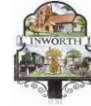




**Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**



Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council  
Tuesday 20 January 2026, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chair	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    1/26    **APOLOGIES:** None
  
- 2    2/26    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
 a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (7/26) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).
  
- 3    3/26    **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
 a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Cllr A. Ellis sent his apologies due to illness but he has offered to attend the Open Meeting on 7 February. Cllr K. Bentley sent his apologies and offered the opportunity for online catch-up meetings which the clerk will follow up on.  
 b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None
  
- 4    4/26    **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record  
 a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 16 December 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Strudwick, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
  
- 5    5/26    **GOVERNANCE**  
 a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. The clerk reported that the agreement with Flotek for cloud backup runs until April 2027 so will be reviewed in advance of that. The solicitor has not responded about the allotment land registration, so the clerk will email again. The clerk has located the additional templates in the website editing panel so these can now be populated.  
 b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. Date of meeting in February with Tiptree hopefully to be held before the Open Meeting, clerk to confirm with Jonathan Greenwood.  
 c) It was agreed that there were no changes required at this time so the current Financial Regulations were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed.
  
- 6    6/26    **PLANNING – CONSIDER**  
 a) Decision 252418 [www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=252418](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=252418) Installation of a domestic 22 panel above ground solar pv array at Hill House, Inworth – approved.  
 b) Elms Farm enforcement – court date postponed until 29 May 2026, clerk to investigate why it has been delayed.  
 c) Other applications received after agenda publication – Cllr Mrs Hughes reported that there is an additional traffic report on the planning website for the dog walking field application which continue to show sight lines passing through the tree and high roadside bank. The clerk will re-submit response and make this comment.  
 d) Parish Open Meeting 7 February – the next Colchester Local Plan committee meeting has been moved to 11 February so will be after the Open Meeting, but can still include information about the parish council response to Reg 18, the next stages of the Local Plan process and meetings with Tiptree. It was agreed that it would be useful to find out if residents sent comments to the consultation and not to invite Cllr Ellis at this stage.
  
- 7    7/26    **PARISH MATTERS**  
 a) Orchard – Messing Market is booked for 7 November and SITO on 29 November, working with FOMC to change format to a Breakfast with Santa or an afternoon tea. The pruning course had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket

sales. Number of grass cuts will be reduced for 2026/27 and deer fencing to be installed to also help with security. Cloth banners still to be purchased, clerk to check CIF funding.

- b) Allotments – potential interest from resident to go on the waiting list, Cllr Mrs Baxter will show them around.
- c) Play area – additional quotes for gate posts noted, Cllr Suckling will also get a price to purchase directly from a sawmill. Cllr Strudwick reported that he had cleaned the large basket swing.
- d) Defibrillators – are due for a status update on The Circuit, Cllr Suckling will check as soon as he can.
- e) Potholes – repair has been carried out by a resident to one pothole along Kelvedon Road. The reporting process is not fit for purpose, as there are no ongoing updates if the pothole is not bad enough for repair on first inspection. Cllr Suckling has had further contact with Cllr Bentley and this can be followed up with him during the online catch-up meeting.
- f) Old sign behind the village hall – it was decided that the sign is not worth restoring and re-siting because it is not specific to Messing. It was agreed to ask on the Facebook page if anyone wants to take it.
- g) Biodiversity – the policy drafted by Cllr Mrs Baxter was **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Suckling and all agreed. It was agreed to include biodiversity as an agenda item every quarter to review. Cllr Mrs Hughes offered to draft some ecological information for the parish due to the high cost of professional surveys.
- h) Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation – the LGR consultation process has now ended.

**8 8/26 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED**

S106 list will be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed not to sign up to Colchester Neighbourhood Watch at this stage. The clerk will be attending an online training session with the new company CouncilWise on 30 January. They are not able to include NALC membership with their subscription, this will continue to be part of EALC membership.

**9 9/26 FINANCE**

- a) Final draft budget for 2026/27 had been compiled at a working group meeting on 15 January. It was discussed and agreed to reduce biodiversity budget from £1000 to £250 as surveys were not going to be commissioned. It was **APPROVED** to request a precept of £26,858 from CCC which is a 5.4% increase, on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Suckling and all agreed.
- b) Orchard finances were **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED**.
- c) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**. Reserves are healthy and in line with expectations.
- d) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- e) Bank reconciliation for the month of December 2025 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- f) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.

**10 10/26 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – S106 list, parish council elections**

**11 11/26 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 17 February at 7.30pm, following the personnel committee meeting.**  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

**PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - JAN 2026**

Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (Jan)	£963.64
HMRC	PAYE (Jan)	£124.75
Pension Fund	Pension contributions (Jan)	£322.26
Staff 3	Expenses	£94.52
LM	Grass cutting village green Q3	£250.00
CouncilWise	Assertion 10 training for clerk	£30.00