



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 18 November 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	

1 119/25 **APOLOGIES:** None

2 120/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (125/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).

3 121/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Cllr A. Ellis sent his apologies.
b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None

4 122/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 21 October 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Baxter, seconded Cllr Mrs Irons, all agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

5 123/25 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Ongoing communication with Jefferies Solicitors regarding the land registration of the allotment site. Clerk is looking into Zoho shared drive as an alternative to VSM Microshade.
b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**.
c) The revised Risk Register was **APPROVED** with an addition to the orchard entry on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed.

6 124/25 **PLANNING – CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:

- a) Application 231368 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=231368> outline planning application for 200 residential dwellings on land at Elms Farm – approved
It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to include a monthly item for any planning applications received after the agenda is issued, proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Suckling with all in agreement. Application 252418 for domestic solar panels was received the day before the meeting but councillors had no comments.
b) It had been agreed at the CCC Local Plan committee meeting on 10 November that the draft plan would proceed to Regulation 18 consultation which would include the Christmas period. Cllr Suckling will draft a brief update for residents.
c) Cllr Mrs Hughes had passed Council's draft response to the Local Plan and briefing to the planning consultant for comment. All thanked Cllr Mrs Hughes for sourcing consultant and providing the brief. The draft will be shared with residents after any revisions from the consultants comments.
d) Clerk will set up a meeting with Cllr Greenwood from Tiptree Parish Council to open communication.

7 125/25 **PARISH MATTERS**

- a) Orchard – the target number of tickets sold for SITO has not been reached but it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to run the event and costs to be met by parish council, proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Suckling with all in agreement. All organised for Messing Market and set-up will begin on Friday. Cllr Irons is getting costs for orchard promotional banners and will send to the Clerk for a small fund CIF application.
b) Allotments – Cllr Mrs Baxter reported that the tubs by the war memorial bench have bulbs planted by MAA and will

emerge soon. Next year the plants will be changed three times to ensure year-round colour.

- c) Play area – Bob Fritz has quoted £525 to supply and replace the gate posts. The Clerk will get two other quotes with hardwood to compare.
- d) Defibrillators – location stickers still to be placed on defibs.
- e) Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – Clerk to ask Cllr Ellis if any other parish councils have voiced concern about taking on extra assets and responsibilities.
- f) Potholes – Cllr Suckling has compiled a list of all of the potholes and sent to Cllr Bentley. It was discussed whether it would be possible to keep sending the same list on a regular basis. This cannot be done on the online reporting system but the Clerk will see if it can be achieved in a different way.
- g) Old sign behind the village hall – to be decided if it need to be restored and displayed again or disposed of.
- h) Book of condolences for HM The Queen – currently with the Clerk and can be deposited at Essex Records Office next time documents are left there.
- i) Ukraine convoy – Cllr Harding reported that fundraising is underway for another 2 vehicles to be driven to Ukraine next year.

8 126/25 CLERK'S REPORT was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**

Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Hughes will attend the CCC Local Plan session on 4 December and Cllr Mrs Irons on 9 December. Clerk to inform CCC and Teams links will be sent out.

9 127/25 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**. Actual v spend to date was discussed and forecast will be looked at next meeting. A planning consultant has been engaged for up to 3 hours at £140/hr + VAT to comment on the parish council's response to the draft Local Plan. It was agreed to use MIAG restricted funds to pay the consultant as a qualifying cost for the use of these funds.
- c) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons.
- d) Bank reconciliation for the month of October 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.

10 128/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – biodiversity policy for January or February meeting.

11 129/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 7.00pm, Cllr Harding to chair.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.56pm

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - NOV 2025

Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Nov)	£963.64
HMRC	PAYE	£124.75
Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Nov)	£322.26
Staff 3	Expenses	£23.46
DM Payroll	Payroll service	£72.00