

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025

In attendance:

Cllr T Webster (Mayor)	Cllr Akker	Cllr D Baker
Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr R Jenkins	Cllr C Powling
Cllr M Williams	Cllr M Parsons (City Councillor)	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)

Cllr Akker made a short statement on behalf of the Council to show their respect for the people and community of Manchester.

25/288 Apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr D Boylan, Cllr R Davidson, Cllr J Jowers and Cllr S Weaver.

25/289 Declarations of interest

Cllr Powling declared he is a Colchester City Councillor.

25/290 Public participation

MOP1- A proposal was submitted to build one or two padel tennis courts, which could provide an income source for the Council. Potential grant opportunities may be available. A flat piece of tarmacked land is required.

MOP2- Stated that this is the fastest growing sport in the world. Padel tennis appeals to diverse range of people and is easy and quick to pick up. There are different models – you can start with a pop-up court, which you can lease and then you can move on to a more permanent structure.

MOP3- Noted his concerns over the rubbish at the Glebe and for the Council to move the rubbish into a suitable restricted/locked area. Asked for the hedge at Glebe 2 - east side to be cut as it was not cut last year. Stated that one of the conditions on Glebe 2 is to cut the open space. Kingsfield – the footway needs to have double yellow lines to allow the crossing to work.

MOP4- Stated that he agreed with Cllr Powling that 3 quotations needed to be sought for agenda item 25/298 to adhere to council policy. Noted that a previous Council awarded the contract for drawings at the Glebe with no competitive tender and that this was awarded to a business associate of Cllr Powling. Urged Cllr Powling to resign.

25/291 To receive County and City Councillors reports:

Reports received from Cllr Parsons:

- A meeting was called to vote for the leader of the Council to put his preferred option for local government reorganisation to a meeting of all the other 15 Council leaders in Essex.
- Only one proposal was put to councillors - to back a 5 unitary proposal, which got a majority vote.
- For Mersea it may be disadvantageous in terms of local interest.

Report received from Cllr Powling:

- Noted that all updates had already been covered.

25/292 To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 4th September 2025

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of the 4th September with the following amendments: - Cllr Akker and Cllr Weaver were absent as they were attending a CALC meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Hnderwell, Seconded: Cllr Williams. All in favour.

25/293 To agree and approve a list of payments

A list of payments was approved.

25/294 To provide an update from:

- (a) Committees
- (b) Working Groups
- (c) Representatives

An update was received.

25/295 To receive the Town Clerk's report

The following update was received:

- Coast Road urinal pipes – signed off
- Willoughby toilet external painting completed
- Hedge work Glebe 2 and School Field completed
- Firs Road Cemetery driveway has been cut back
- Zip wire at Youth Field has been fixed
- Tree cleared from Feldy permissive footpath
- Changing Places lease- Statutory declaration signed
- Tree survey in progress
- Recordings of meetings to be added to the website

25/296 To consider and agree increasing fees for the following:

- (a) Allotments - w/e/f 01/01/26
- (b) Gate licences - w/e/f 01/01/26
- (c) Cemetery - w/e/f 01/04/26

Following discussion, ***it was resolved unanimously*** to defer increasing the allotment fees until the next Community Assets/Facilities meeting.

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

It was resolved unanimously to increase the single gate licence fee to £36 and the double gate licence fee to £65 per year, for a period of 3 years.

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

Following discussion, ***it was resolved unanimously*** to increase the cemetery fees by 3% as recommended in the proposal.

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

25/297 To discuss and agree car parking charges for 2026

It was resolved unanimously to accept the proposed car parking charges for 2026.

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

- 25/298 To consider and agree appointing a consultant to produce a feasibility report of the Glebe Concept:
Option 1 - £3,750 + VAT
Option 2 - £4,500 + VAT (does not include a consultation)
Option 3 - Not able to provide a quote

Following discussion, **it was resolved unanimously** to appoint a consultant to produce a feasibility report for the Glebe Concept at a cost of £3,750 + VAT (option 1)
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Baker. All in favour.

- 25/299 The decision was made by the Town Clerk using her delegated authority for any items below £500 to agree to pay for 2 people to attend the Colchester Oyster Fair on Friday 24th October at a cost of £140 + VAT per person

The decision was noted. Councillor Akker declared that he would pay the cost of the guest's ticket to reduce the Council's expenses.

- 25/300 To agree to move the waste disposal bins for MISA at the Glebe Pavilion from the rear of the Horticultural Society building to create a secure area within the council compound

It was resolved unanimously to move the waste disposal bins for MISA at the Glebe Pavilion from the rear of the Horticultural Society into the council compound area, to make them secure and so that they can be accessed by a gate. It was agreed that quotations for different options would be obtained.

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

- 25/301 To review and agree the next steps in applying the 20's Plenty's scheme to applicable roads

After reviewing the 20's Plenty scheme **it was resolved unanimously** to wait to hear the outcome of the survey from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

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

- 25/302 To consider and agree whether to terminate the councillor surgery sessions

Following discussion, **it was resolved unanimously** to terminate the councillor surgery sessions and circulate a note through email, local social media and Mersea Life advising that surgeries have been terminated and if a member of the public wishes to speak to a councillor they can do this by either visiting the council offices and requesting an appointment, by email or by phone.

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

- 25/303 To confirm and agree that outstanding liabilities with regard to Feldy View Woodland Cemetery pre-purchased plots between 2001-2017 include the cost of a gravedigger and a grave marker

It was resolved unanimously that outstanding liabilities with regard to Feldy View Woodland Cemetery pre-purchased plots between 2001-2017 include the cost of a gravedigger and a grave marker.

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

- 25/304 To confirm that the Feldy View Woodland Cemetery fees include the provision of a grave marker

It was resolved unanimously that the Feldy View Woodland Cemetery fees include the provision of a grave marker.

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

25/305 To review and agree to permanently increase the RFO's hours from 12 to 15 hours per week

It was resolved unanimously to permanently increase the RFO's hours from 12 to 15 hours per week.

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

25/306 To consider the West Mersea Town Council – Mayoral Procedure and Civic Protocol Policy

A vote of acceptance was taken to continue the meeting past 9pm.

The Mayoral Procedure Policy was reviewed.

Meeting closed at 9.17pm.