

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Planning Committee

At Melksham Town Hall on Tuesday 15 September 2026

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey Chair
 Councillor P Alford
 Councillor P Aves
 Councillor J Crossley
 Councillor A Griffin
 Councillor J Oatley

IN ATTENDANCE

OFFICERS Hayley Bell CEO
 Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk

PUBLIC one member of the public was present. Councillor Baines from Melksham Without Parish Council was present for items 8 & 9

111/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes, who was substituted by Councillor Crossley.

112/26 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

113/26 Minutes

The minutes of 25 August 2026, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair Councillor Rabey.

114/26 Public Participation

Resident 1 – (The following is a full cut from the residents email to the Town Council giving notice of the question)

Melksham lies in the middle of England and on the only designated trunk road and rail links for freight through Wessex from the Solent and BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole). These links also provide the trunk freight corridors from Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury to the M4 and northward (road) and from the Somerset Stone quarries to the Heart of England (rail).

Will the Town Council's Planning Committee please make an input to this consultation, which closes on 23rd September, acknowledging these links and requesting that the freight action plan provides strategic support for significant infrastructure improvements on both the rail and road corridors to not only handle the projected increased freight traffic in an environmentally friendly way, but also handles projected passenger traffic which shared the infrastructure?

You may like to note in meeting preparation

a) This consultation input is due before the next full council meeting, and separate to local plan input which has a later cut off date

b) Written Statement on rail freight by the Secretary of State for Transport on 8th September 2026 which brings forward some targets

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fspeeches%2Frail-freight-growth-2040-target&data=05%7C02%7Cceo%40melksham-tc.gov.uk%7Cc3feb407d7f84030f01608df0ee638b4%7Cb163abdfec1e4bf79c1e698994a1f0b6%7C0%7C0%7C639246054102712765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFrpbClzldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZKjX2AYKuuZzf6giOGJOa659jcTaG%2B3oATx%2F%2FkJHd1E%3D&reserved=0>

c) Road corridors mapped out no longer show the A36 to Bath (for A46 and Bristol connections) to be trunk

d) Projected routing for a new Melksham bypass routes traffic away from Melksham Town Parish, although it remains in the Melksham Community Area

e) Network Rail, LTP4, Bath and Wiltshire Metro all call for infrastructure improvements to substantially increase rail capacity, and Network Rail and HMG plans call for phasing out of diesel-only trains, which account for all freight and regular passenger services through Melksham at present. The section from Chippenham to Trowbridge is already a bottleneck even at current traffic levels (last Thursday night - queues of trains waiting to get through, for example)

f) Written early on 10th September to give maximum notice of question. I will be visiting the local plan road show in Devizes today (why is it not coming to Melksham?) and may follow up on that, and happy to provide links / references is needed prior to next Tuesday

115/26 Freight Action Plan

This item was advanced up the agenda so the resident could contribute and during the discussion standing orders were suspended and re-instated accordingly.

Comments made.

- If A350 is trunked Melksham, Westbury and Yarnbrook by-passes are essential. Must ensure Wiltshire Council pressure central government to plan properly.
- Would like to see more freight by rail.
- Rail freight will still need a road plan.
- Agree with comments of the resident and the draft submission of Melksham Without Parish Council.
- Comments must take an holistic approach.
- Impact on Town Centre if there are issues on A350.
- Strategy needs to dove-tail with planning development. For example, there is currently a planning application for a development that would include proposed by-pass route.
- Improvements at Melksham Railway station and a passing loop.

Councillor Alford raised concerns about endorsing statements not in the public agenda pack. It was noted that Melksham Without Parish Council comments were not available at time of publication and the comments of the MP were in the agenda pack.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Crossley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to request the CEO to write a submission on the basis of the discussion and comments.

116/26 PL/2026/04916

Councillor Griffin advised that he had requested the matter be considered under the new National Development Framework to be referred to committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Aves and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to bring this item back to the next meeting.

117/26 PL/2026/04543

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

118/26 PL/2025/07044

Members noted amendments and comments from Holt Parish Council and Broughton Gifford Parish Council. Emergency access point moved back to old site entrance, as previously suggested by the committee. Decisions on roundabouts and traffic lights should be made by Highways and the roundabout designers. Suggested mitigation of flooding concerns by possible s106 requirement for improvements to footpath towards Broughton Gifford.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey seconded by Councillor Griffin and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to comment as above.

119/26 PL/2026/05037

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Crossley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object.

120/26 PL/2026/05437

Members noted that the hedgerow would have to be removed to allow the work to go ahead.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application but to ask that the hedgerow be replaced with something similar that would be suitable for nesting birds.

121/26 PL/2026/04985

Members had no objection but were unhappy that the application was made retrospectively.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

122/26 PL/2026/03428

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

123/26 PL/2026/05044

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

124/26 PL/2026/04912

The notification was noted.

125/26 PL/2026/04164

The decision was noted.

126/26 PL/2026/04004

The decision was noted.

127/26 PL/2026/02295

The decision was noted.

128/26 PL/2026/04682

The decision was noted.

129/26 PL/2026/02170

The decision was noted.

130/26 Wiltshire Local Plan

The chair and the CEO spoke to the item and particularly co-operation with Melksham Without Parish Council but also submitting separate statements.

Members discussed, provided stats and made suggestions.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Rabey and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept and agree the report and its proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that any member of the planning committee may represent the Town Council as required.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to delegate the Ceo to prepare an initial response.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to allow the CEO to hold further discussions with the Clerk of Melksham Without Parish Council and to bring the matter back.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve submitting nomination for Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 to Community First Awards.

131/26 Temporary Road Closure – Holt

The closure was noted.

132/26 Temporary Road Closure – Melksham

The closure was noted.

133/26 Provisional Tree Preservation Order

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to make any objection or representation.

134/26 Parish Steward

Spiky bush on walkway alongside the Factory Shop site.

Graffiti and bins by Iceland. It was noted this was private land and the CEO would write to the landlord.

135/26 Additional issues raised but not on agenda.

Announcements from CEO

- Up date to come to council on emergency planning.
- Business Partnership report will in future come to Planning Committee.
- Lease for Cornflower Way signed.

Request from Councillor Alford to flag an area beside the Melksham East/Melksham Oak footpath for possible future Green Space allocation.

Meeting closed at: 20:20

Signed

Dated