

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PLANNING & FINANCE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2016

PRESENT: Councillors: Carl Powling (Chairman)
David Bragg
Robert Jenkins
Alan Mogridge
Eric Straughan
Sophie Weaver

Town Clerk: David Tucker

Action

6212 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors Clements, May and Wargent.

6213 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Powling was appointed Chairman for the meeting. Proposed: Councillor Jenkins, Seconded: Councillor Straughan.

6214 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

6215 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

- (a) **16 0046**
Proposed garden building/log store.
29 The Lane, West Mersea - Mr & Mrs Moye

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

- (b) **15 2892**
Timber garden building.
61 Colchester Road, West Mersea - Mr M Wife

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

- (c) **15 2803**
Outline application for erection of detached single storey dwelling.
34 Yorick Road, West Mersea - Mr S Greenfield

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL on the following grounds:
- Overdevelopment of the plot.

- (d) **16 0112**
Demolition of existing single storey shop, construction of two storey office/shop unit with accommodation at first floor.
49 High Street, West Mersea - Mr S Marfleet

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

6216 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISION RECEIVED

There were no planning decisions received.

6217 TO NOTE THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk reported that the Income and Expenditure forecast to 31st March 2016 indicated cash reserves at that date of £55k. The precept required from Colchester Borough Council was £182,429, after allowing for the government grant of £14,733. This was 12% lower than the previous (2015-16) year and means that the West Mersea Town Council element of the council tax charge for band D households in West Mersea has fallen from £66.97 in 2015-16 to £58.51.

2014-15 Accounts - The external auditor report stated that on the basis of their annual review, in their opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices, and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory required had not been met except that for the second year running the council failed to approve the annual return by 30 June 2015.

The Clerk advised that, given normal pressure of work and limited resources he had not been able to complete the necessary work required for the internal audit, carried out by Finnigan & Co, the Chartered Certified Accountants, in time for them to carry out their own investigation.

This was due to a large extent to the local council election in May 2015 and the associated work required, but the Clerk added that the deadlines are set without consultation, all parish councils having to comply, irrespective of available resources.

6218 TO CONSIDER REVISIONS TO THE BANK SIGNATORY MANDATE

Following discussion it was agreed the Councillors elected at the May 2015 elections should be added to the bank signatory mandate.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.