

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4th December 2025

In attendance:

Cllr T Webster (Mayor)	Cllr D Baker	Cllr D Boylan
Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr S Weaver	Cllr M Williams
Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)		

25/353 Apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Akker, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Powling, Cllr Parsons and Cllr Davidson.

25/354 Declarations of interest

Cllr Baker- transport and allotment representative.

25/355 Public participation

MOP1- Noted concerns about the rubbish at the Glebe, the posting around the hard standing area being so close to the basketball court and when the east side hedge would be cut at the Glebe. Stated that footpath way markers are up and that the Local Plan is an electronic submission which needs careful thought when completing.

MOP2- Stated the Community Repair and Make now has charitable status. With more people wanting to be involved larger premises are needed. The local resident would like to set up a larger workshop on some land designated as an over overflow car park at the allotment site. It would be a portable building, with no foundations. A positive response has been received from MIALGA, and the permission of the landowner has been sought. The project lead asked the Council for approval to approach Colchester City Council to determine planning permission, if required.

MOP3- Stated concerns for the landholder and the lease holder that approval will allow non-horticultural activity on land designated for horticultural activity only where material change in use and operation would require planning consent. Before going ahead, it would be prudent to make a preliminary enquiry to CCC by letter to find out if the proposal is acceptable to policy.

MOP4- Noted that a poll of the allotment members regarding the Community Repair and Make proposal was extremely positive. Stated a proposal from MIALGA is to expand the hard surface to encompass the current bin location, solving problems caused by vehicles sinking into the grass and creating plenty of parking which would all be funded by MIALGA.

MOP5- Mentioned that after reading the Courier the local Conservatives have completed a U-turn and joined the ranks by opposing over development. Noted that Cllr Powling back in 2019 was enthusiastic about development at Dawes Lane and spoke in favour of the site. The resident is cautious about the objective stated in the Courier.

25/356 To receive County and City Councillors reports:

Report received from Cllr Jowers:

- Mayoral elections have been put back to 2028 in five areas which are under local Government review.
- SEN (Special Educational Needs) is to be funded by central government.
- Flood defence scheme cost two and a half million pounds.

25/357 To confirm minutes of the Council meeting of 4th November 2025

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of 4th November 2025 with the following amendments: - 25/332 should be amended to the next steps were discussed rather than agreed.
Proposed: Cllr Webster, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. Cllr Williams abstained. All in favour.

25/358 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 17th November 2025

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of 17th November 2025.
Proposed: Cllr Baker, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. Cllr Williams abstained. All in favour.

25/359 To agree and approve a list of payments

A list of payments was approved.

25/360 To provide an update from:

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

An update was received.

25/261 To receive the Town Clerk's report

The following update was received:

- Kingsland Road bus shelter has been repaired.
- The beacon will be removed and put in the Council compound for safety. Quote for the repair will be on the next meeting.
- Christmas lights have gone up- On the Lime tree an electrician is looking at the breaker box.
- Posts on the permissive footpath are due to be installed 10th December.
- Town Clerk met with a park provider to look at possible repairs/replacements of new equipment.
- Attended Commons and Village Greens course.
- PAT testing has been completed at the Council offices and Rushmere.
- Oak tree above the bandstand- branches and deadwood have been removed.
- Office boiler serviced.
- Local Plan leaflets to be delivered.

25/262 To consider and approve the Council joining the National Allotment Society, with an annual fee of £35 and an additional cost of £3.50 per affiliate member

It was resolved unanimously for one member to join the National Allotment Society, with an annual fee of £35.
Proposed: Cllr Boylan, Seconded: Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

25/363 To agree to increase allotment fees from January 2026 to bring fees in line with the new ground lease

It was resolved unanimously to increase allotment fees from January 2026 to £139.00 for a full plot, £78.00 for half a plot and £42.50 for a quarter plot for residents and £160.00 for a full plot, £90.00 for a half plot and £49.00 for a quarter plot for non- residents.
Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Baker. All in favour.

25/364 To review and approve the allotment Tenancy Agreement

It was resolved unanimously to approve the allotment Tenancy Agreement with the agreed amendments. Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Williams. All in favour.

25/365 To consider and approve the siting of the Mersea Community Repair & Make container at the allotments

Following discussion, ***it was resolved*** unanimously to defer approving a decision of the siting of the Mersea Community Repair & Make container at the allotments until further information is provided from MIALGA.

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

25/366 To consider and approve the expansion of hard parking area at the allotments

It was resolved unanimously to approve the expansion of hard parking area at the allotments.

