



Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 16 June 2026, Messing Village Hall, 7.30pm

		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 60/26 **APOLOGIES:** None

2 61/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (66/26) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).

3 62/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Cllr Bentley was unable to attend and had sent a written report which had been circulated. Cllr Ellis had sent his apologies and as he is now the Mayor of Colchester will be unable to attend as many parish council meetings. Cllr Harding explained that he will be discussing arrangements for attending parish council meetings with Cllr Bentley and Cllr Ellis to minimise overlap. Cllr Harding reported that there is Locality funding available for community projects at both City and County level. At CCC, Cllr Harding has been appointed to the Licensing, Governance and Crime committee and for ECC he is the chair of the Health Overview/Scrutiny committee. He has been meeting with other parishes including Marks Tey where the potential spread of proposed development down to Coggeshall and through to Messing with no road upgrades is of significant concern.
- b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None

4 63/26 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 19 May 2026 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Baxter, seconded Cllr Mrs Hughes, all agreed and duly signed by the chair.

5 64/26 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Harding as vice-chair to the council for 2026/27 on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Mrs Irons and all agreed. Cllr Harding signed the declaration of acceptance of office of vice-chair.
- b) Following research, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Messing-cum-Inworth as the name format for council on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed. The clerk will gradually transfer everything in to the Messing-cum-Inworth format.
- c) The internal audit report for 2025/26 was **RECEIVED** and discussed. All councillors thanked the clerk for her work on the audit process. It was agreed to amend the financial regulations to describe the petty cash as an events float to be approved at July's meeting.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the AGAR submission documents on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed. The AGAR submission documents were signed by the chair and clerk/RFO and will be sent tomorrow. The clerk will send the chair the exercise of public rights notices to post on the boards once the dates are confirmed.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Publication Scheme on proposal of Cllr Suckling and seconded by Cllr Hughes with all in agreement. It will then be reviewed again in six months.
- f) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- g) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.

6 65/26 **PLANNING – CONSIDER**

- a) Decision 260358 www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260358 Newbarn Cottages – approved

- b) Decision 260719 received after agenda publication <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260719> retrospective application for lean-to-cover at Stonefield's Farm Shop – approved
- c) Elms Farm enforcement hearing had taken place and details of the outcome circulated, the applicant has 28 days to comply.

7 66/26 PARISH MATTERS

- a) Orchard – the open event at the orchard on 11 July is being promoted and arrangements will be agreed at the orchard group meeting on Thursday. It was agreed to allocate £150 for the purchase of a sum-up machine for events on proposal of Cllr Harding and seconded Cllr Suckling with all in agreement. Cllr Harding requested that the orchard Christmas event is held on a different day to the FOMC one so as not to saturate the same audience on one day.
- b) Allotments – councillors agreed for the new tenant of Plot 1 to share with the existing plotholder until the end of October. There is a new Plotholder for Plot 3, so it is just Plot 12 that will need a new tenant for December.
- c) Play area- Cllr Strudwick thanked the volunteers for cutting the grass so promptly and reported that he had pulled up some of the nettles recently.
- d) Defibrillators – the Circuit informed the clerk that the Messing defib was potentially used on 10th June. Cllr Suckling has checked and all is as it should be so it is now back on line. CHT has restructured and are late sending out invoices but support package is still valid.
- e) Parish tree survey – it was agreed to accept the quote of £425+VAT from BAA Groundcare on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Hughes and all agreed. Survey will be carried out during July.
- f) S106 projects – Cllr Strudwick had attended the recent CALC meeting where Karen Syrett had presented on S106 and the clerk had circulated notes from the meeting. The clerk will circulate S106 project list to all councillors for comments/additions before sending to Karen Syrett and copying in Cllr Ellis. The list needs to be reviewed and updated regularly.
- g) Biodiversity – Cllr Suckling will draft a note about the biodiversity obligation and cutting regimes as residents of the Green were not informed about the hedge cutting changes. It was agreed to communicate any further changes and updates using all available methods to inform residents.
- h) Village Green access quote – the clerk will ask Bob Fritz to carry out the work in Autumn.
- i) Messing village sign- needs cleaning and repainting. The clerk had found an old invoice from 2017 for repainting from a decorating company based in Lt Clacton. Cllr Suckling will see if he has any different information.
- j) Feral peacocks – the clerk to look into peacock removal companies for quotes.

8 67/26 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

9 68/26 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances were **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- c) Bank reconciliation for the month of May 2026 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- d) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.

10 69/26 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – financial regulations, emergency plan, S106 projects, defib training, parish newsletter

11 70/26 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 21 July at 7.00pm
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - JUNE 2026

Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (June)	£996.84
HMRC	PAYE (June)	£91.55
Pension Fund	Pension contributions (June)	£307.21
Staff 3	Expenses	£312.80
JC Services	Roadside hedge cut	£120.00
CALC	Subscription 2026/27	£35.00