



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council



COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council

Tuesday 15 April 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	Yes
	2 VACANT SEATS	
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk	
	County Councillor K Bentley	

1 36/25 **APOLOGIES:** NIL

2 37/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Councillor Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (42/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association.

3 38/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: City Councillor Ellis had sent his apologies for the meeting but will be sending an email update on the Local Plan soon.
County Councillor Bentley gave an update on the Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution processes. The Government’s response to the joint statement from all local authorities in Essex is expected next week. Research work is ongoing to determine the number of unitary authorities there will be, some local authorities would like five but it is likely to be lower. To maintain the local element of decision making, area committees could be set up with parish councillors nominated to join.
The member locality budgets will open from 1st May and parish councils are invited to submit costed items for funding, the clerk will put forward the dog waste bin and four additional banners for the orchard.
Any highways defects or additional potholes to be identified as soon as possible. Inworth Road was recently closed to repair potholes but the largest one opposite Stonefield Farm shop was not included in the repairs.
Cllr Bentley will send details of the wording needed on a petition to gain support from local residents for the 20s plenty scheme and can arrange for the speed survey needed. It can take several years to go through the process to achieve 20mph limits. *Cllr Bentley left the meeting at 19.26.*
- b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: Nil

4 39/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 18 March 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- b) draft minutes of the meeting of the personnel committee held on 18 March 2025 were **NOTED**.

5 40/25 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**.
- b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. Clerk to update to rolling calendar with first quarter of 2026 included.
- c) Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting on 2 May were discussed. Clerk to send invite to all parish organisations and clubs. Cllr Mrs Baxter will chair the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 20th May as Cllr Suckling is unavailable.
- d) Transition to new website. New website to be highlighted at Annual Parish Meeting. Some issues still to be resolved, Parish Online are helpful and responsive.

6 41/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment: None.
Clerk to check status of enforcement process for Elms Farm.

7 42/25 **PARISH MATTERS**

- a) Orchard – Cllr Strudwick reported that the tree work has been completed, he has moved one of the water tanks, the

reduced bank has mower access included, the two new trees have established well but there is a dead tree near to the yew tree. Clerk to ask James to carry out the wildflower ground preparation. Sausage and Cider event needs another promotional push. Cllr Mrs Irons will be the designated person for the TENs licence. Portaloo to be considered if number of attendees is high.

- b) Allotments – Cllr Mrs Hughes reported that the noticeboard area flowerbed has established well and she will purchase additional plants when they come in stock at Perrywoods. Clerk to ask James to add cuts for the allotments in June and September to his schedule. Cllr Mrs Baxter to talk to James about placing manure on weediest part of car park to help control weeds. It was agreed that Plotholder 3 can have a shed. Clerk to send invoice and agreement to Cllr Mrs Irons as the new tenant for Plot 4. Clerk to contact Plotholder 6 with reminder of need for maintenance. Previous tenants that vacate their plots in an unsatisfactory way or breach of conditions will not be welcome to re-apply for plots in the future.
- c) Play area – Cllr Suckling reported that the dog training club no longer use the village hall so dogs could be banned from the play area, this will be discussed at next meeting. Cllr Strudwick planted the whips and they have established well. He asked about having a lanyard to wear when carrying out play inspections. Clerk to ask James to bring forward the cut of the roadside hedge in his schedule. Signsbase quoted £182.93 for the play area and other signs, artwork now to be provided.
- d) Defibrillators – clerk has ordered new pads for Messing defib as the old ones expire on 1 May. There is still an issue with the lighting in the Inworth cabinet.
- e) Parish magazine – there was a too low response rate to the questionnaire to justify going ahead.
- f) New residents pack – Cllr Mrs Baxter had circulated some ideas for this, but it was discussed that a hard copy pack may not actually be required now as most people will look online for information. It was decided to explore the idea of a ‘welcome to your new home’ card for new residents with a village photo on the front and printed message inside. Clerk to get some prices for printing.
- g) Additional dog waste bin – CCC have confirmed they would initially empty an additional bin weekly and have sent details of the bin to be purchased which is £280 plus they would charge £100 for installation. Clerk to liaise with CCC about location of bin and include Cllr Mrs Baxter in correspondence so that there are no mistakes with siting.
- h) Devolution – discussed earlier under item 3 with Cllr Bentley.
- i) Colchester Local Plan – clerk to gather potential dates for meeting from councillors and send to Karen Syrett at CCC.
- j) RCCE Essex Village of the Year competition – it was agreed not to enter this year but review again next year.
- k) Spring litter pick – clerk to contact CCC to ask to borrow equipment to hold litter pick on Sunday morning in May.
- l) 20s Plenty speed scheme – will be explored to find out if there is support from residents.

8 43/25 **CLERK’S REPORT** was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**

9 44/25 **FINANCE**

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- c) Bank reconciliation for the month of March 2025 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons
- d) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons
- e) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons

10 45/25 **BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS** - matters for forthcoming agenda:

11 45/25 **NEXT MEETING** - confirmed Tuesday 20 May 2025 following Annual Meeting of the Council.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - APRIL 2025

LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (April)	£939.69
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£113.77
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (April)	£306.00
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£127.91
LGA 1972 s111	RCCE	Membership fee 2025/26	£61.80
LGA 1972 s111	EALC	Inv 18052 Affiliation fees 2025/26	£172.90
LGA 1972 s111	Microshade VSM	Inv 20613 Annual fee hosted service	£496.44
LGA 1972 s111	Parish Online	Website service	£336.00
PHA 1875 s165	Huws Gray	Orchard water tank bases	£212.89
PHA 1875 s165	MJ Green	Treework	£2,724.00