

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

Held at Melksham Town Hall on Monday 22 June 2026

PRESENT:

Councillor S Rabey	Town Mayor and Chair
Councillor G Elson	Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chair
Councillor P Alford	
Councillor P Aves	
Councillor J Crossley	
Councillor J Oatley	
Councillor T Price	
Councillor C Stokes	
Councillor A Westbrook	
Councillor J Westbrook	
Councillor A Whitlock	

IN ATTENDANCE

OFFICERS	Hayley Bell	CEO/Town Clerk
	Alla Chaikovska	Events Assistant
	Ian Cunningham	Community
	Andrew Meacham	Committee Clerk
	David Skinner	RFO
	Dominic Rutterford (Virtual)	Communications

PUBLIC two members of the public and one members of the press were present and one member of the public was present virtually

36/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councill Calland, Councillor Cleary, Councillor Drewett and Councillor Griffin.

The CEO advised that Councillor Cleary and Councillor Drewett had requested leaves of absence which would be on the agenda for the next full council meeting

37/26 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

38/26 Minutes

The minutes of 11 May 2026, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor and Chair Councillor Rabey.

39/26 Public Participation

Resident 1

Q. Why does the agenda includes a quote for demolition of the Blue Pool?

A. Relates to the item on insurance.

Q. How does the Council see itself holding planning committees if it is not managing planning for its own projects?

A. A case of lessons to be learnt.

Resident 2

Q. Has been told that 2026/27 budget was online and has mentioned concerns about some figures to the RFO. When is the correct budget going to be online?

A. RFO has been speaking to Rialtas today and should be resolved soon.

Q. Internal Audit Report. Councils do not legally have to vote but it is recommended to have a recorded vote to protect councillors in case of discrepancies or mistakes. Will Melksham Town Council be having a vote and will it be recorded?

A. The Ceo would come back on that question.

40/26 Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from councillors.

41/26 Town Mayor's Announcements

Splash will now replace the Melksham Splashpad flooring with Wet Pour. Existing tiles will be removed starting Wednesday. New flooring cannot be laid during the extreme heat conditions. The CEO confirmed that a new guarantee period would start when the new floor was laid.

During the Red Weather Alert, please take care and look out for neighbours and vulnerable residents.

42/26 Police Report

Sgt Chilton spoke.

Inspector Lemon was moving to Devizes Team and being replaced by Inspector Louise Oakley.

A conviction of GBH with Intent and Possession of an Offensive Weapon had been obtained after the hammer assault last year. Sentencing in October. CCTV footage was vital to the investigation.

Action taken on e-bikes.

Warrant executed in Holt resulting in arrest. Over 600 contaminated vapes and over an ounce of Class A drugs seized.

These operations rely on members of the public and residents are urged to report any concerns.

Questions were asked. There was a request for Wiltshire Police to run some comms about the need to report crime rather than using Facebook.

43/26 Reports from Unitary Councillors

Councillor Stokes – Snarlton Farm appeal pushed back. Likely to be delayed further due to change in PM.

Councillor Westbrook – LHFIG budget increased. Wiltshire Council has a surplus in the budget. Change in Cabinet and some portfolios, including her own.

44/26 AGE UK Wiltshire

The Melksham Community Support Officer introduced herself and spoke about the award winning service.

The Town Mayor Councillor Rabey thanked the Support Officer for her work.

45/26 WTF Festival

The presentation did not take place.

46/26 Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Members were agreed that Councillor Pafford would be a good choice but wanted clarification on how Melksham Without Parish Council see this working and how feedback would come to Melksham Town Council.

The item was deferred to the July meeting.

47/26 East Melksham Community Centre

This item was deferred.

48/26 Operational Flood Working Group

It was suggested that Councillor Griffin might be interested. The item was deferred to the July meeting.

49/26 Year End Financials

A question was asked about Line 325 Melksham East Community Centre not having yet been transferred to Melksham Without Parish Council. The CEO explained she was waiting for clarification from Wiltshire Council on the legal agreement.

It was proposed by Councillor Crossley, seconded by the Town Mayor Councillor Rabey and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the year end financials for 2025/26.

50/26 Annual Governance Statement

It was proposed by Councillor J Westbrook, seconded by Councillor Stokes and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to agree the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026.

The document was signed at meeting end.

51/26 Accounting Statements

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Elson and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to agree the Accounting Statements 2025/2026.

The document was signed at meeting end.

52/26 Dates for Public Inspection of Accounts

It was proposed by the Town Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Stokes and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to agree the dates for the public inspection of accounts as 24 June 2026 to 4 August 2026.

53/26 Final Internal Audit Report

The Final Internal Audit Report was noted. Members noted the positive comments and thanked the RFO for his work.

54/26 Motion on Flag Flying

The Town Mayor Councillor Rabey and Councillor J Westbrook spoke to the item.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor J Westbrook and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to add the following flags to our Flag Flying policy:

- White Ribbon - 25th Nov
- Holocaust Flag- 27th January
- Progress Flag - June
- Emergency Service - 9th Sept
- Armed Forces last weekend in July

55/26 Motion on Grass Cutting Intervention

Councillor Oatley declared a non-pecuniary interest as a committee member of Forest Community Centre.

A friendly amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

It was proposed by Councillor J Westbrook, seconded by Councillor Aves and

RESOLVED to approve a one off cut for Forest Community Centre.

Councillor Oatley abstained.

56/26 Speedwell Park Play Area Fencing

The CEO spoke to the item and members discussed merits of wood and metal fencing.

Members voted 8-3 in favour of metal.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor J Westbrook and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to delegate authority to the CEO/Town Clerk to conduct due diligence and appoint a contractor, with the decision to be communicated to Assets & Facilities.

CEO/Town Clerk advised that procurement for Dunch Lane and Riverside should go live on Wednesday.

57/26 Play Park Refurbishments

Nothing to update

58/26 Blue Pool

The CEO/Town Clerk and RFO spoke to the item.

Members discussed the merits and implications of the options.

The question of the failure to obtain planning permission and the subsequent costs were raised.

The CEO advised that the Blue Pool had now been zero rated for business rates and Amenities would remain at Bowerhill for another year. The CEO would confirm the costs of moving the EV Chargers.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by the Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Elson and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to insure the Blue Pool for demolition cost.

It was noted that there were no plans to demolish the Blue Pool.

59/26 KGV Playing Fields – Summer Booking Request

The Town Mayor Councillor Rabey spoke to the item

There were concerns about location in the KGV, the hire charge rate and the length of hire in relation to KGV being intended as a free facility. It was confirmed that policy allowed the CEO to offer a discounted rate.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor Councillor Rabey, seconded by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Elson and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to offer a two week hire period in a location in the KGV a little away from Evie's Kitchen and the Splashpad.

60/26 Committee Minutes – Assets & Facilities

The minutes of 9 February 2026 and 20 April 2026 were received.

61/26 Committee Minutes Community

The minutes of 23 March 2026 were received.

62/26 Committee Minutes Finance

The minutes of 9 March 2026 were received.

63/26 Committee Minutes Planning

The minutes of 17 March 2026, 7 April 2026, 26 April 2026 and 19 May 2026 were received.

64/26 Committee Minutes Working Groups/Task & Finish Groups.

The minutes of 28 April 2026 were received.

Meeting closed at: 21:10

Signed

Dated