

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 in Eight Ash Green Village Hall at 7.30pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Jean Absalom

Present: Cllr Alec Birchall
 Cllr Andrew Cook
 Cllr Alistair McGarry
 Cllr Alan Tolfrey
 Cllr Billie Wiffen
 Cllr Christine Willetts

The Clerk

There were 10 members of the public present.

103-18/19 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies to receive.

104-18/19 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

105-18/19 Public Participation

The Chairman said this Item would be taken later in the meeting.

106-18/19 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th November 2018

It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th November 2018 were a true record.

The Chairman said Item 115-18/19 would be taken next.

115-18/19 Eight Ash Green Festival

a) To review the 2018 Festival

The Chair of the EAG Festival Committee said that the 2018 Festival had been the best so far. Thanks to support from the Parish Council and sponsorship from local businesses, the festival had had a more professional look – for example, Travis Perkins had supplied better toilet facilities kindly paid for by the Parish Council. The stage had been provided by a local company this year and had been of much better quality, and acoustics, sound levels and finishing times had all been improved on since 2017.

Signed _____
 Cllr J Absalom, Chairman

The aim of the Committee was to put on a free to attend event for the village to bring the community together. Each year the committee discussed the amount of donation to local groups.

A challenge in 2018 had been the higher attendance by young people. This had been a result possibly of good weather and no competing events that weekend. The security team had not been sufficient to meet the challenge in 2018.

There had been offers of support for additional security, especially for people leaving the festival. Measures regarding alcohol can be taken as the heath would be a licensed premise over the festival weekend.

The committee had looked at changes to social media groups and a “rebranding” of the Festival for 2019.

Cllr McGarry thanked the committee for their report. He said it was a positive report and re-stated that the festival was a village event. It was important not to tar all youngsters with the same brush and make them feel excluded.

Cllr Cook said the committee's report covered all the issues and took steps to address them. More issues might arise but these could be dealt with. He asked if it would be possible to talk to the security team about dispersal after the event.

Mr Allum said the problem had been the Cricketers being a target even though it had been closed. He said next year the security team would address dispersal from the Cricketers. The aspiration was to make the festival better without being bigger. The type of music played would be considered. The aim was to be in a financial position to be able to absorb the loss from a poor year without jeopardising the following year.

Cllr McGarry asked the committee to check their legal standing. This would be very important especially with regard to distributing any monies should the committee be wound up.

Mr Allum said ways to publicise the message that inappropriate behaviour would not be tolerated would be considered. He emphasised that the 2018 festival had been a great success and had brought the whole village together, including for the first time the Cricket Club. Local businesses had also been involved, and many were interested for 2019.

Cllr McGarry said the Council would like to formally record their thanks to the Festival Committee for all their hard work, and would support the committee in any way it could.

Signed _____
Cllr J Absalom, Chairman

b) To discuss the 2019 Festival and agree any action necessary.

It was unanimously agreed to formally endorse the Eight Ash Green Festival 2019, following the report from the Festival Committee.

107-18/19 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Jarvis said the deadline for the Locality Budget was approaching and to send any requests directly to him.

Cllr Willetts referred to the recent speed survey and said it was important that the Parish Council had a plan of what to do with this evidence.

The Chairman said that she and the Clerk would be writing to Cllr Anne Brown and the police after Christmas and if anyone had any suggestions they should contact her as soon as possible.

108-18/19 Clerk's Report

There was no report.

109-18/19 To receive written reports from:

- a) Heaths and Greens – none received.
- b) Allotments – none received.
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was received.

110-18/19 To confirm the submission of the final version of the Eight Ash Green Neighbourhood Plan with supporting documents to Colchester Borough Council (documents circulated prior to meeting)

The submission of the final version of the Eight Ash Green Neighbourhood Plan was confirmed.

Mr John Allcock said it was possible the Regulation 16 consultation would start late January 2019.

111-18/19 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

None received.

The Clerk said she would follow up on two applications for Seven Star Green that had come to the attention of the Council, but had not been officially notified.

Planning Decisions

182471 - Green Acres, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PS -The demolition and replacement of a stable block to an accommodation building with a use ancillary to the main house. The main house is listed so the stable block is situated with the environs of a listed building and is therefore a curtilage building. – ***Permission granted, 6 conditions, 30th November 2018***

182472 - Green Acres, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PS -The demolition and replacement of a stable block to an accommodation building with a use ancillary to the main house. The main house is listed so the stable block is situated with the environs of a listed building and is therefore a curtilage building – ***Permission granted, 1 condition, 30th November 2018***

112-18/19 **To agree the budget for 2019/20 (draft figures circulated prior to the meeting)**

The budget for 2019/20 was agreed as circulated.

Proposed: Cllr McGarry Seconded: Cllr Cook (Unanimous)

113-18/19 **To confirm the reserves held by the Parish Council (draft figures circulated prior to the meeting)**

Deferred.

114-18/19 **To agree the 2019/20 precept demand on Colchester Borough Council (draft figures circulated prior to the meeting)**

Deferred to January 2019 when tax base figures would be available from Colchester Borough Council.

105-18/19 **Public Participation**

A resident said meetings were much easier to follow with the PA system.

A resident said a new defibrillator on Fiddlers Farm would be available from mid-January. She said the Community First Responders had been very helpful.

Signed _____
Cllr J Absalom, Chairman

Cllr McGarry said he was hoping to arrange more training in use of defibrillators.

Cllr Tolfrey said he would look into the possibility of siting a defibrillator at the garage on the main road.

116-18/19

Accounts & Payments:

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting
- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2018/19 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.

Cheques were approved for signature in accordance with the figures circulated prior to the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Cook

Seconded: Cllr Absalom

(Unanimous)

101-18/19

To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Willetts said the shopper bus was now up and running. She said accounting procedures would be transparent and clear.

Cllr Cook said he had looked at the RoSPA report on the Play Area and there were no concerns. He said trimming of trees was required and the surface required the application of weedkiller.

Cllr Tolfrey referred to the unveiling of the new village flag. He said a new plaque for the flagpole should be considered.

He said he had discovered that bollards to prevent access to the heath could be hired on a day-to-day basis.

Signed _____
Cllr J Absalom, Chairman

A resident referred to the holes in the Spring Lane car park and it was agreed that the Parish Council's contractor would be asked to rectify these.

102-18/19 **Date of Next Planned Meeting:** Wednesday 9th January 2019, 7.30 p.m. at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, CO6 3QF.

Signed _____
Cllr J Absalom, Chairman