

**Minutes of the Eight Ash Green Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green at 7.30pm**

**Present**

Councillor C Willetts  
Councillor K Winterbourne  
Councillor L Greenwold  
Councillor D Mills  
Mrs A Harness, Parish Clerk  
Mrs H Cook, Maternity Cover Clerk  
Also present one member of the public and Borough Councillors M Harrington and D Willetts.

In the absence of Councillor D Franklin it was proposed by Councillor K Winterbourne and seconded by Councillor D Mills that Councillor C Willetts Chair the meeting. All in favour. Councillor C Willetts welcomed everybody to the meeting.

- 1063 To receive Apologies had been received from Councillors D Franklin and J Greenwold. apologies and record absences.
- 1064 Councillors will No Councillor had any pecuniary interests to disclose. If any pecuniary disclose any interests arise during discussions these will be disclosed. pecuniary interests relating to this agenda. Members are reminded that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest they must leave the room and not participate in any discussion relating to the relevant agenda item.
- 1065 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012. It was proposed by Councillor K Winterbourne and seconded by Councillor D Mills that it be resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be confirmed as a true record. All in favour with the exception of Councillor L Greenwold who abstained from voting as she was not present at the last meeting.
- 1066 To deal with matters arising from those minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda. There were no matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
- 1067 The Chairman will suspend the meeting in order for members of the public to Councillor C Willetts suspended the meeting and asked members of the public if they would like to address the Council. Mr M Horst informed the meeting that following on from the query raised regarding the security of the free Wi Fi in the Village Hall, he had responded to Councillor D Mills directly and would recommend that he add a disclosure

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have their say. This section of the agenda allows members of the public to speak for a maximum of three minutes with a total of fifteen minutes being allocated for this agenda item.

to the information poster on the Village Hall wall explaining that it is the individuals responsibility to ensure their device is secure.

- 1068 To review the Action Tracker and the status of existing actions. The updated action tracker was noted by the Council and the Clerk reported that despite sending another email to Colchester Borough Council regarding the relocation of the dog bins no response had been received indicating whether this would take place or not. Borough Councillor M Harrington stated that he would chase this matter up as he is dealing with the same situation in West Bergholt. It was agreed that the only other matters needing to be discussed appear on the agenda.
- 1069 To discuss the relocation of the bench currently situated on the corner of Spring Lane and Halstead Road. The Clerk summarised the situation for the meeting reminding members that although the triangle of land is privately owned highways rights still exist here. The Parish Council needs to decide on whether to pursue this matter further and possibly incur large legal costs or to relocate the bench to an alternative site. The members of the Parish Council discussed the matter at length and agreed that they would discuss the possible relocation of the bench with the land owners, encouraging them to make a financial contribution to this. It was resolved unanimously to send a letter to the landowners to begin discussions relating to this matter.
- 1070 To discuss matters relating to Locality Grant and the application the Parish Council is to submit to Borough Councillors M Harrington and D Willetts. The Clerk confirmed that she has sent a letter to Borough Councillor M Harrington regarding the bike racks for the Village Hall and has put the Head Teacher in touch with Marcus to discuss their projects. Councillor D Mills has researched the village well and the Council agreed the wording he has suggested to be placed on the information board. It was resolved that the Parish Council will clear the brambles around the well to make it visible and to provide match funding. Councillor D Mills will ensure a price for producing the information board is with Borough Councillor M Harrington by Friday.
- 1071 To discuss matters relating to the proposed new play area and to discuss possible ways forward with this project. The Clerk reported that she and Andrew would be meeting with Linda Russell next week to discuss the application to the planning inspectorate. The Clerk also reported that Playquip had been contacted to alter their design taking on board the outcome of the public consultation.
- 1072 To receive a report on the progress of the Broadband Project within the Mr M Horst having previously circulated a report to members informed the meeting that no new connections took place during December, and the information packs had been sent to interested parties in Fiddlers Folley and Porters Close. Further installations are planned in January and to date we have only received one complaint from Heath Road that it is taking too long

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Village (Mr M Horst), and to receive a report on the village website.

for the service to be installed in this area as a suitable location for a Community Access Point has not been agreed.

To date there are 47 paying customers using the service and the next instalment of the loan repayment is due at the end of January.

