

Minutes of the East Mersea Parish Council meeting held at East Mersea Village Hall on Thursday 9th January 2025

Present: Cllrs Jeff Mason (chair), Sandy Salmonese, Margaret Lawford, David Sunnucks, Emma Green, Clerk Sue Pullen, City Cllrs Martin Parsons, Carl Powling and 7 members of the public

1.25 Apologies for absence: City Cllr Robert Davidson, County Cllr Kevin Bentley

2.25 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2024, it was agreed by all and accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chairman.

3.25 Declarations of Interest: None

4.25 Public Participation Session: The majority present were in attendance to discuss planning application 242556 which took place later in the meeting with the applicant.

5.25 City Cllr Report: CCC Local Plan is moving forward and provisional sites will be revealed in February. Middlewick Ranges is almost certain to be refused for building owing to resident nightingales and so the proposed houses for that site will have to be built somewhere else. The National Planning Policy Framework states that 12,000 houses must be built in and around Colchester over the next 10 years. The infrastructure deficit continues to be a problem which will be lobbied for by the city councillors plus coastal protection.

A Government White Paper proposals are for a complete reorganisation of councils by 2026/27. City and Borough Councils will be abolished and a structure set up which will create three authorities for the whole of East Anglia region. There will be one elected Mayor for the whole of Essex.

6.25 Precept/Grant 2025/26: Following consideration of finances to date and future spend it was agreed by all for this to remain the same as last year.

7.25 Village Party: Progress has been made with regard to the entertainment and costings will be considered.

8.25 Affordable/Low-Cost Housing: Last carried out about 12 years ago this project is to establish if there is any need for affordable houses for the local community. RCCE will deliver all the paperwork, leaflet, explanatory letter and survey, soon and the leaflet will be distributed to all East Mersea residents to inform of the procedure. The February parish council meeting will devote most of the time to the presentation from the RCCE officers and answer any questions raised.

9.25 General Planning including CCC Draft Local Plan: Presentation slides will be requested from the recent online meeting held by the Local Plan Team.

10.24 Caravan Parks: Nothing to report

11.25 Planning Applications and Decisions:

Agricultural Determination 242541 Proposed building at land off Reeves Hall Farm, Meeting Lane

242556 Proposed erection of agricultural workers dwelling, livestock shed and associated infrastructure at land off Meeting Land – the applicant gave a comprehensive presentation for this application expressing his desire to expand back to previous years with livestock numbers and therefore the need for a dwelling. The public raised various questions with regard to smell, traffic etc which were answered. The parish council understands the applicant's reasons for the application and does not

Signed _____ Thursday 13th February 2025

foresee the potential problems highlighted and will send support comments to CCC. **Appeal Ref: 240573** is allowed planning permission granted to replace the existing main roof thatch with natural slates at North Farm Barn, East Road

12.25 Schedule of payments to be made:

Dec 2024	Salary and back pay	967.01
Dec 2024	Grass cutting	125.00
Jan 2025	Salary	488.37
Total		£1,580.38

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 13th February 2025 in East Mersea Village Hall at 7.30pm

Signed _____ Thursday 13th February 2025