

**WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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)		

26/78 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

No apologies received.

26/79 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 a first responder on duty.

Cllr Weaver noted she was a member of Freedom Boats- item 26/87.

26/80 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- Freedom Boats asked the Council for consideration for funding to deliver a number of sailings for the elderly.

MOP2- A local resident asked the Council to consider a summer skateboarding event at the skate park in West Mersea Park.

MOP3- Mersea Community Repair and Make are seeking new premises to sustain its growth. Both MIALGA and the relevant landowners have expressed their approval in principle for the installation of a workshop within the allotment overflow carpark. The group hopes West Mersea Town Council will support the planning application submission.

MOP4- Discussed a beach leaflet, location of beach buoys in West Mersea and dangers of the tank traps. Stated that health and safety should be a top priority for the council.

26/81 To receive County and City Councillors report

Report received from Cllr Jowers: -

- Announced his retirement after 41 years.
- Detailed a previous request concerning a broken road which has now been marked.
- There will be 5 unitaries.

Report received from Cllr Davidson: -

- Provided an update on the bins. All houses have been assessed for their suitability. The bins are to arrive between June and March next year.
- Some amendments have been made to the Local Plan, and it will go out to another consultation.
- Local Plan should be approved by spring 2027.

Report received from Cllr Parsons: -

- There will be a change in planning law- the Local Plan should take account of wildfires.

Report received from Cllr Powling: -

- Gave his thanks to Cllr Jowers.

26/82 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 12th March 2026

**It was resolved** unanimously to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 12th March 2026 with the minor amendment- Extraordinary Council meeting to be changed to Council meeting.

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

26/83 To agree and approve a list of payments

There were no payments to be approved.

26/84 To provide an update from:

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

An update was received.

26/85 To receive the Town Clerk's report

An update was received.

26/86 To review the following policies and documents:

- (a) General Data Protection Regulation General Privacy Notice
- (b) Information and Data protection Policy
- (c) Risk Assessment

**It was resolved** unanimously to defer this item.

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

26/87 To consider and agree a grant application for £3,500.00 submitted by Freedom Boats

Council came out of closed session at 7.40pm and re-entered at 7.43pm.

**It was resolved** unanimously to agree a grant application for £3,500.00 submitted by Freedom Boats.

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

26/88 To support in principle Mersea Community Repair and Make project subject to planning permission being obtained and drawings being presented

WMTC support in principle Mersea Community Repair and Make project subject to planning permission being obtained and drawings being presented.

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

26/89 To consider and agree to obtain a quote for the secure disposal of documents to comply with the AGAR Assertion 10 and UK GDPR Compliance

**It was resolved** unanimously agree to obtain a quote for the secure disposal of documents to comply with the AGAR Assertion 10 and UK GDPR Compliance

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

26/90 To agree to obtain a quote for four posts to surround the new beacon post

Council came out of closed session at 8.02pm and re-entered at 8.04pm.

***It was resolved*** unanimously to obtain a quote for composite, steel and oak posts for four posts to surround the new beacon post

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

26/91 To receive an update on the current position of the Emerging Local Plan and agree any necessary actions

An update was received.

26/92 To discuss and agree to obtain quotes for the work involved in launching the bathing rafts

***It was resolved*** unanimously to obtain quotes for the work involved in launching the bathing rafts.

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

26/93 To agree for all councillors to attend the 'HR for Councillors' training course provided by Council Wise, at a cost of £60.00 + VAT

***It was resolved*** unanimously to agree for Cllr Hinderwell, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Boylan, Cllr Powling, Cllr Williams and Cllr Webster to attend the 'HR for Councillors' training course provided by Council Wise, at a cost of £60.00 + VAT for each attendee.

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

26/94 To consider and agree a recommendation by the Planning and Highways Committee for a response to the following application: -

**260508**

Application to modify a Section 106 planning obligation. Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Section 106 A Town and Country Planning (modification and discharge of planning obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) 200351 – vary the affordable housing provisions at Schedule 1 of the Section 106 Agreement to provide for "First Homes". Land at, Dawes Lane, West Mersea - Plan link: [www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260508](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260508)

***It was resolved*** unanimously to submit the following response to Planning and Highways Committee:  
- For the initial 12-week marketing period, priority shall be given to Eligible Persons with a Local Connection to West Mersea. If no suitable purchaser is secured within this period, eligibility shall widen to include Eligible Persons with a Local Connection to the wider City of Colchester.

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