

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH JUNE 2026

In attendance:

Cllr R Jenkins (Mayor)	Cllr D Baker	Cllr D Boylan
Cllr N Hinderwell	Cllr C Powling	Cllr S Weaver
Cllr M Williams	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	

26/140 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received from Cllr Akker, Cllr Webster and City Cllr Parsons.

26/141 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 Colchester City Councillor and that he had previously lodged an objection as a CCC to item 26/156. Consequently, he would abstain from both discussing and voting on this matter.

26/142 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 when correspondence is received from the council, the reply being issued directs them to Colchester City Council, which is not serving the community and that renting out Village Green 241 is unlawful. The office was asked to ensure that the village green is used for the benefit and betterment of all.

MOP2- Raised concerns regarding agenda item 26/154, which seeks approval for the project. Noted that the number of changing rooms has been reduced and questioned whether renovating the existing building would be more cost-effective than constructing a new one.

MOP3- A member of the public stated that agenda item 154 and 155 suggests that the council is agreeing to actions before carrying out the required public consultation. Noted that all documents related to agenda items should be made available to the public, as the lack of access makes it difficult to provide meaningful comments.

MOP4- The owner of Garden Cottage raised concerns about ongoing vandalism on the island and noted that they had not received any communication from the Town Council regarding the repeated incidents. They stated that the police are now engaging with the anti-social behaviour occurring on the island and questioned why these issues have not been highlighted by the Town Council.

MOP5- Welcomed Bob Jenkins as the new Chair, expressed his gratitude to Cllr Webster in her role as Mayor and asked Bob to uphold all improvements. Noted item 26/156: - urged the councillors to object this application and it has no part in the neighbourhood plan.

26/143 To receive County and City Councillors report

Report received from County Cllr Christopher Perera: -

- Declared an emergency around paths.
- Now have 12 teams to deal with potholes.

- Stopped the cost of preservation fees for libraries going ahead.
- Been elected to go on a committee as Chair for the health and wellbeing - matter for concern is the lack of GP's currently in West Mersea.

Report received from Cllr Powling: -

- An administration has now formed in Colchester which is a Conservative/Liberal Democrats coalition.
- Gave an update on the new waste and recycling system and outlined the changes residents will see as the roll out continues.
- Welcomed the new Essex County Councillor.

Under Standing Order 1e, a motion was passed to change the wording of item 26/154. All in favour.

To consider the feasibility study for the Glebe project and subject to public presentation agree in principle to the proposed replacement sports pavilion/community building and preferred site location.

26/144 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 11th May 2026

The minutes were approved at the Annual Council meeting of 14th May 2026.

26/145 To confirm minutes of the Annual Council meeting of 14th May 2026

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 14th May 2026 with the minor amendments.

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

26/146 To agree and approve a list of payments

A list of payments was approved.

26/147 To provide an update from:

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

An update was received.

26/148 To receive the Town Clerk's report

- Preparations completed for the final audit, which took place on 1st June.
- Actions from the previous meetings are in progress.
- Installation of the new play park equipment is scheduled for July.
- Skate Park repairs are pending; awaiting delivery of the remaining parts needed to complete the work.

26/149 To note the Final Internal Audit Report 2025/26 and to consider recommendations

The Final Internal Audit Report 2025/26 was noted. The Chair thanked the auditor for the detailed report.

26/150 Financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

- i. To consider and approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
- ii. To consider and approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
- iii. To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed by the Chairman

It was resolved unanimously to accept Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Powling. All in favour.

It was resolved unanimously to accept Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Powling. All in favour.

The accounting statements were signed at the meeting by the Chair.

- 26/151 To approve the Council meeting dates for 2027 with the remaining dates to be agreed at the Annual 2027 May meeting: -
14th January
11th February
11th March
15th April - Town Meeting
13th May - Annual Meeting

It was resolved unanimously to approve the Council meeting dates for 2027 with the remaining dates to be agreed at the Annual 2027 May meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Powling. All in favour.

- 26/152 To review and agree the updated Rules and Regulations for Feldy View Woodland Cemetery

It was resolved unanimously to agree the updated Rules and Regulations for Feldy View Woodland Cemetery with the agreed minor amendments.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

- 26/153 To review the draft risk assessment and associated risk management proposals from the Glebe Feasibility Report

The draft risk assessment and associated risk management proposals from the Glebe Feasibility Report was reviewed with some minor amendments.

- 26/154 To approve proceeding with the Glebe project (replacement of the existing Glebe Pavilion) based on the feasibility study and agree the site location

Under Standing Order 1g, a motion was passed to change the wording of item 26/154: -

To consider the feasibility study for the Glebe project and subject to public presentation agree in principle to the proposed replacement sports pavilion/community building and preferred site location.

It was resolved unanimously subject to public presentation to agree in principle to the proposed replacement sports pavilion/community building and preferred site location. Site location to be agreed at a later stage.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

- 26/155 To approve to hold a public consultation on the proposed Glebe project (replacement of the existing Glebe Pavilion) including the presentation format and consultation

It was resolved unanimously to approve holding a public consultation on the proposed Glebe project. The date, level of publicity, and format of the presentation will be determined at a later time.
Proposed: Cllr Powling, Seconded: Cllr Weaver. All in favour.

26/156 To discuss and agree a response to planning application 260566 - [Plan link 260566](#)
Outline application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 52 new dwellings - Land at, 102 East Road, West Mersea.

It was resolved unanimously to object to planning application 260566.

WMTC objects on the following material planning grounds.

This application is not plan lead. The site is not allocated in the adopted Colchester Local Plan nor a preferred option in the draft new Local Plan. There are no substantial changes from the previous application 201467 which was refused and a subsequent appeal dismissed. Conflicts with adopted housing strategy for West Mersea contrary to WMNP WM2, Local Plan SG2, SS12a.

The proposed site is situated in open countryside outside the adopted settlement boundary of West Mersea conflicting with WMNP WM1, Local Plan ENV1, OV2, SG1, SG2, SP3,

The proposed development would be visually intrusive and adversely affect the rural landscape outside the settlement boundary. This conflicts with WMNP WM21, Local Plan ENV1.

The density of the proposed development, at 30 dph, is not in accordance with the surrounding area which has a density of 20dph, this would cause harm to the character and appearance of the rural setting and introduce hard edge to the settlement boundary, contrary to DM 15, Local Plan DP1, SG1.

The proposed development is within the Coastal Protection Belt. It would be detrimental to conserving nearby heritage assets and landscape character, contrary to Local Plan ENV2.

The proposed access raises significant highway safety concerns. East Road is a busy road with restricted width in this area. Residents frequently park cars on road in the vicinity and there are often vehicles parked due to overflow from the Fox car park.

The proposal does not demonstrate control over the required visibility splays of 2.4m x 43m at the access point, contrary to Local Plan DM21, WMNP12.

The application incorrectly states that there are half hourly bus services. The routes currently serving the nearby bus stop are hourly with regular longer intervals due to high tides covering the only access road to Mersea Island.

Additionally, there are serious environmental concerns regarding the wastewater treatment capacity of the West Mersea Water Recycling Centre (WRC) which serves all Mersea Island. The WRC discharges into the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Meeting ended 8.25pm.