

WEST MERSEA TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026

In attendance:

Cllr John Akker (Chair)	Cllr David Baker	Cllr Nigel Hinderwell
Cllr Sophie Weaver	Cllr Maxine Williams	Kirsty Wadsworth (Town Clerk)

26/01 To receive apologies for absence and a vote of acceptance to be taken

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Webster.

26/02 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 Akker made a declaration under 26/09 that he holds an appointment at Essex University.

26/03 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- Outlined a legal issue relating to Village Green 241 South. The lease between the City Council and the fisherman needs to be taken into consideration before any signage is erected as it may not be lawful.

26/04 To confirm minutes of the Environment & Community Services Committee meeting of 17th October 2025

It was resolved unanimously to accept the minutes of 17th October 2025.

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

26/05 New Local Plan

(a) To note the formation of the Working Group that has reported directly to Council and consider matters relating to the submission of comments by WMTC further to Regulation 18

(b) To consider further actions and any updates on infrastructure issues

It was noted:

- Documentation is to be circulated.
- To identify the pertinent issues the Council would like to discuss with Colchester City Council.
- To write to Colchester City Council detailing the issues and invite them to a meeting to discuss the points raised.

26/06 Red Squirrels and Tree Work

To consider discussions with Essex County Council regarding tree work during the breeding season and agree any necessary actions

It was noted that an email had been received from the Assistant Arboricultural Consultant stating that as result of a review the decision had been made to postpone all planned works in Fairhaven, Seaview and Empress Avenues until November 2026. Contact would be made in the early autumn to organise the necessary inspections from ecologists and the volunteers to ensure all is in place to allow the works to progress in November.

26/07 Future Tree Work: Discuss if there is a need for West Mersea Town Council to produce a policy or a documented procedure for tree work

It was resolved unanimously to produce an internal document which would outline West Mersea Town Council's procedure regarding tree works.

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

26/08 Bradwell-Developments regarding future use of the decommissioned site

- (a) To note that the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has produced a consultative document about future nuclear industry regulation and the steps proposed have been questioned
- (b) To note measures by the Govt. to consider the development of SMR's (available on the web)

It was noted that: -

- To circulate the DOCUMENT ONR Strategy Consultation, January 2026- BANNG paper 64 to the Committee.
- Small nuclear reactors are important parts of the policy- Bradwell may be considered as a possibility.

26/09 Essex University work on local sea defences

To note activity being undertaken (document to follow)

It was noted that: -

- Alternatives to permanent sea defences are being looked at such as nature-based solutions for coastal defences.
- EU are funding projects to ensure the natural world.

Meeting closed at 11.15am.