

Minutes of the East Mersea Parish Council meeting held at East Mersea Village Hall on Thursday 14th November 2024

Present: Cllrs Jeff Mason (chair), Sandy Salmonese, Margaret Lawford, David Sunnucks, Clerk Sue Pullen, City Cllr Martin Parsons, Andrew St Joseph, Chairman of the Essex Coastal Organisation and 3 members of the public

97.24 Apologies for absence: Cllr Emma Green, City Cllr Robert Davidson, County Cllr Kevin Bentley

98.24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th October 2024, it was agreed by all and accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chairman.

99.24 Declarations of Interest: None

100.24 Public Participation Session: None

101.24 City Cllr Report: Details of the new wheelie bin scheme scheduled to start in 2026 are still being discussed. The Middlewick Ranges is under discussion for the proposed 1,000 new houses in the CCC Local Plan draft but they will have to be built somewhere else if not there. National Planning Policy Framework states a large number of houses to be built in and around Colchester. CCC is challenging the lack of infrastructure which already exists and lack of coastal protection.

Winter Fuel Scam: ECC and CCC do not message by text about being able to help residents with pension credit enabling reinstatement of the winter fuel allowance.

102.24 Seawall: Andrew, chairman of the Essex Coast Organisation, was thanked for his attendance. He gave a comprehensive talk on seawalls in Essex going back to the 1970s and for the future. The preferred option for future maintenance of all seawalls in Essex is shown in the Shoreline Management Plan (available on the internet). The Cudmore Grove seawall is designated as "hold the line" until 2105 but it should be noted that no funding is attached to this. The problem with the Cudmore Grove seawall is erosion of the toe of the wall. It is a very exposed site and winter storms from the north east can cause significant damage very quickly. Once one section is repaired the erosion moves to the next section and so constant monitoring is required. Discussed the possibility of building a counter wall. Andrew St Joseph felt this was premature at present but a possibility in the future. Repair work is constantly needed and the farmers group has carried our work when appropriately funded. ECC is the land owner but the Environment Agency receives finances for difference aspects of the maintenance.

103.24 Village Party: Nothing further to date.

104.24 Cudmore Grove: Parish councillors met with the Country Parks Manager to discuss a CCTV system in a bid to deter vandalism and with the possibility of some funding from the parish council this could help in getting this off the ground. Following a recent incident, we will request consistent closure times on the website etc. and also better signage for getting out when the gate is closed by driving right up to the gate.

105.24 Affordable/Low-Cost Housing: A letter to residents explaining the procedure and a survey to establish needs have been received from RCCE and will be checked over to access if it meets our requirements. A meeting in the village hall will follow to enabling residents to hear all about it before receiving the survey and to meet with RCCE officers.

Signed _____ Thursday 9th January 2025

106.24 Clerk's Salary: Appropriate increase back dated to April was discussed and agreed.

107.24 General Planning including CCC Draft Local Plan: A meeting with the Local Plan team will be attended.

108.24 Caravan Parks: Nothing to report

109.24 Planning Decision:

241045 Proposal: Reuse of existing historic barn to a single dwelling at Northlands Farm, Meeting Lane – **Approve conditional**

110.24 Schedule of payments to be made:

Nov 2024	Salary November	428.54
Nov 2024	SLCC subs	83.12
Nov 2024	Poppy Appeal	150.00
Total		£661.66

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 9th January 2025 in East Mersea Village Hall at 7.30pm

Signed _____ Thursday 9th January 2025