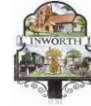




Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 20 May 2025, Messing Village Hall, 7.30pm

		PRESENT
Chairman	Councillor R Suckling	No
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	Yes
	Councillor A Harding	From Item 5d
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	From Item 5d
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk	
	2 members of the public	

- 1 52/25 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Suckling.
- 2 53/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Councillor Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 8b (59/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association.
- 3 54/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Nil
 - b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: Nil
- 4 55/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 15 April 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Irons, seconded Cllr Mrs Hughes, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 5 56/25 **CO-OPTION**
 - a) Written applications for the office of Parish Councillor had been **RECEIVED** from Andrew Harding, Mary Lindsay and Andy Smith.
 - b) Each candidate spoke for 3 minutes to explain their connections to the community and why they want to serve as parish councillors.
 - c) It was **RESOLVED** pursuant to s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for the public and press to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted on proposal of Cllr Strudwick and seconded by Cllr Mrs Hughes.
 - c) Each candidate was **CONSIDERED** in turn and 2 of the 3 candidates were proposed and seconded by councillors. *All candidates and members of the public returned to the meeting.*
 - d) Cllr Mrs Baxter declared that Andrew Harding and Mary Lindsay were duly elected and they signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking office as parish councillors.
 - e) New councillors were provided with a copy of the Council Code of Conduct and updated Standing Orders will be circulated. New council email addresses to be set up.
- 6 57/25 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**.
 - b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**.
 - c) Feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting had been positive and it was agreed to keep the format for next year.
- 7 58/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:
 - a) Decision 250187 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=250187> new open porch to front of dwelling Victoria House, School Road – approved.
 - b) Application 250838 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=250838> construction of 2-storey side and rear extensions and construction of front porch and rear single storey extension 6 Osborne Cottages, School Road – respond to support application but raise issue of shingle from the property on the highway.
 - c) **Elms Farm enforcement**

Case is on hold waiting to see if applicants appeal as they submitted a retrospective application for the same thing which was declined when enforcement case was due to go to court. Clerk to find out when appeal period finishes.

8 59/25 PARISH MATTERS

- a) Orchard – unauthorised spraying of weeds on the path has been noted, there is now only 1 salt bin remaining, the Sausage and Cider event will go ahead if at least 30 tickets are requested, clerk will request harvest pack of 105 saplings from The Woodland Trust, Perrywoods card balance to be used for sand and more wildflower seeds and another pruning course will be held on 30 August.
- b) Allotments – open day to be held on 16 or 17 August to coincide with National Allotment Society week. Surplus products will be available in return for a donation and gives residents an opportunity to view the allotments.
- c) Play area – parish councils can no longer make control orders to ban dogs from play areas, it would have to be a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) issued by CCC. It was **RESOLVED** to explore the option of a PSPO for the play area on proposal of Cllr Mrs Irons and seconded by Cllr Strudwick.
- d) Defibrillators – invoice received for annual service from Community Heartbeat Trust.
- e) New residents welcome cards – clerk had obtained quotes for these from Point Graphics at 85p per card and KempCo for £1.13 per card. It was agreed to place an order with Point Graphics.
- f) Additional dog waste bin – No response from Cllr Bentley regarding the member funding requested for the bin, clerk to send another reminder. It was agreed to wait for a response until 1 June and then **RESOLVED** to purchase the bin from reserves on proposal of Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- g) Messing Park loose dog – clerk had sent a letter about this issue and a detailed response from Messing Park had been circulated to councillors. Situation should now improve but will be monitored.
- h) Devolution – the government has responded to the Essex proposal and the full plan is now being drafted to be submitted in Autumn.
- i) Colchester Local Plan – councillors to meet with CCC planners in Messing Village Hall on 5 June.
- j) Litter pick – CCC equipment to be picked up and returned to Recycling Centre, John Lindsay kindly offered to pick up on 20 June and litter pick will be held on 22 June meeting at 10am at the war memorial in conjunction with FOMC.
- k) 20s Plenty speed scheme – Essex group meeting to be held on Teams on 21 May, Cllr Mrs Irons will attend.

9 60/25 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

10 61/25 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- c) Bank reconciliation for the month of April 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

11 62/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS - matters for forthcoming agenda: sensory garden

12 63/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 7.30pm following the personnel committee meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.25

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - MAY 2025

LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (May)	£939.49
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£113.97
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (May)	£306.00
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£63.27
PHA 1875 s165	James Cornwell	Orchard ground prep for wildflower seeds	£250.00
PHA 1875 s165	James Cornwell	Allotment and orchard cuts	£230.00
PHA 1875 s165	Huws Gray	Orchard guttering	£48.97
LGA 1972 s111	CHT	Defib annual service	£162.00