

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 JULY 2025

In attendance:

Cllr T Webster (Mayor)	Cllr J Akker	Cllr D Baker
Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr R Jenkins	Cllr S Weaver
Cllr M Williams	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	
Cllr R Davidson (CCC)	Cllr J Jowers (ECC)	Cllr M Parsons (CCC)

25/200 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Boylan and Cllr Powling.

25/201 Declarations of interest

None received.

25/202 Public participation

MOP1- Thanked the Mayor for attending the raft launch and Cllr Akker for his write up in the Courier. Stated that Mersea Island Society had made a generous donation towards the new rafts and he would like to see the council rafts afloat again. The Mayor advised that she would look at the costs and feasibility of launching the rafts next summer.

MOP2- Mentioned that the residents of Mersea have been punished for their opposition to the development at Brierley Paddocks/Sanderling Reach with incessant noise from construction equipment and workers. Noted problems with access to roads, traffic lights, roadworks and deliveries still cutting through Dawes Lane and East Road. The developers have not delivered on a promise of a crossing on East Road and a return to peace and quiet. Called on the Council to hold the developer to account on the above concerns.

25/203 To receive County and City Councillors reports

Cllr Jowers gave an update on the following:

- May be elections next year.
- Suggests looking at Colchester's assets.
- Changes to planning law are coming.
- Concerned that the three lanes planned for the A12 has been cancelled.
- Noted some change of attitude towards the Wick with another application going in.
- Trying to get the white lines repainted at Firs Road.

Cllr Davidson gave an update on the following:

- With regards to the reorganisation of the councils there is a consultation on the Colchester website to promote the 5 unitary option.
- The Wick has a stronger status now. The planners in Colchester have reserved it as an environmental area to protect, but not all parts are reserved.
- Planning- had to make concessions on the ABRO site.
- Colchester council trying to reorganise all the offices.

Cllr Parsons gave an update on the following:

- Had a meeting last month about the Garden Community. The project was approved at the last council meeting and the link road was not on the road announcements.

- Legally binding demands are being put in place without the infrastructure provided to back this up.
- Mentioned that the Colchester area will go into supply deficit, meaning Anglian Water will not have enough water to meet their normally accepted standards of supply for the existing number of customers.
- Proposing a motion at the next Colchester City Council Meeting for the Council to talk to the housing sector.

25/204 To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 5th June 2025

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of the 5th June 2025 with the minor amendments.

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

Amendments: Add a capital letter Thursday in the title heading, MOP4- section should be CCC instead of ECC, 25/191 - remove All in Favour and replace Objected with Against, 25/192 remove the word shoulder from hard shoulder and 25/189- replace for 1 year with per annum.

25/205 To note the review of AGAR Part 3 2023-24 received from the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments.

The AGAR Part 3 2023-24 was noted.

25/206 To agree to appoint three signatories to the National Savings and Investment account

It was resolved unanimously to appoint three signatories to the National Savings and Investment account.

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

25/207 To agree to change the signatories for all bank accounts to the Chairs of the committees

It was resolved unanimously to change the signatories to Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Akker and Cllr Hinderwell for all bank accounts.

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

25/208 To agree and approve:

(a) A list of regular payments

It was resolved unanimously to approve the list of regular payments.

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

(b) A list of payments

It was resolved unanimously to approve the list of payments.

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

25/209 To provide an update from the following committees:

- (a) Community Assets/Facilities
- (b) Environment and Community Services
- (c) Finance and Strategy
- (d) Personnel

An update was received from:

(a) Community Assets/Facilities

It was agreed at the Community Assets/Facilities on the 25th June to pay for the repair cost of three drain covers under the delegated spending powers of less than £1,000 on emergency repairs and to source quotes for a CCTV survey of the drainage system at the Glebe.

(b) Environment and Community Service

- Questions any future development at Bradwell regarding small nuclear reactors, which would impact on Mersea.
- There are some concerns about the way the existing radioactive material is being stored at Bradwell- waiting on a report from the Environmental Agency.
- There may be difficulties ahead with securing the environment of Mersea.

(c) Finance and Strategy

- RFO is still completing AGAR queries from the past 2 years.
- RFO is working on the budget coding.
- The committee will be reviewing Colchester's assets that West Mersea may wish to acquire.
- Research available grants.
- Open new savings accounts.
- Review purchase orders and how we record and monitor them.
- A meeting will be held soon.

(d) Personnel

- No movement from last meeting. A meeting will be held soon.

