WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 JULY 2026

In attendance:

Cllr Jenkins (Chairman)	Cllr Akker	Cllr Boylan
Cllr Hinderwell	Cllr Webster	
Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)	Paula Mendham (RFO)	

26/44 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Webster.

26/45 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.

None declared.

26/46 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- Notes that Victoria Esplanade is owned and maintained by the City Council rather than WMTC, yet parking fees there exceed those of comparable seafront car parks and function as a "tourist tax." The submission raises concerns about inequitable season ticket pricing, low resident uptake, and the absence of ring-fenced City Council revenue, noting also that WMTC receives no income from beach hut rents. The resident recommends revisiting the Parking Working Group report, extending restrictions to protect residential streets, reimbursing WMTC for seafront toilet costs, adding yellow lines to improve safety, and exploring a one-way system to increase parking for residents and traders.

Cllr Hinderwell proposed that agenda item 26/62 be moved in the public session under agenda item 26/60.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Akker. All in favour.

26/47 To review and agree the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Strategy Committee

It was resolved unanimously to agree the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Strategy Committee.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Akker. All in favour.

26/48 To confirm minutes of the Finance & Strategy Committee meeting of 14th April 2026

It was resolved unanimously to accept the Finance & Strategy Committee minutes of 14th April 2026.
Proposed: Cllr Akker, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. Cllr Boylan abstained. All in favour.

26/49 To review and agree the revised Strategic Aims document (Version 6)

It was resolved unanimously to agree the revised Strategic Aims document (Version 6) with the agreed amendments.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Akker. All in favour.

26/50 To review and agree actions from the internal auditor's report, specifically:

- Bank reconciliations to be signed and checked by a Councillor who is not the Chair or bank signatory

It was resolved unanimously that bank reconciliations are to be signed and checked by a Councillor who is not the Chair or bank signatory.
Proposed: Cllr Akker, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

26/51 To review the following reports provided by the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer: -

a. Task tracker
b. Aged debtors
c. Aged creditors
d. Current status of bank accounts including balances and interest rates
e. Budget comparison report – (to 21st July 2026)
f. Current position with 2023/24 AGAR

All reports were reviewed and noted.

26/52 To review and agree the proposal to increase the mileage allowance from 45p to 55p per mile, effective 1st April 2026, in line with HMRC recommendations

It was resolved unanimously to agree the proposal to increase the mileage allowance from 45p to 55p per mile, effective 1st April 2026, in line with HMRC recommendations.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Boylan. All in favour.

26/53 To consider and approve an increase in the annual charge payable by the Boat Users Association for electricity drawn from the Coast Road toilets, currently set at £100

It was resolved unanimously to increase the annual charge payable by the Boat Users Association for electricity drawn from the Coast Road toilets to £144.
Proposed: Cllr Hinderwell, Seconded: Cllr Akker. All in favour.

26/54 To review gas and electricity usage and agree any necessary actions

It was resolved unanimously for: -

- Cllr Boylan to investigate the gas and electricity usage at Rushmere.
- RFO to analyse quarterly bills to see if there are any discrepancies.
- Investigate usage time with a smart meter if possible.

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

26/55 To review latest Everflow water usage reports and recommend any actions if required

It was resolved unanimously for the Responsible Finance Officer to analyse the monthly meter readings and to continue to monitor the situation.
Proposed: Cllr Boylan, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

26/56 To review the budgeted expenditure due for completion by 31st March 2027 where work has not yet commenced

The budgeted expenditure was reviewed when the task tasker was evaluated under agenda item 26/51a.

26/57 To review S106 outstanding matters, including: -

a. Current position on the promised contribution to play park additions
b. Apparent outstanding payments for Glebe 2
c. Update on projects submitted to Colchester City Council

All S106 outstanding matters were reviewed and noted.

26/58 To assess the viability of a Public Work Loan Board (PWLB) loan

The viability was assessed, which depends upon the length of time for the loan, fluctuating interest rates, the amount taken and the length of time it is spread over.

26/59 To review funding arrangements for the Glebe 2, including the sequence of applications for funding, time scales, cash flow (income v expenditure), phased payments relating to: -

a. Release of S106 funds Brierley and Dawes
b. Football Association (FA) funding
c. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
d. Other sources of income
e. Planned expenditure

The funding arrangements for Glebe2 were reviewed and noted.

26/60 To review and agree the current IT support agreement: -
Option A – 12-month agreement at £280.80 per month
Option B – 36-month agreement at £314.40 per month

It was resolved unanimously to agree option A at a cost of £280.80 per month for the current IT support agreement.
Proposed: Cllr Boylan, Seconded: Cllr Hinderwell. All in favour.

26/62 To discuss parking proposals: -

a. 2027/28 parking fees
b. Changes to yellow lines affecting the Esplanade
c. Parking around Barfield Road

All parking proposals were reviewed and discussed.

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.

26/61 To receive an update on the tennis lease and agree any necessary actions

It was resolved unanimously for the Town Clerk to send the tennis lease with the agreed amendments made in green to the solicitor and for a clean final version to be sent to the tennis club. All in favour.

Meeting closed at 4.40pm.