and progress.

4. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 10.00am.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.20pm.