Mr M Horst reported that he has a meeting with County Broadband next Friday and they will be attending the Village Design Statement meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr M Horst informed the meeting that he continues to maintain the website. The Council thanked Mr M Horst for all his hard work on these projects.

1073 To discuss the possible re-allocation of allotment plots and any unpaid rents that remain outstanding at the time of the meeting.

The Clerk reported that she has written to the allotment holders who have not paid their rent reminding them to do so or contact the Parish Council for assistance. To date one holder has sent payment and another has contacted the Clerk. The letters stated that if no contact had been made by the February meeting the plot would be reallocated.

It was agreed to discuss this further at the February meeting.

1074 To receive reports from Councillors.

- Planning
- Heaths, Greens, Footpaths and Highways Working Group.

Planning

122263 4 Searle Way, proposed extension. It was resolved that there are no objections to this application. All in favour.

The Council noted the refused application numbers 121945 and 122014.

Heaths, Greens, Footpaths & Highways

Councillor L Greenwold reported that the 40mph speed sign is still in the ditch on the Heath. The Clerk will chase this matter up.

It was noted that Colchester Borough Council have the Huxtables Lane road sign replacement in hand.

All members of the Council reported the bad pot holes within the Parish in particular Argents Lane and Cooks Mill. The Clerk will once again report these. It was also agreed to report that the new road surfaces in Huxtables Lane and Argents Lane are already breaking up despite only being laid recently.

1075 To receive reports from the County and Borough Councillors.

Borough Councillor D Willetts informed the meeting that the main issues he has been dealing with relate to complaints received regarding the pot holes and he informed the meeting that any additional pressure the Parish Council may be able to add would be appreciated. He added that Essex County Council inspected Fiddlers Hill again on the 4<sup>th</sup> January and hopefully improvements will be made as the road is substandard at the present time.

Borough Councillor D Willetts reported that to date little progress had been made on the village map, but he would meet with Councillor D Franklin to get this project moving.

Borough Councillor D Willetts concluded by stating that hopefully the locality budget would be made available again next year.

Borough Councillor D Willetts was thanked for his report.

Borough Councillor M Harrington reiterated that he too has received numerous complaints regarding the state of the roads at the present time, and added that he has been informed that the bottom end of Argents Lane would be looked at soon.

He reminded the meeting that he would be attending the Local Highways Panel meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 6.00pm in the Town Hall.

Borough Councillor M Harrington reported that a further 5 volunteers has signed up to the speedwatch scheme.

Borough Councillor M Harrington was thanked for his report.

1076 Clerks report to

A list of items for noting was circulated to members.

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the Council including receiving a schedule of items of interest for information.

The Clerk asked members to confirm if they were happy for the precept request to be sent to Colchester Borough Council. All Councillors confirmed that they were happy for this document to be submitted.  
The Clerk informed the meeting that she would let them know the last day she would be working before commencing her maternity leave during the last week in January.

1077 To deal with accounts for payment and financial report.

The Clerk circulated financial reports and list of accounts for payment. The Council considered the reports and it was proposed by Councillor K Winterbourne and seconded by Councillor L Greenwold that the following accounts be approved for payment. All in favour.

- C Willetts – Reimbursement for Mr G Tye Christmas present - £70.00
- J Everitt – Grass Cutting & Maintenance - £570.00
- G Tye – Wages & Expenses - £133.096
- A Harness – Wages & Expenses - £513.22

1078 Any other business.

(Note: No decisions may lawfully be made under this item, but matters may be discussed which involve no more than an exchange of information. Any matters requiring a decision must be deferred to the next meeting.)

Councillor L Greenwold informed the meeting that she had been shocked to hear of the recent closure of Ashcroft Residential Home.  
Councillor C Willetts informed the meeting that she has reported that the grass verges along the Halstead Road need scrapping back again.  
The Clerk will email Mr M Horst the agendas that need to be uploaded on the village website.  
There were no other items to be discussed under any other business so the meeting closed to members of the public at 9.25pm

1079 Part Two

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.

There were no matters to discuss under this agenda item.

- To discuss the Parish Clerk's upcoming Maternity Leave and any action required by the Council.

Meeting closed at 9.26pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_