



Minutes of the Meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at Messing Village Hall commencing 7.30pm

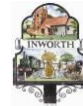
PRESENT

<b>Chairman</b>	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
<b>Councillors</b>	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor J Longman	No
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	2 VACANT SEATS	

**IN ATTENDANCE** Two members of the public

- 1 180/23 **APOLOGIES** were received from the Parish Clerk and **NOTED**
- 2 181/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Councillor A Harding declared an interest in the Friends of Messing Church grant funding application.
- 3 182/23 **MINUTES**
  - a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of Council meetings held on 20 July and 19 September 2023 as an accurate record, agreed by all.
  - b) Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 14 August - **DEFERRED**
- 4 183/23 **MATTERS ARISING:** Nil
- 5 184/23 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
  - a) Report **RECEIVED** from County Councillor K Bentley and **NOTED** - Locality grant is open for applications, consider response to 2 current ECC consultations, County Councillor Bentley is temporarily standing in for County Councillor J Bowers. Details of potholes requiring attention to be sent to County Cllr Bentley.
  - b) To receive public comments relating to the Agenda or matters for future consideration - it was **NOTED** that the gate code has not been provided to new allotment tenants.
- 6 185/23 **CLERK'S REPORT** (previously circulated) was received and **NOTED**
- 7 186/23 **FINANCE**
  - a) External audit report was received and **NOTED** - action to address areas of improvement required. June banking mandate request rejected by Barclays after attempts to refer to Council - a further mandate request has been raised. Copford with Easthorpe PC have accounting anomalies relating to locum clerk services provided to MCI PC - liability has not been ascertained.
  - b) Bank account balances to 30 September 2023 were received and **NOTED**.
  - c) Account receipts were received and **NOTED**.
  - d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve payments presented, proposed by Councillor R Strudwick, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Hughes and agreed:

EE Limited	Mobile phone	6.24
P Sunberg	Bus Shelter Roof	300.00
J Stobart	Internal Audit	250.00
Staff	Salary (Jul)	956.72
Staff	Salary (Aug)	746.08
Staff	Salary (Sept)	787.19
RCCE	Membership fees	72.60
Gallagher	Insurance	636.13
- 8 187/23 **PLANNING** - Councillor Mrs Hughes has discussed the situation of the caravan at Elms Farm bungalow with City Council - automatic development rights appear remote.
- 9 188/23 **BUSINESS ACTION LIST** - Financial reports and Returns complete and signed off by the external auditor. A number of remedial matters arising have been added to the action list. Quotations required to lower manholes on the footpath from Messing village green to the church.
- 10 189/23 **GOVERNANCE** - it was agreed to accept amended Standing Orders (previously circulated), to include next review date. Financial Regulations to be reviewed.



- 11** 190/23 **CO-OPTION** - Council has 2 vacancies, co-option policy to be reviewed.
- 12** 191/23 **NEW GOV.UK DOMAIN AND EMAIL - DEFERRED**
- 13** 192/23 **ORCHARD**
- a) Terms of Reference to be reviewed.
  - b) S106 funding £4,110 has been approved.
  - c) Clerk to update on grass-cutting quote.
  - d) Councillor A Harding provided an update on Santa in the Orchard event.
  - e) Pruning course will take place on 13 January 2024, places still available.
- 14** 193/23 **ALLOTMENTS**
- a) Vacant plots and advertising
  - b) Clerk to update on rent receipts and liability insurance
  - c) Quotation required to tidy area adjacent to school fence
- 15** 194/23 **20'S PLENTY** - to be considered in light of the national situation, purchase of banners on hold pending project review.
- Cllr Harding recused himself from the following item*
- 16** 195/23 **GRANT FUNDING** - it was **RESOLVED** to approve £125 grant request from Friends of Messing Church for Christmas Tree event, on proposal of Cllr Strudwick, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes and agreed.
- 17** 196/23 **PARISH SERVICES** - Cllr Suckling has approached County Cllr Bentley regarding ECC Bus Improvement Plan - to review potential benefit to the Parish. No progress with Essex mobile library service.
- 18** 197/23 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**
- a) Removal of dead tree on Village Green planned 19 December.
  - b) Awaiting quotation for repair to porthole on the climbing frame - to follow up.
  - c) To obtain quotes for work to sink manholes on footpath.
- 19** 198/23 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** - Orchard fundraising, potential PC Christmas Tree display in the church
- 20** 199/23 **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** - Tuesday 11 November 2023 commencing 7.30pm