25/210 To receive the Town Clerk's report

The Town Clerk's report was noted:

- Coast Road path- advice taken from DM Highways over the type of surface to be used for the path and whether planning permission is needed in the conservation area.
- Monday 21st July- two cedar trees in Barfield Cemetery are having branches removed and trimmed to ensure the trees remain safe.
- Ash tree in School Field – permission has been granted by the Tree Preservation Officer at Colchester City Council. After seeing the evidence of the photos, he has issued a 5-day notice for the felling of the tree.
- A new lock for the bin near the Skatepark has been ordered.
- Temporary repairs to two paving slabs at the Glebe Pavillion.
- Rugby basketball drains cleared.
- Toilet bins waiting to be installed- Coast Road installed, others pending.
- Toilet seat at ladies' library toilets repaired and open.
- Toilets – Wallgate servicing booked for 11/7/25.
- Toilets – Library gents door vandalised on 26/6/25. Reported to Police.
- Enover – met with the trustees about applying for potential grants to refurbish existing play parks/ skateparks/ community spaces. Grants can be applied for up to a maximum of £50,000.
- Broomhills Greensward- Met with two of the residents who are happy for WMTC to register the land and maintain it.
- Glebe manhole covers – pending date.
- CCTV servicing in Changing Places scheduled for 17/7/25.
- Security servicing in Rushmere unit scheduled for 23/7/25.
- Office water heater installed on 2/7/25.
- Wallgate isolators installed on 2/7/25.
- Offensive graffiti in West Mersea Park has been removed.
- Shutters at the Glebe Pavillion completed 12/6/25.

- Planting – all areas

25/211 To review and agree the allotment lease

It was resolved unanimously to agree the allotment lease.

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

25/212 The decision was made by the Town Clerk and the Chair of the Assets and Community Facilities Committee under the delegated spending of less than £1,000 on emergency repairs, to pay for the installation of a new gate post in West Mersea Park, School Gardens at a cost of £700 + VAT

The above payment repairs of £700 + VAT for a new gate post in School Gardens was noted by the Council under the delegated spending of less than £1,000 on emergency repairs.

25/213 To agree for Cllr Boylan and Cllr Powling to join the Community Assets and Facilities Committee

It was resolved unanimously to agree for Cllr Boylan and Cllr Powling to join the Community Assets and Facilities Committee.

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

25/214 To request if any Councillors would like to join to the Planning Committee

It was resolved unanimously to agree for Cllr Akker and Cllr Weaver to join the Planning Committee.

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

25/215 To review and agree the following policies and documents:

(a) Data Breach Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Data Breach Policy.

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

(b) Biodiversity Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Biodiversity Policy.

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

(c) Email Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Email Policy with the typing error 1 removed.

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

(d) Information and Data Protection Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Information and Data Protection Policy.

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

(e) Drone Usage Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Drone Usage Policy.

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

(f) Gate Licence Agreement

It was resolved unanimously to defer the Gate Licence Agreement.

Action Point: To circulate the Gate licence Agreement to all councillors.

25/216 To agree to pay for the RFO to attend the online training course Beyond the Precept: Exploring Alternative Income Sources at a cost of £35 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree for the RFO to attend the online training course Beyond the Precept: Exploring Alternative Income Sources at a cost of £35 + VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Akker, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

25/217 To review and agree the Changing Places lease with the minor amendments

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Changing Places lease with the minor amendments.
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

25/218 To agree the quote for the urinal flusher at Fairhaven toilets at a cost of £150 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously agree the quote for the urinal flusher at Fairhaven toilets at a cost of £150 + VAT.
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Williams. All in favour.

25/219 To review the request for information (environmental concerns in West Mersea) which has been sought from Colchester City Council and to consider what action should be taken

The following update was received:

- Seek a report from the working group.
- Get further legal opinion.
- Call another meeting of the working party.

25/220 To agree the request from MIALGA for the Council to provide and pay for a half allotment plot for community use at a cost of £73.50

Following discussion, **it was resolved** unanimously under the General Power of Competence to agree the request from MIALGA for the Council to provide and pay for a half allotment plot for community use at a cost of £73.50. The plot will be used for horticultural purposes and will be reviewed after 12 months.

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

25/221 To propose and agree for the Patient Participation Group (PPG) and North East Essex Diabetes Service (NEEDS) to hold a monthly 2-hour diabetic patient support group session within the Council Chambers, with *no associated cost*.

Following discussion, **it was resolved** by majority to agree for the Patient Participation Group (PPG) and North East Essex Diabetes Service (NEEDS) to hold a monthly 2-hour diabetic patient support group within the Council Chambers, with no associated cost.

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

25/222 To consider and agree obtaining a tree survey for West Mersea Town Council trees, prioritising those posing a health and safety risk

It was resolved unanimously to agree obtaining a tree survey for West Mersea Town Council trees, prioritising those posing a health and safety risk.

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

25/223 To consider and agree a total donation of £200 to The Only Way is Rowing Team from Oarsome Adventure Rowing for their chosen charities: Children's Hearts UK, The Wilderness Foundation and Rewilding Britain

After discussion, ***it was resolved*** unanimously under the General Power of Competence to donate £200 to the Oarsome Adventure Rowing Team for their chosen charities based on 20 miles at £10 per mile.

Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Williams. 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

25/224 To receive an update on an employee's probation

The following update was received:

- The employee was informed that the 6-month probation period has been successfully completed.

25/225 To consider and agree to increase the RFO's hours from 12 to 15 hours per week for the next three months subject to review thereafter

It was resolved agree to increase the RFO's hours from 12 to 15 hours per week for the next three months subject to review thereafter.

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

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.