

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2025

In attendance:

Cllr John Akker (Chair)	Cllr David Baker	Cllr Nigel Hinderwell
Cllr Teresa Webster	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	

25/06 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies accepted from Cllr Weaver.

25/07 To record declarations of interests

Members are invited to declare any relevant interests. Notwithstanding this item, Members may subsequently declare an interest at any point during the meeting

None declared.

25/08 Public session (15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker)

Priority will be given to those members of the public wishing to share information relating to items on the agenda. Once the public session is closed, members of the public are not permitted to speak.

MOP1- Noted that ECC have not addressed the issues concerning the red squirrels/proposed tree works and are not following the necessary requirements. Stated that ECC would not get a licence from Natural England. WMTC should have their own risk assessments and data for the red squirrels and ECC should be made aware that there are protocols which need to be followed.

MOP2- Stated that red squirrels should be protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Council should publicise the law protecting the habitat. WMTC in conjunction with East Mersea Parish Council should consider applying for TPO's. Suggested the council adopt a policy of replacing a tree if removed with one other semi mature tree. Requested a meeting to close issues relating to VG241.

25/09 To confirm minutes of the Environment & Community Services Committee meeting of 4th June 2025

It was resolved to accept the minutes of 4th June 2025.

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

25/10 To consider tree work in the Council area, tree work planned for Fairhaven Avenue, the disturbance of squirrels and agree next steps

It was resolved unanimously to:-

- Write a letter of concern to ECC about recent proceedings and ask for assurances that work will not be put in place until further consideration is given with consultation with WMTC council – the letter is to be copied to all relevant bodies.
- Seek a meeting with ECC and relevant groups to assess the situation and for an exchange of information.
- Submit a public statement on Facebook, all local media channels and via email to the council's contacts.
- Look at the policy in terms of good practice moving forward.

Meeting closed at 2.50pm.