

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 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)

26/59 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Williams and Cllr Davidson.

26/60 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 and was on call as a First Responder.

26/61 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- Raised health and safety concerns about the proximity of the knee-high rail to the basketball court, noted continued rubbish on the Glebe and questioned the need for replacement oak posts at Glebe 2. Requested the hedge on the East side of Glebe 2 to be cut.

MOP2- Asked whether the Council would be launching the bathing rafts this season and if there would be lifebuoy rings provided along the beach.

MOP3- Agenda item 26/77 - noted the purchase of the allotment site and whether it offsets the impact of the housing development. Also noted that the Council is required to comply with its Community Engagement policy, by seeking and using resident feedback to inform decisions.

MOP4- Raised concerns regarding West Mersea Town Council's policy and enforcement of Councillor's declaration of interests, specifically with Freemasonry. Mentioned that Dawes Lane needs to be raised with Highways as it is becoming very dangerous and could lead to potential accidents.

MOP5- Outlined the proposals for the possible locations for the new Mersea Community Repair and Make workshop.

26/62 To receive County and City Councillors report

Report received from Cllr Parsons: -

- Postal votes - if people have had one for three years they need to renew it - deadline 20th April.
- Local Government Reorganisations- The decision on how many unitary councils there will be in Essex will be known within the next fortnight.
- Colchester City Council's precept has been approved.
- Local Plan is still going to consultation.
- Recycling changes this year- Will now be a recycling wheelie bin for everything except glass and a wheelie bin to replace the black bags.

Report received from Cllr Powling: -

- With the wheelie bin roll out there will also be a smaller black bin - Colchester City Council are trying to make the recycling simpler for residents.

26/63 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 25th February 2026

It was resolved unanimously to confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 25th February 2026 with the minor amendment- Council Meeting to be replaced with Extraordinary Council Meeting.

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

26/64 To agree and approve a list of payments

A list of payments was approved.

26/65 To provide an update from:

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

An update was received.

26/66 To receive the Town Clerk's report: -

- Crown Estates update – sticks to be removed from King's Hard this week. The Crown Estate to continue with the current policy of monitoring but to increase the frequency. The situation will be reviewed after the inspection scheduled in August.
- Fairhaven toilet roof work started 12th March.
- Toilets, deep cleaning booked for 16th/17th March.
- Cemetery and Churchyard turfing work completed.
- School Gardens recycled plastic picnic bench will be ordered in the next financial year.
- Allotment gate post has been fixed.
- WMTC joined the National Allotment Society.
- Fire Risk Assessment completed.

26/67 To review and note the Internal Audit Report of 26th January 2026

The Internal Audit Report of 26th January 2026 was reviewed and noted.

26/68 New Local Plan: To agree the key matters WMTC wish to raise with Colchester City Council, agree the suggested wording of a letter to Colchester City Council

The Council agreed unanimously on the key matters WMTC wish to raise with Colchester City Council and the suggested wording of a letter to be sent by the Town Clerk to Colchester City Council.

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

26/69 To approve the quotation for holiday cover for the cleaning of all the Council owned public toilets at a cost of £4,678.80 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to approve the quotation for holiday cover for the cleaning of all the Council owned public toilets at a cost of £4,678.80 + VAT.

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

- 26/70 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 - £8,060.39 + VAT
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 until planning application has been determined.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

- 26/71 To agree the quotation to supply and install 10x oak posts at the Glebe: Option A - £1,710.00 + VAT
Option B - £2,078.94 + VAT
Option C - £2,578.94 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to defer supplying and installing 10x oak posts at the Glebe.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Akker. All in favour.

- 26/72 To agree the quotation for the new beacon post: Option A - £862.00 + VAT
Option B - £1,569.74 + VAT
Option C - £1,820.58 + VAT
Option D - £537.80 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree quotation C for the new oak beacon post, without the smaller posts and to obtain alternative quotes for the four smaller posts.
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

- 26/73 To agree the quote for 5 employees to attend the Basic Health and Safety Awareness Course provided by the Council's Health and Safety Consultant at a total cost of £200

Under Standing Orders 1e an amendment was made to the wording: -
To agree the retrospective quote for 6 employees to attend the Basic Health and Safety Awareness Course provided by the Council's Health and Safety Consultant at a total cost of £250.

It was resolved unanimously to agree the retrospective quote for 6 employees to attend the Basic Health and Safety Awareness Course provided by the Council's Health and Safety Consultant at a total cost of £250. Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

- 26/74 To discuss the request from the Mersea Community Repair and Make charity for the possibility of identifying a site for their premises

The request from the Mersea Community Repair and Make charity for the possibility of identifying a site for their premises was discussed. None of the proposed sites were deemed suitable.

- 26/75 To agree to engage an electrical contractor to inspect the Council's Christmas lighting and submit a quote for any required repair work

It was resolved unanimously to obtain a quote for a tree surgeon to replace the lighting on the Lime tree after which the lights will be plugged in and the cost of replacement strings obtained.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

- 26/76 To agree to liaise with Colchester City Council and Essex County Council with an agreed list of proposed sites to be requested for change of ownership to West Mersea Town Council

It was resolved unanimously to liaise with Colchester City Council and Essex County Council with a list of proposed sites to be requested for change of ownership to West Mersea Town Council.
Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

26/77 To review and agree a suggested list of projects for any possible future planning gain (£106 funds) from the emerging Local Plan

It was resolved unanimously to agree a suggested list of projects for any possible future planning gain (£106 funds) from the emerging Local Plan.

- Phase 2 Glebe community building
- MICA roof or another project
- Community swimming pool
- Padel courts

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

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.