

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Lorraine Christie
Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Dean Nokes
Cllr Stephen Smith
Cllr Andrew Triolo
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were seven members of the public in attendance.
Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

23-24/25 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

There were no apologies to receive.

24-24/25 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

25-24/25 Public Participation

There were no comments.

26-24/25 To agree as a true record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8 May 2024

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8 May 2024 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The following points were noted:

Cllr Nokes and Cllr Triolo would progress the gates at entrances to the parish;
The Clerk would confirm progress on the inspection of the Play Area;
Cllr Triolo said there was encouraging progress on the newsletter.

27-24/25 Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts said the City Council had been inactive for months due to the pre-election period before the May elections and now the General Election.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

He said the S38 notice was yet to be signed for the new road in the Aspen Walk development. He said although there seemed to be progress this was disappointing.

He said a condition of the planning permission was that the road must be open prior to the occupation of the 75th dwelling and this was imposed by Colchester City Council as the planning authority. He said Essex County Council was the responsible Highways Authority and this created problems. He said ideally this would be coordinated so that the road was up to specification and safe for through traffic according to the planning permission.

He said the newsletter was going very well although a disappointing small number of articles by the Parish Council. He said he would like half a page from as many councillors as possible.

He referred to the Local Plan consultation date and the meeting planned for 25 June 2024. He said this would look at the settlement boundaries and the relationship between new Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan.

He said complaints had been received with regard to the quality of the grass-cutting by the City Council. He said the grass was being cut although resources were reduced. He said the City Council was doing what it could.

He said he would like to see synergy between the website and the newsletter.

He referred to new housing planned across the city. He said discussion continued on the relevant sites and all brownfield sites had now been developed. He said new developments would have to be on greenfield sites.

28-24/25 To review the Council's Action Tracker

i) To note any action under the headings below:

a) Access Rights

It was noted that Cllr Willetts' email, circulated prior to the meeting, gave the background to the specific easement required. It was noted that the Clerk would approach the Council's solicitor about taking this matter further.

b) Link Road

It was noted that City Council enforcement officers were monitoring progress. Cllr Smith said he had passed comments to Essex County Councillor Lewis Barber and Cllr Dennis Willetts' earlier comments had been echoed.

Cllr Smith referred to a new gate down Turkey Cock Lane.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Willetts said that this had been reported and was on Essex County Council land.

Cllr Willetts said she would look into action on the overgrown hedge around Wood Corner.

ii) To review the use of Trello for the Action Tracker

It was noted that samples of Trello could be sought and other Parish Councils' method of tracking actions investigated.

Cllr Jardine said he would put an Excel spreadsheet together for the website.

Cllr Smith said he would look further at Trello.

Cllr Christie said it was possible there might be a solution on Google Suite.

It was noted that options for a database and an Action Tracker would be an agenda item for July.

It was also noted:

- Cllr Nokes said he has done an article on Friends of the Heath for the newsletter and will have a stand at the Festival;
- Cllr Triolo said footpaths would be mentioned in the newsletter and walking the paths would continue;
- 30 mph limit – Cllr Smith said he was waiting to hear from Cllr Barber. It was noted that the results of the speed surveys had not been received. Cllr Triolo said 30 mph on Heath Road was possible but it would be a long process. Cllr Triolo and Cllr Dennis Willetts to take this forward.
- Pavement repairs – Cllr Jardine said he had contacted Cllr Barber regarding this issue;
- Wood Lane bollards – Cllr Smith said he had been in touch with Cllr Barber and they were currently waiting for CCC to get the budget.
- Neighbourhood Plan – waiting for CCC's Sandra Scott to allocate an officer;
- Seven Star Green – further consideration of action for the safety of the ducks and to prevent damage to the verge should be considered;
- Festival posters – Cllr Christie said she would be happy to help with these.

29-24/25 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

241114 - 17 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QP - Proposed new front porch & garage conversion

It was **agreed** that there was no objection to this application.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Planning Decisions

240692 - Eight Ash Green Cricket Club, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QF - New double doors to north elevation, infill of external terrace to east elevation, new gable to east elevation, new external door to south elevation and existing brickwork overclad with black feather edged timber weatherboard – ***Permission granted, 3 conditions. 30 May 2024***

240685 - West Oaks, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PS - Amendments to elevations approved via application 181199. – ***Permission granted, 10 conditions, 24 May 2024***

30-24/25 **Heaths, Greens and Allotments**

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne said that the verges were now cut although the grass was still wet and the paths had also been cut.

He said the hemlock had returned and all that had been visible had been thrashed. He said it needed to be dealt with wherever it was seen as it could be fatal to dogs.

He said the contractor was still planning to deal with the puddle by the allotments but had been held up by the weather.

He said the patch of heather on the heath needed protection and encouragement, and if possible more should be grown. He said this patch should then be fenced off for a short time for protection.

He said the next Volunteer Days would be held on 2 November 2024 and 1 March 2025.

b) To receive a report on the Allotments

The Allotment Steward said all was in order with the allotments.

31-24/25 **Accounts & Payments:**

a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting

b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2024/25 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.

Cheques were **approved** for signature in accordance with the Budget Sheet as follows:

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Colchester City Council	Streetlight electricity	£600.76
Allen Leslie Associates	Internal audit	£324.00
C360	Shopper bus - May	£80.00
Anglian Water	Allotments	£37.96
Mrs K Kane	Expenses – domain	£16.74
Various	Staff costs	£1,331.69

32-24/25 To consider and possibly agree a response to the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury consultation

Cllr Jardine said the deadline for the consultation had been put back due to the General Election. He said he would collate the response and circulate.

33-24/25 To consider and possibly agree to write a letter in support of the Cricket Club's planned improvements to the pavilion.

It was **agreed** to write a letter in support of the Cricket Club's planned improvements to the pavilion.

Cllr Jardine said he would draft a letter.

34-24/25 To consider and possibly agree to take part in the Village Hall's Buy-a Brick scheme

It was **agreed** to take part in the Village Hall's Buy-a Brick scheme. Cllr Nokes said he would confirm.

35-24/25 To review the effectiveness of the system of internal audit of the Parish Council

The effectiveness of the system of internal audit of the Parish Council was reviewed and no further action was noted.

36-24/25 To agree to approve the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024

It was **agreed** to approve the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024.

37-24/25 To agree to approve the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2024

It was **agreed** to approve the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2024.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

38-24/25 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Jardine said he would be attending a meeting of CALC on the following day and councillors should let him know if there was anything pressing.

He said three main issues had been discussed at the recent Annual Parish Meeting:

- The drain on Spring Lane which had been reported to Essex Highways;
- Flooding across the parish;
- Parking on Huxtables Lane.

He said the Parish Council would be meeting with Colchester City Council on 25 June regarding the Call for Sites.

He referred to the website and potential development.

Cllr Triolo said planned meetings with Highways had been cancelled. He said confidence had been expressed that the works would be finished by the end of summer.

He referred to comments on Facebook about litter and said he would take this issue forward.

It was noted that purchase of litter-pickers would be added to the July agenda.

39-24/25 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 10 July 2024 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman