

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026

In attendance:

Cllr T Webster (Mayor)	Cllr J Akker	Cllr D Baker
Cllr D Boylan	Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr R Jenkins
Cllr C Powling	Cllr Weaver	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)

26/34 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Williams.

26/35 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 Powling declared he was a Colchester City Councillor.

Agenda item 26/48- Cllr Webster declared the received quote was a neighbour, but she would keep an open mind.

Agenda item 26/41 -Cllr Akker declared that he holds an appointment with Essex university.

26/36 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

MOP1- Noted that the tank traps on the Monkey Beach are a potential hazard and need to be removed and that the trees along the Esplanade have been poisoned and removed. Asked the Council to take some action regarding these matters.

MOP2- Noted that the gate at the allotment needs to be repaired.

26/37 To receive County and City Councillors report

Report received from Cllr Parsons: -

- The Local Plan Committee meeting in Colchester will publish a breakdown of how many responses in the Local Plan consultation were to resite, for and against.
- Communities with a single point of access, such as West Mersea, remain significantly vulnerable regarding evacuation in the event of a wildfire. Consequently, further development in such locations should not occur.

26/38 To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 15th January 2026

It was resolved unanimously to confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 15th January 2026 with the minor amendment to 26/10 - Members of public should be amended to no representations from the public.

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

26/39 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 21st January 2026

It was resolved unanimously to confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 21st January 2026.

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

26/40 To agree and approve a list of payments

No list of payments was reviewed.

26/41 To provide an update from:

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

An update was received.

26/42 To receive the Town Clerk's report

- School Gardens metal bench work completed, new seating slats have been installed.
- SSSI maintenance work completed.
- Toilets, High Street disabled alarm installed on 21st January.
- Feldy View Woodland Cemetery hedge cut on 9th February.
- Wellhouse Park gate closing mechanism installed on 9th February.
- Glebe fencing, reflectors added on 10th February.
- Fairhaven toilet roof, pending paperwork and start date (weather permitting).
- Toilets, deep cleaning booked for 2nd/3rd March.
- Meetings scheduled with play park providers to discuss new equipment.
- Beacon post, 2x quotes have been received.
- Health and Safety advisor completed a site visit off all Council owned land.

26/43 To review and agree the following policies and documents: -

- (a) Allotment Tenancy Agreement
- (b) MIALGA Agreement
- (c) Health and Safety Policy

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Allotment Tenancy Agreement with the following amendment- The last person on site should ensure that the gate is secured.

It was resolved unanimously to agree the MIALGA Agreement.

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Health and Safety Policy.

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

26/44 To agree the quotation for the fire risk assessment for the Council Office and Rushmere at a cost of £300

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for the fire risk assessment for the Council Office and Rushmere at a cost of £300.

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

26/45 To agree the quotation for the supply of cleaning products and consumables for the public toilets at a cost of £2,194.80 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for the supply of cleaning products and consumables for the public toilets at a cost of £2,194.80 + VAT

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

26/46 To agree for the Town Clerk to attend an appointed First Aid training course at a cost of £50

It was resolved unanimously to agree for the Town Clerk to attend an appointed First Aid training course at a cost of £50.

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

- 26/47 To agree the quotation to install a new footpath using a compacted gravel finish at Coast Road:
Option A - £9,638.50 + VAT
Option B - Pending
Option C - £20,145.00 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to defer agreeing the quotation to install a new footpath using a compacted gravel finish at Coast Road.

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

- 26/48 To agree the quotation for the external repairs at the Glebe Pavilion at a cost of £1,655 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for the external repairs at the Glebe Pavilion at a cost of £1,655 + VAT.

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

- 26/49 To agree to fell the damaged ash tree at the Glebe at a cost of £800 + VAT in accordance with the high priority recommendation in the tree survey

It was resolved unanimously to defer agreeing to fell the damaged ash tree at the Glebe at a cost of £800 + VAT in accordance with the high priority recommendation in the tree survey

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

- 26/50 To agree the quotation for turfing the graves and Churchyard maintenance at a cost of £2,290 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for turfing the graves and Churchyard maintenance at a cost of £2,290 + VAT

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

- 26/51 To agree the quotation for the maintenance of the park equipment in West Mersea Park which is to include replacement parts for the scramble net and slide and repairing and re-siting the nest swing at a cost of £17,802.04

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for the maintenance of the park equipment in West Mersea Park which is to include replacement parts for the scramble net and slide and repairing and re-siting the nest swing at a cost of £17,802.04.

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

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.