

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2026

In attendance:

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

26/157 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received from City Councillor Robert Davidson.

26/158 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.

26/159 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- Thanked the Town Clerk for her submission on behalf of the Council to the Courier in response to the advertisement feature from a developer on East Road. Noted that the developer is robbing Mersea of its open spaces and nature. Urged West Mersea Town Council to get behind the Neighbourhood Plan, City Councillors to protect West Mersea and the County Council to start acting competently.

MOP2- Noted objections from Anglian Water does not stop a developer from getting permission. Questioned agenda item 36/177 and why the Council were agreeing to go ahead with the build and then are going out to consultation. Noted that the horticultural society have not had any response on where the building will be relocated to and that the area outside the library needs the weeds removing.

26/160 To receive County and City Councillors report

Report received from County Cllr Chris Perera: -

- Noted that until the infrastructure is sorted further development should not be occurring anywhere on Mersea.
- Focus is on fixing any potholes.

Report received from City Cllr Carl Powling: -

- Waste collection-brown bins were not collected. There is no option for a refund as this is in the terms and conditions.
- Noted that he had been appointed Chair of Environment and Sustainability panel– keen to promote water resilience and quality.
- City Cllr Parsons is the new Chair of the Local Plan
- Reiterated that Anglian water does not have the necessary infrastructure.

26/161 To confirm minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting of 4th June 2026

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of 4th June 2026 with the minor amendment- Extraordinary Council meeting to be changed to Council meeting.
Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. Cllr Webster abstained. All in favour.

26/162 To agree and approve a list of payments

A list of payments was approved.

26/163 To provide an update from:

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

An update was provided.

26/164 To receive the Town Clerk's report

An update was provided.

- Update from the Colchester Clerk's Forum- Community Safety Team presentation, Colchester Neighbourhood Watch Crime report, funding opportunities, Nolan principles and Warm Welcome Spaces were discussed.
- Update from SLCC conference – changes with employment law, data protection training and Martyn's Law were some of the topics on the agenda.
- Beacon installed 16th June (MCRM supplied Oak surround posts, Groundsmen to install).
- Glebe paving slabs; replacement of broken or damaged slabs completed 18th June.
- Chamber tabletop refurbishment w/c 6th July.
- Tree work in West Mersea Park w/c 13th July.
- West Mersea Park play equipment installation 27th July.
- Skatepark waiting for the contractor to finish the works- been mitigating issues which have prevented this.
- New groundsman stated on the 1st July.

26/165 To review and agree the following documents with amendments shown in red: -

- (a) Allotment Tenancy Agreement
- (b) MIALGA Agreement

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Allotment Tenancy Agreement and the MIALGA agreement with the minor amendment-date to be changed to 26th May 2026 on the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

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

26/166 To review and agree the following Terms of Reference with amendments shown in red: -

- (a) Local Plan Working Group
- (b) Personnel Committee
- (c) Youth Activities/Events Working Group

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Local Plan Working Group Terms of Reference.

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

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Personnel Committee Terms of Reference.

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

It was resolved unanimously to defer agreeing the Youth Activities/Events Working Group Terms of Reference.

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

- 26/167 To review and note the insurance premium for Year 2 of the three-year agreement, at a cost of £7,952.66

The insurance premium for Year 2 of the three-year agreement, at a cost of £7,952.66 was noted.

- 26/168 To consider and agree the quotation for installing emergency alarms in Willoughby disabled toilets at a cost of £720 + VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for installing emergency alarms in Willoughby disabled toilets at a cost of £720 + VAT.

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

- 26/169 To consider and agree the quotation for installing hand dryers in Willoughby disabled toilets (quotation pending)

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for installing hand dryers in Willoughby disabled toilets at a cost of £995 + VAT.

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

- 26/170 To consider and agree the quotation for remedial works to a tree in Reymead Wood at a cost of £400 +VAT

It was resolved unanimously to agree the quotation for remedial works to a tree in Reymead Wood at a cost of £400 +VAT.

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

- 26/171 To note that the RFO, in conjunction with the Town Clerk approved the Utility Aid pricing recommendations due to the 24-hour rolling pricing programme

It was noted that the RFO, in conjunction with the Town Clerk approved the Utility Aid pricing recommendations due to the 24-hour rolling pricing programme.

- 26/172 To consider the business case for replacing the card payment terminal and agree a quotation:

Option A - £212.00

Option B - £439.00

It was resolved unanimously to agree option A at a cost of £212 for the card payment terminal.

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

- 26/173 To consider and agree the budget for the Skate Jam event at West Mersea skate park on Monday 24th August and to review and agree any further recommendations put forward by the working group

It was resolved unanimously to agree the budget for the Skate Jam event at West Mersea skate park on Monday 24th August.

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

26/174 To receive an update and agree the revised quotation to install a new footpath using a compacted gravel finish at Coast Road (quotation pending)

It was resolved unanimously to defer agreeing the revised quotation to install a new footpath using a compacted gravel finish at Coast Road.

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

26/175 To consider and agree the donation request submitted by West Mersea Beach Club

It was resolved unanimously to agree to a £150 grant donation subject to a grant donation form being completed by West Mersea Beach Club.

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

26/176 To agree a donation to Mersea Community Repair and Make (MCRM) for the oak bollards to surround the beacon post

It was resolved unanimously to agree a donation of £150 which is to include two new posts to Mersea Community Repair and Make (MCRM) for the oak bollards surrounding the beacon post.

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

26/177 To receive an update on plans for a public consultation regarding the proposed Glebe project (replacement of the existing Glebe Pavilion), including presentation format and consultation approach, and to agree any next steps

An update was received and **it was resolved** unanimously to: -

- display a banner at the Glebe Pavilion to advertise the Glebe consultation evening.
- advertise the event through local social media, press and WMTC website .
- post a half page in the Courier.
- Print A5 leaflets which are to be delivered to local residents.

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

26/178 To agree for the Town Clerk to request a meeting with the local Essex County Councillor to discuss the Local Plan

It was resolved unanimously for the Town Clerk to request a meeting with the local Essex County Councillor to discuss the Local Plan.

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

Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

26/179 To receive an update on the current position regarding the tennis lease and agree any necessary actions

An update was received and noted.

Meeting ended at 8:44pm.