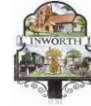




Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 16th December 2025, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

| | | PRESENT |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Chair | Councillor R Suckling | No |
| Councillors | Councillor Mrs J Hughes | No |
| | Councillor R Strudwick | Yes |
| | Councillor Mrs M Irons | Yes |
| | Councillor Mrs C Baxter | No |
| | Councillor A Harding (Chair) | Yes |
| | Councillor Mrs M Lindsay | Yes |
| In attendance | Clerk | |

- 1 130/25 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Suckling, Councillor Mrs Hughes and Councillor Mrs Baxter.

- 2 131/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: None

- 3 132/25 **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

- 4 133/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 18th November 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Strudwick, seconded Cllr Mrs Irons, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.

- 5 134/25 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Other quotes for the gate posts still to be obtained. Cllr Harding suggested putting out a request to residents or approaching Marco Hughes for help with expanding the website.
 - b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. Precept request form has to be submitted to CCC by 23rd January, so it was agreed to hold a budget/precept working group meeting before the January council meeting to ensure the deadline is met. Clerk to circulate potential dates.
 - c) It was agreed that there were no changes required at this time so the current Reserves policy was **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Lindsay and all agreed. Cllr Harding thanked the clerk for her efforts and offered extra help from councillors if ever needed.

- 6 135/25 **PLANNING – CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:
 - a) Application 252477 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=252477> change of use of land – agricultural field to dog walking field and Appeal Reference No. 251033. CCC had given an extension to the deadline for parish council to respond by 17th December. Councillors acknowledged all of the work and time that Councillor Hughes had contributed to prepare the response. It was agreed to submit all of the information in the response, including the optional points that Cllr Hughes had noted. Clerk will submit tomorrow to CCC and the same response to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal.
 - b) Other applications received after agenda publication – Appeal 251540 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=251540> construction of 2 bedroom bungalow/chalet at Stonefield Farm. It was agreed to send the same comments that were submitted to CCC for the application to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal.
 - c) Clerk has submitted the parish council’s response to the Local Plan consultation to CCC using the online portal and has posted on the parish council website. Clerk will draft information for residents with a brief description of how to submit via the portal and circulate on Facebook page and village e-news. It was agreed that it would not be feasible to hold another Open Meeting before the consultation deadline of 14th January but to check availability of Saturday 7th February 2026 as a potential option.
 - d) An informal meeting had been held with representatives from Tiptree Parish Council on 3rd December. It had been

a useful meeting and a further date had been arranged to keep the dialogue open. They feel the boundary will be moved and confirmed that their staff would manage the proposed Country Park rather than a management company.

7 136/25 PARISH MATTERS

- a) Orchard – Messing Market and SITO events were debriefed and possibilities for next year were discussed including holding SITO as a joint event with FOMC. Cllr Harding thanked all orchard committee members for their contributions to running these events and all acknowledged the generous donation from Cllr Strudwick to the cost of SITO. The winter pruning course is scheduled for 24th January. Orchard committee will discuss the security advice received from CCC.
- b) Allotments – nothing to report.
- c) Play area – Cllr Strudwick reported that the gate post needs staking now so is a priority to replace and he offered to clean the bird poo from the play equipment.
- d) Defibrillators – nothing to report.
- e) Potholes – There is member budget available again for potholes so the clerk will re-send the list to Cllr Bentley.
- f) Old sign behind the village hall – it was discussed that the sign could be restored and sited in the orchard. Orchard committee to consider at their next meeting.
- g) Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation – the mayoral elections due to take place in May 2026 have been postponed. Clerk has posted the LGR consultation information on the website and it was agreed that this is sufficient to inform residents.

8 137/25 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

Former staff from EALC have set up a new company offering training formerly provided by EALC.

9 138/25 FINANCE

- a) Draft budget for 2026/27 was **RECEIVED** and discussed. Clerk will update for working group meeting to be held beginning of January.
- b) Costings for Messing Market and SITO were **RECEIVED** and discussed. Due to Cllr Strudwick's donation, both events had made a surplus and it was agreed by all to add the surplus to the ringfenced orchard money.
- c) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- d) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Lindsay.
- e) Bank reconciliation for the month of November 2025 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Lindsay.
- f) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Lindsay.

10 139/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – biodiversity policy, Open Meeting 7th February, new training company CouncilWise.

11 140/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.17pm.

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - DEC 2025

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| Staff 3 | Salary & office allowance (Dec) | £963.64 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £124.75 |
| Pension Fund | Pension contributions (Dec) | £322.26 |
| Staff 3 | Expenses | £171.18 |
| EALC | Councillor training for C.Baxter | £378.00 |
| C Planning | Review of response to Local Plan Reg 18 | £504.00 |
| LM Carriages | Hire of carriage for SITO | £200.00 |
| Unity Trust Bank | Transfer from Reserves to Current account | 4,000.00 |