



**Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council  
Tuesday 19 August 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
	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	Yes
IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk	
	3 members of the public	

1 86/25 **APOLOGIES:** None

2 87/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Councillor Mrs Lindsay declared an interest in item 6a (91/25) as a near neighbour, Councillor Mrs Baxter an interest in item 7b (92/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA) and Councillor Suckling an interest in item 7h (92/25).

3 88/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: None
- b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: Two residents from Stonefields Farm attended the meeting to talk about their planning application for construction of a 2 bed dwelling. They explained that they want to stay living at the site but their current accommodation is unsuitable. Councillors asked questions about the access and suggested an extension to the existing dwelling as the site is outside the development boundary. Councillors explained that anyone can 'call in' an application to be considered by planning committee and the clerk will forward Cllr Ellis's email address so the residents can consider doing this (*2 members of the public left at 7.19pm*).

4 89/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 15 July 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Baxter, seconded Cllr Strudwick, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

5 90/25 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Clerk to make some changes to the website and to remove the completed actions from the list.
- b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. Clerk to add 4 October village meeting and review dates for policies.
- c) Petty cash and financial regulations discussed. Clerk will amend financial regulations to reflect petty cash arrangements for consideration at the next meeting.

6 91/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:

- a) Application 251540 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=251540> construction of a 2 bed bungalow/chalet at Stonefields Farm, Kelvedon Road, Inworth – Councillors do not support because it is outside of settlement boundary, there are access concerns and Colchester Local Plan Policy OV2 aims to restrict development in the countryside unless it is necessary for a rural location or supports the rural economy and character.
- b) Osborne Cottages  
Clerk raised stones issue with planning case officer at CCC but no response received. The stones have recently been removed from the road by the residents so they are aware of the problem.
- 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 92/25 PARISH MATTERS**

- a) Orchard – Five places booked for the pruning course, clerk will promote on Kelvedon and Feering Facebook pages. It was agreed to replace the dead Cambridge Gage tree as it is sponsored. Robert Gilbert has agreed to fill the water butts at pre-arranged time and Cllr Strudwick will add a secure box to the lock to prevent the water being emptied. Clerk to check guidance around disposal of gas canisters and find prices for security paint puffs. Cllr Strudwick has re-attached the fence to the gate post.
- b) Allotments – Cllr Mrs Baxter reported that the open event had been successful with lots of positive comments and donations of £67.97 taken. There is a potential tenant for Plot 10, clerk will send her the tenancy and GDPR forms. Councillors agreed that the allotment site should be safeguarded in light of the current political climate with allotments being developed for housing. Clerk to re-visit the Land Registry work as part of the school car park is currently unregistered.
- c) Play area – Cllr Strudwick reported that he has put the gate sign up and is monitoring the condition of the gate post.
- d) Defibrillators – Cllr Suckling to carry out checks and update the CHT system.
- e) Devolution – The candidates for Mayor are starting to be announced.
- f) Colchester Local Plan and meeting with planning officers – Meeting with Sandra Scott and Karen Syrett agreed for 2 October and village briefing meeting will be held on Saturday 4 October, clerk will draft publicity poster.
- g) 20s Plenty speed scheme – No meetings have been held over the summer period.
- h) Potholes – the B1023 pothole opposite Stonefields Farm shop was marked but not repaired. Cllr Suckling reported that his son has recently damaged his tyres on a pothole near Westacre in Kelvedon Road and has submitted a claim to Essex Highways.
- i) Involvement with hatchments – Cllr Harding gave an update on progress of the hatchments restoration project and reported there will be a village celebration when they are returned in late September/October.

**8 93/25 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED**

Councillors agreed to meet informally to complete the flood resilience survey from NALC.

**9 94/25 FINANCE**

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**. Actual spend against budget for Q1 was discussed and it was agreed to ask James to carry out the work to the tree on the green for £150 as quoted and to make a contribution of £100 to Jon Longman's leaving gift in recognition of his time as a parish councillor.
- c) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons.
- d) Bank reconciliation for the month of July 2025 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons.
- e) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons

**10 95/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS** - matters for forthcoming agenda: hatchments return date, financial regulations.

**11 96/25 NEXT MEETING** - confirmed Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7.30pm after personnel committee meeting  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm

**PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - AUGUST 2025**

LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Aug)	£1,051.70
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£176.46
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (July)	£355.05
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£9.62
LGA 1972 s111	CALC	Subscription 2025-26	£35.00
LGA 1972 s111	Messing VH	Hire of meeting room 2025-26	£252.00
LGA 1972 s111	DM Payroll	Payroll services Apr-Sep 2025	£72.00
PHA 1875 s165	L. Marven	Cutting village green Apr-June 2025	£250.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Cut resident side hedge play area	£85.00
PHA 1875 s165	JC Services	Orchard cut	£100.00