



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 14 January 2025, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chairman	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	No
	2 VACANT SEATS	
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk	

- 1 01/25 **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs C Baxter
- 2 02/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: NIL
 - b) **NOTE** decisions of requests for dispensation relating to the agenda: NIL
Clerk to check if 2b needs to be on the agenda each month.
- 3 03/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Email update received from County Councillor Bentley which the clerk had forwarded to all.
 - b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: NIL
- 4 04/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 December 2024 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Mrs Irons, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 5 05/25 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Parish magazine to be added to list and audit actions to be incorporated.
 - b) Parish Council timetable **RECEIVED**. Defib pad expiry date added and items beyond 2025 to be included at end.
 - c) Updated policy review plan **RECEIVED** and discussed.
 - d) Draft orchard group terms of reference **RECEIVED** and considered. Clerk to finalise to be approved at February meeting.
 - e) Transition to new website. Clerk to circulate dates to set up a meeting to discuss.
- 6 06/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:
No new applications or decisions received.
- 7 07/25 **PARISH MATTERS**
 - a) Inworth: Solar Park payments update – same 2 addresses still to be paid, clerk to write to these two to confirm parish council involvement has finished.
 - b) RCCE housing needs survey – report to be ready for February meeting.
 - c) Peacocks in village – no further contact.
 - d) Play area – information and order form received from Sovereign Play confirming two operational inspections per year for 5 years at £399+VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Suckling and seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes to proceed with Sovereign to carry out the operational inspections and all agreed. Clerk to complete and submit the order form.
 - e) Orchard – £235 in fees received for the pruning course, although Mr Brooks has overpaid by £5 which will need to be refunded. All arrangements are in place for the day, Cllr Mrs Irons has already purchased some food for the lunch and the clerk to get the remaining items. Cllr Strudwick will arrange the purchase of sleepers and materials to secure the water tank. There has been less issues with litter since the orchard gate has been locked but all councillors are still in favour of the bank reduction being carried out as the situation could change as the weather improves. Tree work will be completed first and then bank reduction before the wildflower preparation is done. Clerk to speak to Bob Fritz again to update him.
 - f) Allotments – Plot holder 4 has given notice to end his tenancy to the clerk. There should be a six-month notice

period but councillors agreed to accept immediate notice and the clerk will advertise the vacancy as there is no-one on the waiting list. Cllr Mrs Hughes reported that she noticed prominent nails protruding on some of the pallets which she tried to flatten but they could present a future hazard. It was agreed to find out if MAA wants to use the pallets or ask James to dispose of them.

- g) Defibrillators – Cllr Suckling had found the battery not working when checking the Messing defib and reported to the Community Heartbeat Trust.
- h) Assets of community value – Clerk to check timescale for processing registration with CCC.
- i) Local Plan review – Cllr Suckling attended December briefing session and reported that there will be an in-person meeting on 17 February at Charter Hall when the draft plan will be presented.

8 08/25 **CLERK'S REPORT** was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**

9 09/25 **FINANCE**

- a) The amount to be requested from Colchester City Council for the 2025/26 parish precept is £25,486 which is a 2% increase on last year's precept. The 2025/26 budget and precept request form were **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Mrs Hughes and all agreed.
- b) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED** and discussed.
- c) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- d) Bank reconciliation for the month of December was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Suckling and Cllr Mrs Irons
- e) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Suckling and Cllr Mrs Irons
- f) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Suckling and Cllr Mrs Irons

10 10/25 **BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS** - matters for forthcoming agenda: review reserves

11 11/25 **NEXT MEETING** - confirmed Tuesday 18 February 2025 commencing 19.00
There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.34

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - JAN 2025

LGA 1972 s111	UTB	Internal transfer from reserves	£3,000.00
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Jan)	£928.51
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£50.57
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Jan)	£300.21
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses (Dec)	£6.26
LGA 1972 s111	EALC	Invoice 17942 HR training	£616.80
LGA 1972 s111	EALC	Invoice 18057 playground course	£480.00
LGA 1972 s111	EALC	Invoice 18173 evening cllr training	£360.00