



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 16 September 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	Yes	
	<i>(Chairman for Sep meeting)</i>		
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	Yes	
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk		

- 1 97/25 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Suckling sent his apologies which were accepted.
- 2 98/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (103/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).
- 3 99/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Cllr Ellis sent his apologies.
 - b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None
- 4 100/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 19 August 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- 5 101/25 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Clerk to add date of meeting to the document. After advice received from officer at CCC regarding the PSPO to ban dogs from the play area, it was agreed not to pursue this as there is no evidence of dog fouling or problems with dog behaviour in the play area. Clerk has contacted solicitors that were appointed for the allotment land transfer in 2015. Councillors all agreed the importance of getting the allotment land registered but excluding the section of land which is part of the school car park.
 - b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. Clerk to add date of meeting to the document.
 - c) The Clerk had changed the Financial Regulations to reflect cash handling procedure, but had since been informed that coins can be banked to Unity Trust accounts at NatWest branches and at Post Offices. It was agreed to carry this item forward to next meeting.
- 6 102/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:
 - a) Application 251033 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=251033> change of use of agricultural field to dog walking field at land south of Kelvedon Road, Inworth – refused. Notification of this planning application had not been sent to the parish council.
 - b) Osborne Cottages
Any photos of the stones from the property’s driveway to be sent to the clerk.
 - c) Elms Farm enforcement
242334 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/planning-app-details/?id=f18abe1b-8ba6-ef11-b8e8-000d3ab2bf55#ValidationSummaryEntityFormView> the enforcement case will be heard at the Magistrates Court in Colchester on 20 November.
- 7 103/25 **PARISH MATTERS**
 - a) Orchard – the August pruning course was successful and it was useful to include Robert Gilbert’s trees. The winter course will be repeated and include St Albans Lodge trees as well. It was agreed that it should be more widely promoted and leaflets printed for distribution at Stonefields Farm Shop, Perrywoods, Poplars etc to increase attendance. Layer Marney horse drawn carriages has been booked for the Santa in the Orchard event at a price of

£200. Cllr Strudwick reported that Aquarius Hair Salon will cover the £200 cost as sponsorship for the event. The clerk reported that she had recently met Sam Goodwin from CCC Community Safety and discussed vandalism at the orchard. Sam had explained that all Anti-Social Behaviour needs to be logged with CCC so that suitable advice and potential solutions can be suggested. All previous photos of issues at the orchard to be sent to the clerk to send to Sam and to include a photo of the burn hole Cllr Strudwick has recently discovered in the water tank. Any gas canisters found in the parish can be reported as flytipping.

- b) Allotments – Cllr Hughes will post the new tenancy agreement for 2025/26 on the noticeboard. The gate sign for the car park is worn and needs replacing. The clerk has sent invoices for plot fees to all tenants.
- c) Play area – Cllr Strudwick is continuing to monitor the condition of the gate post. Sovereign carried out an operational inspection of the equipment on 10 September and will send their report. Wicksteed will carry out the annual inspection by the end of October.
- d) Defibrillators – Clerk received an email from the Circuit to say that the Messing defibrillator had possibly been used on 31 Aug, no other details are given due to confidentiality. Cllr Suckling checked the defib the next day and all was present and functional. The Circuit will send location stickers to the clerk for the defibs, so they can be returned if taken and used in the future.
- e) Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – the different business cases for LGR are now available on the Essex website.
- f) Colchester Local Plan and meeting with Sandra Scott and Karen Syrett 02/10/25 – Cllr Ellis has asked for an agenda to be circulated in advance of the meeting, the clerk will draft one based on the three questions previously agreed. Councillors will meet in the village hall at 2pm, before the meeting starts at 3pm. Councillors will then determine the content and format of the open meeting, depending on what has been discussed with the planners. Cllr Mrs Hughes and Cllr Strudwick reported back on the CALC meeting they had attended where Karen Syrett had presented and acknowledged that the 600 homes are in Messing cum Inworth parish.
- g) Public meeting 04/10/25 – it was agreed to arrange printing of 300 A5 leaflets to promote the meeting, which councillors will distribute to all households. The meeting will also be promoted online and in Messing news.
- h) 20s Plenty speed scheme – awaiting date of next meeting.
- i) Potholes – Cllr Mrs Hughes reported on her recent near miss due to vehicles swerving to avoid the pothole opposite Stonefields Farm shop. This pothole has already been reported to Highways and Cllr Bentley several times. It was agreed to write to Cllr Ellis, Cllr Bentley and Billy Parr (ECC) to express deep concern for the safety of road users because of this pothole.
- j) Hatchments update – Cllr Harding reported that the restoration of the hatchments is now complete and arrangements are in place to get them re-displayed and a celebration event organised.

8 104/25 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

The clerk reported that she had received a visit from Cadent staff to re-establish contact regarding the high flow gas pipe in the orchard. They should be in contact on an annual basis going forward. Cllr Harding asked for councillor's appreciation for the clerk to be recorded.

9 105/25 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**. The balance of the precept for 2025/26 has been received to the current account and it was agreed to transfer £10,000 to the reserves account.
- c) Bank reconciliation for the month of August 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.

10 106/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS - matters for forthcoming agenda: financial regulations.

11 107/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 21 October 2025 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - SEP 2025

LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Sep)	£963.64
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£124.75
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Sep)	£322.26
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£9.62
LGA 1972 s111	A Baldwin	Pruning course tutor fee Aug 2025	£170.00
LGA 1972 s111	Wicksteed	Annual play equipment inspection	£180.00
LGA 1972 s111	PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee	£252.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Orchard cut August	£100.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Cut road side hedge play area	£100.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Allotments cut and strim	£100.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Village green cut and shape tree	£150.00