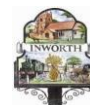




Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council

COUNCIL MEETING



Minutes of the meeting of Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council
Tuesday 21 July 2026, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chair	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor R Strudwick	No
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	Yes
	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	Yes
In attendance	Clerk	
	City Cllr K. Bentley – from 7.30-7.55pm	
	City Cllr A. Ellis – from 7.30-7.55pm	

- 1 71/26 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Strudwick had sent his apologies due to holiday which were accepted by councillors.
- 2 72/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (77/26) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).
- 3 73/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: Cllr Harding reported that the road emergency declared by ECC has released funds to successfully repair whole roads rather than just patching potholes. Other projects include reducing the waiting times for SEND assessment, establishing a veteran's village and possibly re-instating the Essex County Show. Cllr Bentley reported on the waste regime changes and the wheelie bins trials taking place in the City Council area. Cllr Ellis explained that his mayoral duties will take priority this year and updated on the Local Plan. Officers will be contacting City Councillors to discuss changes relevant to their wards before Reg 19 consultation.
 - b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: A resident had informed the clerk about an obstructed pavement near the bungalows in School Road, which has now been reported to Essex Highways. Cllr Harding reminded councillors to report all issues on ECC's online system and to forward the reference numbers to him. He discussed the possibility of setting up a community working group to carry out small maintenance jobs, to be included on the agenda for the August meeting.
- 4 74/26 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 16 June 2026 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Harding, all agreed and duly signed by the chair.
 - b) draft minutes of the meeting of the personnel committee held on 16 June 2026 were **NOTED**.
- 5 75/26 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the revised Financial Regulations on proposal of Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Suckling with all in agreement.
 - b) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**. Clerk to request draft version of land transfer for the allotments from 2016 from the solicitors.
 - c) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- 6 76/26 **PLANNING – CONSIDER**
 - a) Application 261121 www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=261121 change of use from agricultural barn (chicken coop) to an indoor air rifle range behind Messing Park Farm – CCC allowed extra time for response, so objection to be submitted on the grounds of lack of information in application and inadequate facilities for public use.
 - b) Application 261172 www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=261172 retrospective application for completed porch at Osborne House, School Road – no comments
 - c) Application 261262 received after agenda publication <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=261262> singles storey front and rear extensions at Hillcrest, School Road – no comments

- d) Elms Farm enforcement – CCC officer has granted extra time for compliance with the court order. Cllr Harding is pursuing with CCC staff.

7 77/26 PARISH MATTERS

- a) Orchard – Cllr Mrs Irons reported that the recent open event at the orchard was a success and £30 in donations for refreshments had been taken. Cllr Mrs Baxter had circulated a positive report from John Attiwell of Essex Wildlife Trust following the event.
- b) Allotments – the clerk had confirmation from Anglian Water that the hosepipe can still be used to fill up the water container for ploholders to use during the hosepipe ban.
- c) Play area – there were no priority issues identified by Wicksteed during their annual inspection.
- d) Defibrillators – the clerk now has contact details for the training provider and will look to set up training after the summer holidays period.
- e) Parish tree survey – the survey is being carried out by BAA Groundcare this week.
- f) Review cutting schedule – Cllr Suckling and the clerk had meet with James for a review as had been agreed when the cutting schedule was amended at the beginning of the growing season. James reported that he had recently cut the residents side of the play area hedge, that he had damaged his mower when cutting the orchard in June and was concerned about leaving the next orchard cut until September. He recommended cutting at the end of July, but then carried this cut out earlier today before it could be discussed at the meeting. Cllrs Mrs Baxter and Mrs Irons expressed their frustration and disappointment. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting in Sep/Oct to review biodiversity and cutting regimes going forward and for all communication with James to be via the clerk.
- g) S106 projects – the S106 project list has been sent to Karen Syrett. The mowers used by the volunteers for cutting the churchyard and play area need replacing but S106 funding will not cover this. Costs for new mowers to be discussed next meeting.
- h) Biodiversity – Cllr Suckling's note about the biodiversity obligation and cutting regimes had been posted but no feedback received from residents.
- i) Messing village sign – needs cleaning and repainting. Cllr Suckling has no old information in his files, so the clerk will find some appropriate companies.
- j) Feral peacocks – there are no local peacock removal companies.
- k) Emergency plan – Cllr Harding agreed to adapt the CCC template for the parish.
- l) Parish newsletter – it was discussed whether to try re-establishing despite the apparent lack of support from residents. Cllr Harding will talk to other village organisations.

8 78/26 CLERK'S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

The clerk has information from FOMC regarding their card reader and will continue to research now that all CiLCA learning outcomes have been submitted.

9 79/26 FINANCE

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

10 80/26 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS – emergency plan, parish newsletter, new mowers, litter pick and community working group, bus service

11 81/26 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 18 August at 7.00pm, apologies from Cllr Mrs Irons
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.11pm

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - JULY 2026

Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (July)	£996.84
HMRC	PAYE (June)	£91.55
Pension Fund	Pension contributions (July)	£307.21
Staff 3	Expenses	£87.49
JC Services	June orchard and allotments cuts	£220.00
JC Services	Residents side hedge cut at VH	£270.00
CCC	Returning officer fee for uncontested election	£148.00
Wicksteed	Annual play area inspection	180.00
DM Payroll	Payroll service	79.20
CHT	Annual defib support service	£235.20