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

25/367 To review, agree and formally sign the amended Changing Places facility lease that supersedes and replaces a lease dated 20th November 2025 and made between the Council and the Tenant

The Changing Places lease was formally signed by Cllr Webster and Cllr Hinderwell and witnessed by the Town Clerk.

25/368 To consider and approve the purchase of the Charles Arnold-Baker 14th Edition on Local Council Administration (latest edition) from the SLCC at a cost of £144

It was resolved unanimously to approve the purchase of the Charles Arnold-Baker 14th Edition on Local Council Administration (latest edition) from the SLCC at a cost of £144.

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

25/369 To consider and approve that all Councillors and staff complete the Nimble GDPR training to comply the Assertion 10 on the AGAR at a cost of £17 + VAT per delegate

It was resolved unanimously to approve that all Councillors and staff complete the Nimble GDPR training to comply the Assertion 10 on the AGAR at a cost of £17 + VAT per delegate.

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

25/370 To consider and approve the inclusion of WMTC's Town Hard within Colchester City Council's application for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the waterfront

It was resolved unanimously that West Mersea Town Council accept the inclusion of WMTC's Town Hard within Colchester City Council's application for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the waterfront, with the recommendation that Colchester City Council advise Haven of their plans.

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

25/371 Local Plan: To consider the present position on Schedule 18 consultation and approve for the Mayor, Chair of the Environment and Community Services Committee and one other Councillor to hold a public meeting and to approve a draft statement (prepared in advance from West Mersea Town Council) outlining the Council's concerns relating to the proposals, for consideration and final approval at the end of the public meeting

It was resolved unanimously not to approve the proposals.

Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Williams.

The motion failed with 0 votes in favour and 6 votes against.

25/372 To approve obtaining a quote for the replacement of 10 like for like posts on Wellhouse

It was resolved unanimously to approve obtaining a quote for the replacement of 10 like for like posts on Wellhouse.

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

25/373 To approve obtaining quotations to reupholster the chairs for the Council Chambers table and to French Polish the Council Chambers table

It was resolved unanimously to approve obtaining quotations to reupholster the chairs for the Council Chambers table and to French Polish the Council Chambers table.

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

25/374 To approve the quotations for a deep clean of the public toilets at Coast Road, Willoughby, Fairhaven and the High Street -

Option A- £3,320

Option B- £1,120

Option C- £1,510

It was resolved unanimously to approve Option C at cost of £1,510 for a deep clean of the public toilets at Coast Road, Willoughby, Fairhaven and the High Street, provided there is no change in price.

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

25/375 To agree to obtain a quote for GLC to cover cleaning services at West Mersea toilets an initial period of two weeks, with an option to extend the term if required

It was resolved unanimously to agree to obtain a quote for GLC to cover cleaning services at West Mersea toilets an initial period of two weeks, with an option to extend the term if required.

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

25/376 To agree to pay for West Mersea Town Council's IT provider to collate, and process electronic information relevant to a specific Freedom of Information (FOI)

It was resolved unanimously to pay for West Mersea Town Council's IT provider to collate, and process electronic information relevant to a specific Freedom of Information (FOI)

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

25/377 To consider and approve the quotations for cutting back of brambles and willows on the SSSI (Coastguard Compound to Village Green sign opposite The Square) - 3 options provided

It was resolved unanimously to defer approving the cutting back of brambles and willows on the SSSI (Coastguard Compound to Village Green sign opposite The Square) pending further clarity.

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

25/378 To approve the quotation to grind 14/15 tree stumps in various locations in West Mersea at a cost of £935

It was resolved unanimously to approve the quotation to grind 14/15 tree stumps in various locations in West Mersea at a cost of £935.

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

25/379 To review and approve the draft letter regarding ongoing service delays and bus disruption, which is to be sent to Konnect and First Bus company

It was resolved unanimously for the Town Clerk and another Councillor to review the draft letter regarding ongoing service delays and bus disruption, which is to be sent to Konnect and First Bus company and agree by majority via email the wording of the letter which is to be sent by the Town Clerk.

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

A vote of acceptance was taken to continue the meeting past 2 hours.

25/380 To consider and approve the manual installation of a standard way marker post (at the location marked in red on the map) for the new England Coast path around Mersea Island

It was resolved unanimously to approve the manual installation of a standard way marker post (at the location marked in red on the map) for the new England Coast path around Mersea Island

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

Meeting closed at 9.07pm