



EAST MERSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Mersea Parish Council meeting held at East Mersea Village Hall on Thursday 9th July 2026.

Present: Cllrs Jeff Mason (chair), Emma Green, Margaret Lawford, Alex Richardson, Locum Clerk Petra Palfreyman, City Cllrs Martin Parsons and Carl Powling and one member of the public

The chairman opened the meeting by advising that Sue Pullen has resigned after the previous meeting and a locum clerk has been appointed until the position can be filled permanently.

76.26 Apologies for absence: City Cllr Robert Davidson and Cllr David Sunnocks

77.26 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2026 were agreed with one amendment to state that Cllr Richardson was asked to liaise with West Mersea Town Council concerning the Island Plan. There were no further matter arising,

78.26 Declarations of Interest: None

79.26 Public Participation Session: Further to emails sent in from residents it was agreed that the clerk would contact:

- local landowners who have public footpaths running through their land to ask them to cut them back; and a local contractor to see if he would be interested in this work. It was noted that although the footpaths are the responsibility of Essex County Council (ECC), their maintenance is sporadic and the current growth is preventing access to the paths.
- ECC regarding the unsociable behavior along Bromans Lane and in Cudmore Grove.

80.26 City Cllrs Report: The Local Plan Island policy was approved by the Local Plan (LP) committee last week. The plan does not include a limit on the percentage that can be developed in Mersea. The 40% increase in the housing target started in February 2026. The City Council can no longer demonstrate a 5-year housing supply. In August the Local Plan committee will ask for a Regulation 19 consultation, before it is sent to the planning inspector. The aim is to have the LP in place by the end of this calendar year as there is a new LP process starting in January 2027 which the City Council do not want to have to work within. If developments of over 150 dwellings are declined, they must be referred to the housing minister.

81.26 CCC Local Plan including WMTC Island Plan Cllr Richardson has spoken with Cllr Akker from West Mersea Town Council and explained that East Mersea Parish Council supported West Mersea Town Council's proposed amendments to Local Plan Policies LC3 and LC4 with the exception of the proposed restriction on conversion of single storey properties. Cllr Richardson reported that Cllr Akker had also advised him

Signed _____ Thursday 27th August 2026

that a specific policy was being drafted for all the Caravan Parks on Mersea (Policy PP23a) and was expected to be distributed shortly for comment. The City Councillors were not sure whether this was correct.

82.26 RCCE Affordable/Low-Cost Housing - Cllr Richardson wrote to both the RCCE and English Rural, who acknowledged receipt of the communication but English Rural declined to comment.

83.26 Email addresses and website update – the clerk advised that the contract selected by the Council was that the clerk would need to set up all the emails addresses. The Council agreed to pay another £150.00 for Aubergine to do this. The clerk will work with Aubergine to get the basic website set up.

84.26 Historical Buildings in East Mersea – no update

85.26 Jet Ski Nuisance – Cllr Parsons said the City Council were looking in to a PSPO but agreed enforcement was difficult. The clerk will obtain and publish details where jet skis can be reported for speeding or antisocial behaviour

86.26 Caravan Parks – no update

87.26 Planning Applications

261131 Marlin, East Road, East Mersea Colchester CO5 8TA

Demolition of existing porch with the construction of a single storey side extension and porch. Scale and footprint reduction from approved application 221260 – No comment

88.26 To agree to change the date of the September meeting to Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – councillors will liaise with the clerk to confirm which dates they are available and the date will be confirmed on the website

89.26 To discuss and agree a laptop health check at a cost of £72.00 - the locum clerk advised that the laptop is slow, the storage appears to be quite full and there is no battery life. The Council agreed to ask Page Computers to check the laptop to see if it is worth updating or should be replaced.

90.26 To discuss and agree the vacancy advert – the Council agreed the draft advertisement prepared by the clerk. The position will be advertised locally.

91.26 Schedule of payments approved – noted and approved. Payments will be made by cheque until a permanent clerk is appointed.

July 2026	Locum clerk invoice	330.00
July 2026	Colchester Association of Local Councils – annual subscription	35.00
July 2026	Colchester City Council – election fee	761.07
July 2026	Holiday Let Services – grass cutting	125.00
Total		1251.07

92.26 Updates and information from the clerk

Annual Return – this has been submitted and will be added to the website. The Notice of Completion of Audit is awaited from the External Auditors.

Defibrillator check – the clerk asked councillors to check the apparatus on a regular basis and report back. A new torch and case will be sourced.

Banking – once a permanent clerk is appointed the banking will be reviewed

Register of Interests – the clerk reminded councillors to check their Register of Interests and confirm or update as needed

Signed _____ Thursday 27th August 2026

Speed sign – the sign at Snow Hill is not working properly. The clerk will research a repair company to get it fixed

93.26 Matters raised by members for the next agenda - none

94.26 Date of next meeting - The next meeting will be held 27 August at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall (note this is a change to the previously published date).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Bank Reconciliation at 30th June 2026

Current Account	12616.40
Reserve Account	22053.19
Total Funds at 30th June 2026	£34669.59

Signed _____ Thursday 27th August 2026