

## **EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held online on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Alan Bilby  
Cllr John Jardine  
Cllr Tina Morgan  
Cllr Dean Nokes  
Cllr Alan Tolfrey (Chairman)  
Cllr Christine Willetts

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

There were three members of the public in attendance.

**64-20/21      Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies to receive.

**65-20/21      Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**66-20/21      To receive a presentation on the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme**

A presentation on the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme was received from Julie Pirone and Don Vann of

The Chairman thanked them both for attending.

**67-20/21      Public Participation**

A resident reported a Kier roadsign had been left opposite 52 Spring Lane since 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 which he said was tantamount to dumping.

The Chairman said he would investigate the procedure for dealing with this and advise the Clerk.

**68-20/21      To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed as a true record for signature by the Chairman at a later date.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

69-20/21      **Report from the County and Borough Councillors:** Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Willetts referred to road signage outside the primary school and said the project was still running with a notional budget of £3,500. He said the project was in validation, and a meeting between the school and Essex Highways was awaited.

He referred to planning application 202596 and the nature of the junction of the proposed spine road with the A1124. He said this junction would be safer as a roundabout but that the default was a T-junction. He said ward councillors were trying to nudge Essex Highways towards the roundabout. He said the primary school had asked if it would be possible to have additional parking on the development but that the developers had concerns about the distance from the school for the proposed spaces and the implications of these spaces being filled with cars from the development's residents. He said if the road past the school became quieter again it would possibly be easier to park.

He said Speedwatch had been stood down during Covid. He said they had been asked to measure speed of traffic to give information across the whole parish so this could be cross-checked against Highways information.

He said roadworks in the surrounding area were drawing to a close. He said work would take place on the Eight Ash Green to Fordham road in February but otherwise the area should be clear.

He referred to the Locality Budget and said time was running out but that Mr Winterbourne had the necessary information.

He said the newsletter had been circulated and now because this issue was later than originally planned it was only two and a half months until the next one.

The Chairman said he had received comments from residents about the official diversions during recent roadworks.

Cllr Willetts said that when Chitts Hill was closed, Argents Lane/Spring Lane was the default diversion. He said alternatives were Bergholt Road down to Colchester Station or through Wormingford but that neither was a suitable route and that it was very difficult to find a solution.

He referred to the various traffic issues in the parish and said the only solution was police/speed cameras and disqualification of offenders. He said

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

there were noise issues with rumble strips especially with Wood Lane and Spring Lane having a significant amount of commercial traffic.

Mr Winterbourne confirmed he would send full information regarding the application to the Locality Budget to the Clerk.

**70-20/21** **To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications**

**202596 - Land Off, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green - Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval. (171529)**

The Council agreed to comment as follows:

1. The Council is already concerned about the amount of traffic through the parish and the accompanying speeding issues. We feel the new development could exacerbate these issues but believe there is now an opportunity to address this.
2. The Council would like alternative junctions to be considered at the north and south side of the development. We feel roundabouts at the junctions with Fiddlers Hill and Halstead Road would align more closely with the Eight Ash Green Neighbourhood Plan. Section FF4 which states that priority junctions should be installed, and referred to by the developer in their prospectus. Alternatively, traffic travelling down Fiddlers Hill should be routed directly through the development, with the existing road becoming a side road, improving safety for Porters Cottages and Fiddlers Folly and the land surrounding Holy Trinity Primary School.
3. We are concerned about the parking available for second and third cars in a household. If these cars are parked on the development's roads, this will cause congestion and possible difficulty of access for emergency vehicles.
4. We believe that the positioning of Plot 123 and 125 goes against that advised by "The Committee Report", Ecology section para.16.42 which states properties along the ancient woodland edge should face the woodland in order to reduce the risk of dumping garden waste. These plots are also placed adjacent to the corner area of the wood the Ecological Report identified that the largest group of rarer Soprano Pipistrelle bats lived.
5. We have concerns for light and noise pollution from these gardens that run parallel to the 15M buffer between the ancient woodland and gardens of 123/125 and the effect this may have on the bat habitat that is

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

adjacent to them. We would ask that the positioning of 123 and 125 is re-considered.

6. The Parish Council would like to see further detail on the developer's plans to ensure existing residents feel secure in their properties during building work.

7. The Council is also disappointed to note that the developers had not contacted existing residents living adjacent to the site prior to machinery arriving at the field. We would like to ask the developers to improve communication with existing residents during the work.

8. The Council has concerns about wildlife considerations especially with regard to the resident bat population and would like to see further detail on mitigation of the effect of development.

9. The Council welcomes the widening of the pavement along the A1124 but we would like to see a walking plan from site to village amenities. The pavement on the Halstead Road side is only being widened to 2 meters at the actual site area yet reduces to its narrow width from where current properties start.

**202676 - Land west of, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester - Use of agricultural land for enclosed field for private dog walking.**

The Council agreed that they had no objection to this application but would object to either a temporary or permanent structure being granted permission in future.

**Decisions**

**None received**

**71-20/21 To review the Council's Action Tracker**

The Council's Action Tracker was reviewed.

Mrs Judy Alden, trustee of the Village Hall, said that they had received the report on the governing document and the deed of transfer of the land.

She said there were two conveyances and it was not clear whether following the 1954 conveyance whether the land was vested in the Official Custodian.

She said it was also noted that the Parish Council should be represented on the Village Hall committee.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

The Clerk and Mrs Alden said they would look into the documents and the implications further.

It was agreed that a roadmap to assist the Hall trustees would be useful. Cllrs Bilby, Jardine, Morgan and Nokes said they would be happy to be involved with this.

**72-20/21      To consider and possibly agree the precept demand for the municipal year 2021/22.**

The precept demand was agreed as circulated prior to the meeting at a total figure of £33,788.

The Council noted that this figure was a very slight reduction on last year's amount and that the Band D charge was not yet available as the necessary information had not yet been received from Colchester Borough Council.

**73-20/21      To consider the streetlight in the footpath from Spring Lane to Searle Way and agree any action necessary.**

The Council noted that the lamppost had now been fitted with an older-style bulb which would reduce the level of light.

**74-20/21      To consider and possibly agree to accept the Council's contractor quote for additional grass-cutting in the parish.**

It was agreed to accept the Council's contractor's quote for additional grass-cutting in the parish.

**75-20/21      To consider road signage by Holy Trinity Primary School and agree any action necessary.**

The Council noted that Cllr Dennis Willetts had addressed this under his report earlier in the meeting.

**76-20/21      Accounts & Payments:**

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting
- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2020/21 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.
- c) To receive the September bank reconciliation and budget figures to date for 2020/21

Cheques were approved for signature as listed below:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Payee	Reason for Payment	Amount
Various	Staff costs	£872.62
K Kane	Expenses – bench fixings	£73.01
Mail Boxes Etc	Newsletter printing	£379.00
RCCE	Membership	£72.60
W & H (Romac) Ltd	Streetlight repair	£576.00

#### 77-20/21      Reports from Councillors

Cllr Willetts said she had delivered the Christmas presents from Councillors to Mr Geoffrey Tye.

She said the memorial bench had been delivered and was appreciated by the family who had requested it.

Cllr Jardine asked if Mr Will Ralph would be taking down the parish's Christmas Tree. He said he had seen a fantastic response to the provision of the tree.

The Council expressed its thanks to Mr Ralph for his contribution towards provision of the tree, and to the Church for providing the site and the electricity.

#### 78-20/21      Date of Next Planned Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held online on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman