

# EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 IN EIGHT ASH GREEN VILLAGE HALL, AT 7.30 P.M.**

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**In the Chair:** Cllr. D. Franklin  
**Present:** Cllrs. L. Coombs, J. Greenwold, L. Greenwold, D. Mills, C. Willetts, K. Winterbourne  
**Clerk:** Mrs. H. Cook  
**Also Present** Cllr. Willetts & Harrington, Four members of the public

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### **1196: Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Franklin welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr M Horst.

### **1197: Declaration of Interests.**

To receive any “Disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests” relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared.

### **1198: Confirmation of Minutes – Meeting Held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013.**

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. All agreed that these were a true record of the meeting. Cllr D Mills & K Winterbourne abstained due to not being present at the July meeting.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were a true record of the meeting.**

**Proposed: Cllr. L. Greenwold. Seconded: Cllr. J. Greenwold. For: 5. Abstained: 2**

### **1199: Guest Speaker – Mrs Pauline Hennessey, New Owner of Progressive Mews.**

Mrs Pauline Hennessey spoke briefly about her new company Homes Plus Care Limited, which had purchased Ashcroft Residential Homes, which will be renamed Progressive Mews. She made the following points:

- ❖ Opening end of October
- ❖ Completed in three stages, 1<sup>st</sup> phase 5 bed, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase 7 bed, 3<sup>rd</sup> phase 4 bed.
- ❖ Once phase 1 is completed they are happy for the Council or local residents to have a look around.
- ❖ Residential home for 18-65 year olds with learning difficulties, moderate to severe.
- ❖ Staffing will be 24-7, including a night duty member of staff.
- ❖ Staff ratio of 1:2 or in some cases 1:1.
- ❖ Jobs will be advertised on their website <http://www.homespluscare.co.uk/>

Cllrs agreed to bring forward planning application 131611.

### **1203: Planning**

Meeting closed at 7.45pm. Mr Allum spoke regarding planning application 131611, explaining the idea behind the design. He also wanted to make the Council aware of his businesses support toward community function and explain that the public house is happy to try and work with the community/neighbours to ease noise issues etc that you naturally get from a business of this nature.

Meeting opened at 7.48pm.

Cllrs had reviewed the planning application prior to the meeting, and no members had any concerns regarding this application. It was noted that three objections had been made by neighbouring properties.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk notify Colchester Borough Planning Department that EAG Parish Council expressed no concern beyond wishing that any neighbours were also content with the proposal.**

**Proposed: Cllr. Willetts. Seconded: Cllr. Coombs. For: All.**

**1200: Public Participation Session with Respect to Items on the Agenda and Other Matters that are of Mutual Interest.**

A member of the public spoke about the possible location of a bench near Abbotts Lane.

**1201: Broadband Project & Website:**

Mr M Horst had sent his apologies.

**1202: Ward/County Councillors to Address the Members if Present.**

Cllr Harrington spoke briefly on:

- ❖ The resurfacing of Argents Lane.
- ❖ NEPP, Abbotts Lane resident parking had been chased.
- ❖ Locality budget of £2,000 must be completed by February.

Cllr Willetts spoke briefly on:

- ❖ Maps being drawn up in order to implement the Essex 1987 Act Section 6 proposal for the Verges around the Holiday Inn.
- ❖ Water leak on Spring Lane.
- ❖ A map for marking the ditches had been obtained, to be discussed later in the agenda.
- ❖ The Church woodland behind the back of the scout hut will now be managed by a volunteer from the Church.
- ❖ The deadline for the November issue of the village magazine will be at the beginning of October.

**1204: Jubilee Meadows:**

Cllrs discussed the quote received, but agreed that residents of Jubilee Meadows should be written to, due to the newly erected bollards. Cllrs asked the Clerk to put this item on the October agenda to discuss further.

**1205: Blind Lane:**

Cllrs discussed the email received by the Clerk. Cllrs asked the Clerk to contact Colchester Borough Council with regards to the fly tipping in the ditch and Essex County Council for the trees that need cutting.

Cllrs discussed the email received from Planning Enforcement and agreed that nothing could be done, unless residents could provide photographic evidence of vehicles blocking the track and not leaving a 1.2 metre clearance. If residents can supply this to the Clerk, she will contact Essex County Council to take this matter further.

**1206: Street Lighting:**

Cllrs discussed the letter from Essex County Council and agreed no comment was necessary. Cllrs asked the Clerk to find out the cost implication and possible savings with using LED on the lights which Eight Ash Green Parish Council have responsibility for.

**1207: Registration of Historic Mineral Rights:**

Cllrs discussed the email correspondence from the Solicitor. It was agreed to confirm that EAG did not need to register mineral rights, as they have registered their land.

**1208: Salt Bag Scheme 2013/14:**

Cllrs discussed the distribution of the salt, due to arrive in September. It was agreed to put an article in the Village Magazine and website.

**1209: Action Tracker:**

Cllrs discussed that matters were in progress. Cllr L Greenwold asked the Clerk to contact the Church to obtain their views on putting a flag pole at the front of the Church behind the white picket fence in order to mark special events, including the WWI Commemorations.

**1210: Sewage, Daisy Green:**

Cllrs asked the Clerk to take this matter further and report it to Colchester Borough Council.

**1211: Heaths, Greens, Footpaths and Highways Working Group**

- a) To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr L Greenwold reported that allotment plots 2, 7 and 17 had not been recently worked and plot 5 had not been cultivated. The Clerk was asked to write to the plot holders. It was also noted that plot 9 was now vacant and the Clerk could reallocate this plot.

- b) To receive a report from Cllr Winterbourne regarding Parish Paths Partnerships.

Cllr Winterbourne explained that funding was available for maintaining the local public footpaths. An application would need to be submitted by March. Cllr Winterbourne agreed to survey the footpaths with local volunteers and report back to the Parish Council.

- c) To discuss the Tree Survey Quotes for the Trees on Parish Council Land.

Cllrs discussed the 4 quotes.

**RESOLVED that after further consideration the work would be given to Richard Fordham Forestry Contractors. The Clerk was asked to contact Richard Fordham along with the unsuccessfully companies and confirm Councils decision. Proposed: Cllr. Winterbourne. Seconded: Cllr. L Greenwold. For: All.**

- d) To discuss forming a ditches working group and policy infringements.

Cllrs discussed that the Council now has access to a useable map; a survey of the ditches could now be completed. Cllr Franklin & Cllr D. Willetts agreed to meet to complete a survey of the ditches and report back to Council.

**1212: Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported the following:

- ❖ Fly tipping had been reported to CBC.
- ❖ Pothole in Spring Lane had been reported.

- ❖ The Water leak on Spring Lane had been reported to Anglian Water – reported back as natural spring.
- ❖ Contacted Essex Fire Service, regarding Fire Break – no response – need to chase.
- ❖ Chased Cllr Anne Brown regarding the 30mph repeater sign.
- ❖ EAG had received a complaint from CBC regarding Bonfires, allotment holders were written to reminding them of the policy.
- ❖ Police & Crime Commissioner is holding an open meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September – notice put up.
- ❖ Crime Reported – Fiddler Folley – lock of bedroom door and filing cabinet broken.
- ❖ Crime Reported – Wood Lane – removal of catalytic converter.
- ❖ Response from Anglian Water, regarding drain covers on Spring Lane, Argents Lane junction was read out.

**1213: Accounts and Payments:**

**Financial Statement August. (Items to be approved for payment made in August).** The five invoices and salary information were passed around for all Councillors to have a look at and confirm they are happy with the August payments.

**Financial Statement September. (Items to be approved for payment and signed as per payment schedule).** The two invoices and salary information were passed around for all Councillors to have a look at and agree.

**RESOLVED that after further consideration eight cheques written in August are officially approved and that the five cheques detailed on the payment schedule be authorised for payment for September. Proposed: Cllr. J Greenwold. Seconded: Cllr. Franklin. For: All.**

**1214: Any other business:**

No further business was discussed.

**1215: Next Agenda Items.**

Purchase of Allotment Plot  
Locality Budget  
Flag Pole  
Benches

9.20pm Cllr C Willetts gave her apologies and left the meeting.

**1216: Part 2**

*To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Public to be excluded further from the Meeting. The outcome of the private discussion will be publicised in the minutes to this meeting.*

**1217: To discuss the possibility of purchasing an allotment plot.**

Cllrs discussed this matter and asked the Clerk to find out costs in order to bring this matter back to the October meeting.

**1218: To discuss the new salary scales.**

Cllrs agreed that they should follow the recommendation from NALC & SLCC. Cllrs also agreed that the current covering Clerks salary should reflect their other Clerk position.

**RESOLVED that after further consideration the current Clerk will receive a pay increase in line with NALC & SLCC recommendation backdated to April 2013. The covering Clerk will also receive this**

**pay increase along with receiving an increase to bring the salary in line with her other Clerk position back dated to April 2013. Proposed: Cllr. J. Greenwold. Seconded: Cllr. K Winterbourne. For: All.**

**1219: To discuss the return of the Clerk from Maternity Leave.**

Cllrs discussed the Clerk's letter and agreed that she would return to work on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, but would take two weeks annual leave, therefore returning as the contactable Clerk on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**RESOLVED the letter from the Clerk be accepted and that the covering clerk will work until the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The Parish Council agreed to pay for some handover hours to be agreed with both Clerks. Proposed: Cllr. Franklin. Seconded: Cllr. L Coombs. For: All.**

Cllr Franklin thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting to the public at 9.30pm. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Signed:.....

Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013