

EAST MERSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Mersea Parish Council meeting held at East Mersea Village Hall on Thursday 27th August 2026.

Present: Cllrs Jeff Mason (chair), David Sunnucks, Margaret Lawford, Alex Richardson, Locum Clerk Petra Palfreyman, and 2 members of the public

95.26 Apologies for absence: Cllr Emma Green

96.26 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th July 2026 were agreed with Cllr Richardson proposing the amendments which were agreed and will be updated on those minutes.

There were no other matters arising.

97.26 Declarations of Interest: None

98.26 Public Participation Session: A member of the public mentioned a recent fire in a residential garden opposite Mersea Barns and asked about an evacuation plan, as the only road out of East Mersea was blocked for several hours. The clerk will contact the City Council for details of the Emergency Plan.

A member of the public wanted to understand the planning applications for Rewsalls Farm and requested that parking on the corner of the development was prohibited for safety reasons.

99.26 City Councillors Report: Not in attendance

100.26 CCC Local Plan including WMTC Island Plan – Cllr Richardson confirmed that East Mersea Parish Council had submitted its comments on the Local Plan to the City Council separately from West Mersea. If approved West Mersea's proposal to restrict single story extensions being granted planning permission would not therefore extend to East Mersea. Cllr Richardson explained that a separate draft Planning Policy for Mersea Island Caravan Parks (Policy PP23a) which included: prohibiting permanent occupancy and monitoring of this condition/not supporting conversion from touring sites to static sites/dark sky restrictions on lighting to minimise light pollution/and generally minimising the cumulative impact of the parks on nearby residents and businesses; had been distributed since the last meeting and commented on. Cllr Richardson also advised that Colchester City Council had been separately asked whether the Parish Council could be invited in future to comment on Entertainment Licenses when they are being applied for by the Caravan Parks. There will be a final round of consultation in September

101.26 RCCE Affordable/Low-Cost Housing: no update/defer to next meeting

102.26 Caravan parks – on the first weekend in August the music from Mersea Island Holiday Park was very loud and could be heard from a long distance. Immediate neighbours only were notified the day before. The Parish Council is not notified of entertainments licences by CCC. Contact numbers for any issues were given out but were for a local employee and a head office number which is not manned at weekends.

Signed _____ *Thursday 8th October 2026*

Complaints were made to CCC Environmental Protection who confirmed they would contact the holiday park, after the weekend. MIHP have been invited to speak with the Council to see how the issues can be alleviated. Residents are encouraged for contact Environmental Protection if there are any issues.

103.26 Planning Applications and Decisions

261274 Rewsalls Farm, Rewsalls Lane, East Mersea Colchester CO5 8SX Change of use of existing agricultural lean-to structure to 6 self-contained B8 storage units together with the installation of external walls and roller shutter doors Expiry date: 3rd September 2026 – The Council agreed to support the application subject to for safety reasons there being no parking spaces or access to the enclosed building on the south east corner of the building which is very close to a right angle bend on a road

2611131 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. Decision: Approve conditional

260067 Fen Farm", Moore Lane, East Mersea, Colchester.

Appeal decision: Dismissed

104.26 Beach safety – beach safety was discussed following the recent incident on West Mersea beach. It was agreed to contact Essex County Council to see if they would put warning signage and/or life rings on the beach at Cudmore Grove and at the point near the Ferry pick up/drop off.

105.26 Schedule of payments approved

August 2026	Blackwater advertising – clerks' vacancy	£168.00
August 2026	Page Computers – new laptop & set up	£1165.00
August 2026	Steve Graffaham – footpath cutting	£75.00
August 2026	Aubergine 262Ltd – additional support for emails	£180.00
August 2026	Community Heartbeat – annual support	£162.00
August 2026	Steve Graffaham – footpath cutting	£104.00
August 2026	Steve Graffaham – footpath cutting	£52.00
August 2026	Locum clerk services and misc purchases	£923.27

Cllr Richardson objected to the footpaths being cut using Parish Council funds as this the landowners or ECC responsibility and the parish council is already likely to be running a deficit for the year. All payments listed above were agreed.

Following a discussion about cutting the footpaths, it was agreed that those footpaths which are used regularly in the village should be cut to keep them accessible and it will

be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It was resolved by a majority vote to accept the proposal. Objection: Cllr Richardson

106.26 Budget and bank reconciliation – the budget was discussed and some amendments were discussed. The bank reconciliation was agreed.

107.26 Updates and information from the clerk

- New laptop – a new laptop has been purchased with Microsoft 365 installed and is being used with the new gov.uk email address
- Gov.uk email addresses and website – all councilor's have been given guidance to update their email addresses. The clerk will have a meeting with the website provider.
- Job vacancy – the job vacancy has been published, and three applications have been received. The applications will be sifted after the closing date on 9 September and interviews carried out.
- PSPO on surrounding waterways/temp signage – a temporary sign will be pinned to the existing ferry sign, until ECC install permanent ones
- Marine Police contacts – contact details have been displayed on the notice boards and sent out on the East Mersea email group.
- Defibrillator – new case/torch/Webnos/The Circuit – a new torch has been purchased and enquires made about a new case as the existing one is cracked. Councillors agreed to register with Webnos to confirm the device is being checked.
- Bus timetables and flags – timetables will be displayed at existing bus stops and new flags put at unofficial bus stops (those without shelters) as listed below:
  Ivy Lane
  Fen Lane NE-bound
  Fen Lane SW-bound
  The Dog & Pheasant NE-bound
  Church Lane W-bound
  Church Lane (adj) - E-bound
  Meeting Lane - E-bound
- Caravan parks noise – discussed above 102.26
- Cudmore Grove barrier – issues with out of hours anti-social behavior has been reported to ECC/warden who advised there had not been any reports or evidence of this and confirmed that a park ranger (for another park) is living on site and would have been aware of this and raised it with the warden. Costs/budget are prohibiting any further changes to the barrier in the immediate future. Residents should report any issues to the Police using 101 for non-emergency issues
- Other planning updates – the clerk is in correspondence with CCC planners regarding local issues and planning notifications

- Speed sign – the clerk contacted some businesses to see if they could fix the sign near Snow Hill as it is faulty and the supplier is in administration. ECC have replied and they are asking their contractor to look at it and quote. One other supplier agreed to look at it to quote at a cost of £145.00
- Historic minutes – minutes from 2010 to 2024 have been sent to Essex Records Office for safe keeping. Other historic records and more minutes will be reviewed to sent on in due course.
- Historic buildings – the steering group has met and discussed objectives. A list of buildings will be drawn up and information will be collected. The next meeting will be in September. Any wishing to take part can contact the Council.

108.26 Matters to be raised by members for the next agenda – E Bikes and verge cutting

109.26The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Bank balances 31st July 2026

Community Account	£ 9992.33
Reserve Account	£22053.19

Total funds 31st July 2026	**£32045.52**

Signed _____ *Thursday 8th October 2026*