

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ASSETS/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025

In attendance:

Cllr Carl Powling (Chair)	Cllr Dave Boylan	Cllr Nigel Hinderwell
Cllr Bob Jenkins	Cllr Teresa Webster	
Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	3 members of the public	

25/01 Recording of meeting

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

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

25/02 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

All present- no apologies required.

25/03 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.

Cllr Hinderwell declared he was a member of the Tennis Club and Cllr Powling declared he was a Colchester City Councillor.

25/04 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.

MOP 1- Asked why the bathing rafts are locked up and not in use on the beaches. An apology was given for not setting up a Bathing Rafts Working Group sooner and an invitation was extended for two local residents to join the working group.

MOP 2- Stated that £32,000 would be coming from Kingsfield Estate for recreational purposes but questioned that this has not been seen on an agenda. Some S106 money has not been spent by Colchester and has been handed back to the developers. The results of the public session from the Pavillion have not been seen. Questioned the problem with car parking and the cost of the building. Suggested refurbishment of the existing building.

MOP 3- Objected to Colchester City Council taking revenue from West Mersea Town Council and passing any maintenance costs back to West Mersea Town Council. Asked Colchester City Council to pay the costs themselves.

25/05 To confirm minutes of the Community Assets & Facilities Meeting of 20th May 2024

It was noted on record that the names of the Councillors who attended the meeting were missing from the minutes.

It was resolved by the majority to accept the minutes of 20th May 2024.

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

25/06 To receive an update on the Boardwalk

The Council discussed that the grant to release the funds would need to be submitted to facilitate payment of the Boardwalk. Cllr Boylan agreed to make sure that all boards are removed from SSSI land. Daily photos have been submitted cataloguing the construction of the Boardwalk.

25/07 To discuss and agree maintenance of play equipment

Following discussion the Council agreed:

- To provide an audit of all play equipment.
- To identify organisations where West Mersea Town Council can obtain grants.
- All councillors on the committee to look at different grants/options available and reconvene to discuss their findings.

25/08 To discuss and agree general use and maintenance of allotments

Following discussion Cllr Boylan volunteered to be the allotment representative.

It was **agreed unanimously** for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the allotment owners to discuss and finalise the terms of the lease.

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

25/09 To discuss and agree the multi-use building at the Glebe Recreation Ground and next steps

After discussion it was **agreed unanimously** that:

- West Mersea Town Council would consult with the community using the Courier, Life Magazine, West Mersea Town Council website and social media with respect to individuals/groups who might be looking for dedicated space or shared space in a multi-use community building.
 - Request a meeting with MISA within a 4-week timeframe.
 - To agree to allocate up to £2000 to draw/amend plans.
- Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

25/10 To receive an update on current tenant positions at the Glebe Recreation Ground and next steps

This item has been moved to a closed session.

25/11 To discuss and agree next steps for Fairhaven toilets refurbishment

It was noted that previous repairs were not adequate. Moving forward the leak needs to be identified and sealed, with a view to pricing a new pod or a pitched roof using better quality products.

EXCLUSIONS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that due to 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

25/10 To receive an update on current tenant positions at the Glebe Recreation Ground and next steps.

The amendments to the lease are as follows:

- 8.1 The maintenance and replacement of the perimeter fences is the responsibility of West Mersea Town Council and minor repairs up to £500 is the responsibility of West Mersea Tennis Club.
- 8.2 The landlord shall paint and repair the tennis courts not the Tenant.
- To redraw the plan so the boundary is against the building.

- To make a request that Ellisons proofread that the clause numbers are correct.

Following discussion, it was agreed unanimously that subject to amendments the lease is to be sent to the tennis club for their comments/agreements.

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

After discussion regarding the MISA, it was agreed unanimously to spend up £2000 to get the licences drawn up for the Glebe.

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

Meeting closed 10.50am.