

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 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 S Weaver	Cllr M Williams
Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)		

26/118 Election of Mayor

Current Mayor to open the meeting. Members to vote and elect Town Mayor. Elected Mayor to sign the Declaration of Acceptance and take the Mayor's position.

Cllr Webster was proposed by Cllr Hinderwell and seconded by Cllr Akker.

Cllr Jenkins was proposed by Cllr Powling and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

After a vote, the Council RESOLVED by majority to elect Cllr Jenkins as Mayor.

26/119 Election of Deputy Mayor

To elect a Deputy Mayor. Deputy Mayor to sign the Declaration of Acceptance.

Cllr Webster was proposed by Cllr Akker and seconded Cllr Hinderwell.

Cllr Boylan was proposed by Cllr Powling and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

After a vote, the Council RESOLVED by majority to elect Cllr Webster as Deputy Mayor.

26/120 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken.

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Parsons who expressed that he may be late to the start of the meeting.

26/121 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Powling declared his interest as a Colchester City Councillor.

26/122 Public Participation:

MOP1 - Noted concerns over the lack of policing in Mersea and anyone with local knowledge policing Mersea. Asked for Colchester City Councillors and Essex County Councillors to request more policing in the area.

MOP2 - Stated that the letter submitted to the Courier regarding Village Green South was incorrect. Firstly, the site had long been used as a car park before Village Green South was proposed. Secondly, fishermen had rights to use the area before the Village Green was proposed. Lastly, the map is incorrect and needs to be amended, with a note making clear that it is only indicative of the area.

26/123 To receive County and City Councillors reports.

Cllr Robert Davidson gave an update on the following:

- No decisions can be made whilst the elections are ongoing.
- Colchester has 5 Reform Councillors .
- Thanked everyone for the support he received during the elections.
- Offered support with the Policing issue on the island.

Cllr Carl Powling gave an update on the following:

- Noted that all points had been covered above.

26/124 To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 9th April 2026

Minutes were approved at the Extraordinary Council meeting of 11th May 2026.

26/125 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 14th April 2026

Minutes were approved at the Extraordinary Council meeting of 11th May 2026.

26/126 To receive the Town Clerk's report

- A report was received.

26/127 To receive a Finance update

- A Finance update was received from Cllr Jenkins.

26/128 To approve and agree a list of regular payments

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

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

26/129 To approve the updated Financial Regulations

It was resolved unanimously to approve the updated Financial Regulations with the agreed amendments.

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

26/130 To review and approve the Standing Orders

It was resolved unanimously to approve the Standing Orders.

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

26/131 To review and approve the Fixed Asset Register

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Fixed Asset Register.

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

26/132 Committees

(a) To consider and agree committee members and appoint chairs;

- i. Finance & Strategy: Committee members as per Terms of Reference are the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and elected Chairs to be decided at each Committee meeting.
Cllr Jenkins was elected as Chair. Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.
- ii. Planning & Highways: Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Webster and Cllr Boylan.
Cllr Hinderwell was elected as Chair. Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

(b) To consider and agree committee members

- i. Community Assets/Facilities: Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker, Cllr Boylan, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Powling, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Webster, Cllr Williams.
Chair to be elected at the first committee meeting as per Terms of Reference.
- ii. Environment & Community Services: Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Webster and Cllr Williams.
Chair to be elected at first committee meeting as per Terms of Reference.
- iii. Personnel: Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker, Cllr Boylan, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Webster and Cllr Williams.
Chair to be elected at the first committee meeting as per Terms of Reference.

26/133 Working Groups

To consider and agree working groups, their membership and chairs.
The following members were agreed.

- (a) Bathing Rafts: Cllr Baker, Cllr Boylan and Cllr Williams. Leader to be appointed at the first meeting. All in favour.
- (b) Local Plan: Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Weaver and Cllr Webster. Leader to be appointed at the first meeting. All in favour.
- (c) Youth activities/events: Cllr Baker, Cllr Powling, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Webster and Cllr Williams. Cllr Weaver to be the appointed leader. All in favour.

26/134 Representatives

To consider and agree representatives:
The following representatives were agreed.

- (a) Allotments: Cllr Baker.
- (b) CALC: Cllr Akker, Cllr Baker and Cllr Weaver.
- (c) Car parks: Cllr Powling and Cllr Weaver.
- (d) Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative (ENORI): Cllr Akker.
- (e) Health & Safety: Town Clerk and Cllr Webster.
- (f) MISA representatives on behalf of the Town Council: Cllr Boylan, Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Weaver and Cllr Webster.
- (g) Passenger Transport: Cllr Baker.
- (h) Play parks: Has been disbanded.
- (i) Police & Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Baker and Cllr Webster.
- (j) Bradwell: Cllr Akker and Cllr Weaver.

26/135 Policy reviews

To review and agree policies

- (a) Code of Conduct
- (b) Internal Controls
- (c) Risk Assessment
- (d) Strategic Aims

It was resolved unanimously to approve and agree the Code of Conduct.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Webster. All in favour.

It was resolved unanimously to approve agree the Internal Controls.

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

It was resolved unanimously to approve and agree the Risk Assessment.

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

It was resolved unanimously to approve and agree the Strategic Aims.

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

26/136 Subscriptions

Review and confirmation of the Councils subscriptions.

- (a) Essex Association of Local Councils (which includes NALC affiliation fee)
- (b) Colchester Association of Local Councils
- (c) Society of Local Council Clerks (Clerks membership)
- (d) Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Membership
- (e) Rural Community Council of Essex
- (f) Open Spaces Society
- (g) Nuclear Free Local Authorities – it was noted that this should be Nuclear Free Local Authorities
- (h) National Allotment Society

It was resolved unanimously to agree all the Council's subscriptions and review the usage of the National Allotment Society with regards to its renewal in 2027.

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

26/137 To receive an update on the current position of the Emerging Local Plan and agree any necessary actions

An update was received and a letter regarding the Emerging Local Plan is to be sent to Colchester City Council.

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

26/138 To review and agree the following accounts: -

- Hinckley and Rugby Building Society - Local Council 160 Day Notice Deposit Account at 3.40%
- Saffron Building Society - Instant Access Community Online Saver Account at 3.60%
- Saffron Building Society - One Year Community Bond at 3.70%

It was resolved unanimously to agree all three of the above accounts.

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

26/139 To agree for the Town Clerk to attend the SLCC Essex Branch AGM and Training Day on 17th June 2026 at a cost of £27

It was resolved unanimously to agree for the Town Clerk to attend the SLCC Essex Branch AGM and Training Day on 17th June 2026 at a cost of £27.

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

Meeting closed at 9pm.