

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2024

In attendance:

Cllr S Weaver, Mayor	Cllr D Baker	Cllr M Greenleaf
Cllr T B Hart	Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr C Powling
Cllr T Webster	Petra Palfreyman, Locum Clerk	7 members of the public

Cllr Sophie Weaver welcomed Cllrs Baker, Greenleaf and Hinderwell to the Council.

24/165 RECORDING OF MEETING

Chairman requested anyone present to identify their intention to record the meeting.
Locum Town Clerk and Cllr Webster recording.

24/166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Boylan, Cllr Jenkins, City Cllr Davidson and City Cllr Jowers. No vote was taken.

24/167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Powling declared his interest as a Colchester City Councillor and a non-pecuniary interest in plan number 241423.

24/168 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.

MOP 1 - raised concerns about the inconsistency in planning applications where West Mersea Town Council recommends refusal or acceptance, and Colchester City Council decides against those recommendations.

Also that the local medical practice will not accept any more patients; and the additional development on Sanderling Reach.

MOP 2 – stated the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and how it needs to be updated to follow the Colchester City Council plan, that Brierley Paddocks is not suitable for another 18 dwellings on the commercial land, the S106 money arising from the extra development and that it is stated it is for the Glebe or the MICA and towards improvements to the play area and access at Victoria Esplanade. Also concerns that the occupiers of up to 150 new dwellings will not be accepted at the Mersea Doctors Surgery now they are no longer taking new patients.

MOP 3 – asked for a footpath up to the allotments. Also that a large tree is overhanging near The Fox pub which the buses have to swerve around to avoid.

24/169 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- To consider Planning Applications received

(a) 241423

Erection of car port and cycle store. 5 Hillybroom Gardens, West Mersea

WMTC recommendation: *It was resolved that consent be granted in respect of this application. Please refer to West Mersea Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan.*

(b) 241457

Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 230876.
Creek Houses, 39 The Lane, West Mersea

WMTC recommendation: *This Council has no comment to make.*

(c) 241367

Proposed construction of 2no. detached bungalows. 10 Yorick Road, West Mersea

WMTC recommendation: *It was resolved that consent be granted in respect of this application. Please refer to West Mersea Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan.*

(d) 241517

Loft conversion including from hip to gable end, 2no. dormers to front and 1no. dormer to rear, single storey side/rear extension and porch to new entrance. 25 High Street North, West Mersea

WMTC recommendation: *This Council objects to the proposal. Please refer to West Mersea Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan, WM7.*

(e) 241521

Proposed extensions and alterations. 6 Victory Road, West Mersea

WMTC recommendation: *This Council objects to the proposal. Please refer to West Mersea Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan, WM7.*

- To receive notification of Planning Decision

Applications passed

(a) 241225

Single storey side extension for disabled adaptation bathroom, mobility storage/office.
6 Kenston Court, High Street, West Mersea

(b) 240848

Proposed hip to gable loft conversion, side and rear extensions and alterations.
63 Seaview Avenue, West Mersea

(c) 241063

Application for removal or variation of a condition 2 following grant of planning permission (211220). Bower Hall Farm, Bower Hall Lane, West Mersea

(d) 241081

Part demolition of ground floor and integral garage and proposed rear and side extension.
Pantiles, 31 Victory Road, West Mersea

(e) 241219

Removal of existing disused prefabricated garage/outbuilding to the rear of 48 High Street to create access to rear gardens for both 48 and 50 High Street via existing dropped kerb accessed from Melrose Road and creation of off-road parking to both 48 and 50 High Street.
50 High Street, West Mersea

Applications refused

(a) 241005

Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 232405.
124 Coast Road, West Mersea

(b) 241050

Proposed extension of existing rear first floor balcony. 3 Cross Way, West Mersea

(c) 241095

Erection of 4no. two-storey three bed houses with private gardens and ten new parking spaces on City Road, West Mersea. Including the demolition of existing dilapidated commercial buildings on the site in order to replace them with a new improved commercial facility by way of a single storey extension to the rear of an existing commercial building used to make, repair and sell boat sails. Gowen Ltd, 130 Coast Road, West Mersea

(d) 241171

Retrospective application for a drop kerb and driveway and shipping container.
86 Coast Road, West Mersea

Appeal lodged

(a) 231385

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed change of use to hold a food and drink festival. Victory Moorings, Coast Road, West Mersea

24/170 FINANCE

To discuss the agree the quote for additional sanitary bin emptying at the public toilets during the holiday season

It was resolved to accept the quote for additional sanitary bins at the four sets of public toilets, during the holiday season. Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Greenleaf. All in favour.

24/171 POLL CARDS

To agree that poll cards for future by-elections will not be sent out

Following discussion, ***it was resolved*** that the council should not agree whether poll cards are sent out for future elections and that each election would be considered on its own merits. Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Greenleaf. All in favour.

24/172 PUBLIC TOILETS

To discuss public toilets cleaning cover for 2024/25 (revised quote)

It was resolved to accept the revised quote for toilet cleaning for when the employed cleaner is on annual leave. Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Powling. All in favour.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To VOTE 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.

Proposed: Cllr Weaver, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

24/173 PERSONNEL

Chair of Personnel to report and any recommendations considered

Confidential personnel items were discussed, including the job description for the Town Clerk position and an additional post for a Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.