

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 APRIL 2025

In attendance:

Cllr S Weaver, Mayor	Cllr J Akker	Cllr D Baker
Cllr D Boylan	Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr R Jenkins
Cllr C Powling	Cllr T Webster	Cllr M Williams
Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	4 members of public	

25/084 RECORDING OF MEETING

Chairman requested anyone present to identify their intention to record the meeting.

Cllr Webster, Cllr Hinderwell and the Town Clerk confirmed they would be recording the meeting. The office recording device was also used.

25/085 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were given.

25/086 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Akker and Cllr Weaver confirmed that they were both members of BANNG (Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group).

25/087 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MOP1- Asked whether West Mersea Town Council are supporting the sewage letter and stated that they are now able to calculate the figures for Mersea tourism based on the toilet usage. The figure is 133,000 over a 10-month period, which does not show itself anywhere in Anglian Water's calculations. Mentioned that omissions have been made and that there is no room for expansion on West Mersea with the extra houses.

MOP2- Asked that the council supports the letter going forward. Stated that West Mersea Town Council need to get their objections/point of view over to the planners prior to their consultation. Questioned where the extra houses would go and a need to protect West Mersea from any loss of income from tourists due to unsuitable bathing.

MOP3- Raised concerns over speeding and asked what the council's view was on adopting the 20mph speed limit in certain areas.

MOP4- Mentioned the lack of free activities for children and that many activities are not financially viable. Proposing to run a children's sports/social camp at the Legion and the Glebe. A concrete plan will be brought to the council next month, and financial support will be requested to help support this proposal. Agreed to submit a proposal.

It was agreed unanimously to move items 25/109, 25/110, 25/111 and 25/112 in this order to the start of the meeting.

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

25/109 To agree the Terms of Reference for the Local Plan Working Group members

Following discussion, it was **resolved unanimously** to agree the Terms of Reference for the Local Plan Working Group members.

Proposed: Cllr Akker, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/110 To agree the Local Plan Working Group members

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the Local Plan Working Group to include Cllr Webster, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Baker, Cllr Akker and two members of the public (Graham Farley and David Cooper) plus additional members of the public if required.

Proposed: Cllr [Boylan](#), Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

25/111 To consider the follow up action on the updating of the Local Plan

An update was given: The Local Plan committee has not yet determined what the exact timetable will be, but there will be modifications. It's also important to have an understanding of what other communities are doing and what the current developments are. In the meantime, West Mersea Town Council need to raise the issue of sewage and the situation regarding Anglian Water.

After discussion it was **agreed unanimously** to redraft the environmental letter with the necessary modifications objecting to the local plan allocation of 300 additional homes on West Mersea.

Proposed: Cllr [Akker](#), Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

25/112 To consider a response to the government consultation on National Nuclear Statement EN-7

Following discussion, it was **agreed unanimously** to post on West Mersea Town Council's website and the local paper the response from West Mersea Town Council's to the government consultation on National Nuclear Statement EN-7.

Proposed: Cllr [Akker](#), Seconded: Cllr Baker. All in favour.

25/088 To agree retrospectively to pay the invoice from GML Networking Technologies at a cost of £537.50 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree retrospectively to pay the invoice from GML Networking Technologies at a cost of £537.50 + VAT.

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

25/089 To agree retrospectively to renew the new business energy plan for one year

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree retrospectively to renew the new business energy plan for one year.

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

25/090 To approve minor wording changes to 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11 of the Financial Regulations

It was **resolved unanimously** to defer approving the minor wording changes to 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11 of the Financial Regulations.

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

25/091 To review and update the Standing Orders

It was **resolved unanimously** to defer updating the Standing Orders.

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

25/092 To review and agree the Risk Assessment

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the Risk Assessment with the noted amendments.

Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Powling. All in favour.

25/093 To review the recommendations from the internal auditor's report

After reviewing the recommendations from the internal auditor's report it was **resolved unanimously** that the report would be discussed in detail at the next Finance and Strategy Committee meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

25/094 To agree the quote for 12 additional cuts at the Glebe at a cost of £4,680 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to defer this item to the Community Assets and Facilities Committee to discuss.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

25/095 To agree the quote for the Glebe steel roller shutters at a cost of £532 + VAT

Following discussion, it was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for the Glebe steel roller shutters at a cost of £532.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

25/098 To agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion external lighting works at a cost of £450 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion external lighting works at a cost of £450 + VAT
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour. Abstained: Cllr Webster.

25/096 To agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion replacement shower heads at a cost of £727.86

After a robust discussion it was **resolved unanimously** not to agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion replacement shower heads at a cost of £727.86.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/097 To agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion emergency lighting at a cost of £2,195 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to defer the quote for Glebe Pavilion emergency lighting at a cost of £2,195 + VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/099 To agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion water heater and urinal service at a cost of £315 + VAT.

It was **resolved unanimously** not to agree the quote for Glebe Pavilion water heater and urinal service at a cost of £315 + VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.
Opposed: Cllr Powling and Cllr Boylan.

25/100 To discuss the next steps for a fire alarm system in the Glebe Pavilion (approx. cost £3,500-£4,000)

It was **resolved unanimously** to defer discussing the next steps for a fire alarm system in the Glebe Pavilion (approx. cost £3,500-£4,000)
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

25/101 To agree the quote for chipping the wood pile at a cost of £552 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for chipping the wood pile at a cost of £552 + VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/102 To agree the quote for EICR (Electrical Inspection Condition Report) for the public toilets at a cost of £600 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree to agree the quote for EICR (Electrical Inspection Condition Report) for the public toilets at a cost of £600 + VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/103 To discuss the EICR report for Fairhaven toilets and agree next steps

After discussion it was **resolved unanimously** to accept that the recommendations made by the contractor for C1 and C2 to be completed pending the necessary quotes being discussed and accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/104 To agree the quote for Coast Road toilets at a cost of £405 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for Coast Road toilets at a cost of £405 + VAT.

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

25/105 To agree the quote for Library/High Street toilets at a cost of £1,430 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for Library/High Street toilets at a cost of £1,430 + VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

25/106 To agree the quote for the office water heater at a cost of £250 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for the office water heater at a cost of £250 + VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/107 To agree the quote for all toilets, male incontinence bins at a cost of £1951.60 + VAT

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree the quote for all toilets, male incontinence bins at a cost of £1951.60 + VAT.

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

25/108 To review and agree a Payroll provider.

Following discussion, it was **resolved unanimously** to agree the payroll provider Beaumont Seymour

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

25/113 To agree to instruct the IT provider to facilitate information required for a Freedom of Information request from a member of the public

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree to instruct the IT provider to facilitate information required for a Freedom of Information request from a member of the public up to a maximum of 18 hours combined with the Locum Clerk's services.

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

25/114 To agree to the services of the Locum Town Clerk to collate the information for a Freedom of Information request and provide to a member of the public

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree to the services of the Locum Town Clerk to collate the information for a Freedom of Information request and provide to a member of the public.

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

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC To resolve 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

25/115 To acknowledge Mark Coombs resignation effective from 23rd May 2025

Mark Coomb's resignation was acknowledged and received by all council members.

25/116 To agree to increase the RFOs hours of work by 4 hours a week, if required up to the end the end of June

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree to increase the RFOs hours of work by 4 hours a week, if required and for this to be reviewed at the end of June.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/117 To agree to accept the RFO probation period is completed with no outstanding issues

It was **resolved unanimously** to agree to accept the RFO probation period is completed with no outstanding issues.

Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr. Hinderwell. All in favour.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.