

Minutes of the East Mersea Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, East Road, East Mersea at 7.00 pm on Thursday 21st May 2026.

Present: Councillors: Jeff Mason (chair), Emma Green, David Sunnucks, Clerk: Sue Pullen, City Cllrs Robert Davidson, Martin Parsons, Tony Clifton representative for East Mersea PCC and Village Hall, 1 member of the public, the new parish councillor Alex Rihardson

- 1. To receive apologies:** Cllr Margaret Lawford
- 2. To confirm the minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May 2025:** the minutes were agreed by all and signed by the chairman
- 3. To receive the report from the Chairman:**
 1. The parish council had not received any traffic complaints with regard to Cudmore Grove but following the fencing constructed for protection of wildlife the area had been left in a state owing to the wet weather when it was installed but the park promised to make good afterwards.
 2. The seawall has been repaired satisfactorily but it is thought that the Environmental Agency will not foot the bill for any future repairs, it is owned by ECC.
 3. With only one person volunteering for the training necessary to carry out speed gun checks this project could not move forward. West Mersea were approached but were unable to help.
 4. There had been noise issues from caravan parks again and CCC has been approached to assist in limiting noise and disruption from a scheduled music weekend at Away Resorts.
 5. The parish council has engaged with RCCE (Rural Community Council of Essex) and Rural England to take forward the project for a small development of Affordable Housing follow a survey identifying the need. CCC has been contacted by Rural Housing with regard to funding needed for the project to be taken further and has yet to hear back. There are many hurdles to overcome including approaching land owners for viable sites for this project to come to a conclusion.
 6. A parish council election was held for the first time in many years and Alex Richradson was welcomed on to the council and a farewell and thank you to Sandy for her time on the council was expressed.
 7. The pumping station along Shop Lane has been problematic with suggestions of broken pipes and/or pump or the pipes being too small for the present job. It is hoped that Anglian Water and or the Environment Agency are dealing with this.
- 4. City Councillors Report** – City Cllr Davidson expressed his gratitude for those that voted for him in this election, with a turnout of 57% at West Mersea. We now have a Reform County Councillor (who the parish council has yet to meet) and Lib- Lab joint control for Colchester City Council continues. The roll out for the new recycling bins will start in June. The next stage for the CCC Local Plan is scheduled for the middle of June for consultation having received around 3,000 responses from the previous consultation to sort through. The Local Government Reorganisation is waiting for the Government to approve and sign off.

Signed _____ Date: _____ 2027

- 5. Report from the Parochial Church Council** – The Rev Jo Parott is the rector for the benefice that comprises of West Mersea, East Mersea, Peldon and Great Wigborough. There are currently 68 people on the Church Electoral Role of whom 47 are non-residents of the parish. We are fortunate in having four active retired clergy who assist the rector in providing services. East Mersea Hall continues to provide some wedding bookings. There are always outstanding structural works needed which also require engagement with bodies such as Historic England, the Diocesan Advisory Council and many others. Winter weather has damaged tower louvres and pigeons gained access and a professional team had to be called in to clear up the mess. We are grateful for the financial support of the Friends of St Edmunds. Work has been completed for both the tower and toilet floorings. The new sound system works well. At the last AGM current churchwardens stepped down, in my case (Tony Clifton) after 36 years.
- 6. Report from Village Hall Committee** – Extensive external repairs work has been carried out, creating a large maintenance outgoing that caused a deficit of £6,800 on this years' accounts. Booking income was down but the hall is still in a sound financial position.
- 7. Report from Cudmore Grove Park Ranger** – No report given.
- 8. Report from West Mersea Primary School** –
1. Mersea Island School continues to be fully committed to providing the best possible education, facilities and experiences to all our families living on the island.
 2. We have spaces.
 3. We have established an income generation group as the current financial climate is incredibly challenging.
 4. We welcome visitors to the school. I am always happy to show people round and share all the incredible hard work of the staff and pupils.
 5. Any suggestions for improvement of our school are welcomed and appreciated.
- 9. Public Session** – A volunteer came forward for joining 'Friends of Cudmore' if there is still such a group in operation.