

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 8 May 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

There were five members of the public in attendance.

1-24/25 Election of Chairman

Cllr Jardine was elected unanimously as Chairman of the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2-24/25 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Triolo was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair of the Council.

3-24/25 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nokes (holiday) and acceptance of those apologies was confirmed.

4-24/25 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

5-24/25 Public Participation

Cllr Jardine referred to the campaign against the proposed National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylon route. He said the Parish Council was looking at this and would respond.

Cllr Jardine referred to the issue of parking on Seven Star Green and said Cllr Nokes was looking at this and it would be reviewed by the Council in due course.

He referred to Aspen Walk and said the final road surface had not yet been applied. He said although several people were now living there, the Play Area was still roped off and no landscaping had yet been done.

He said he had contacted Lucy Mondon at Colchester City Council and had put this to the Enforcement Team. He said the new road surface would be going down imminently and the road should be completed and opened after 75 dwellings had been completed. He said the Play Area was due to be open once

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

the development was 80% complete. He said the landscaping issue would be investigated and the Enforcement Team would keep an eye on this.

He referred to the Eight Ash Green Neighbourhood Plan and said he had contacted Myland Community Council who had been through the review process. He said he had been referred on to Sandra Scott at the City Council who would allocate an officer to guide the Parish Council through the process.

6-24/25 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 April 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

7-24/25 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

The Chairman offered his congratulations to Cllr Dennis Willetts on his recent re-election to the City Council.

Cllr Willetts said Cllr Naylor and Cllr Barber sent their apologies.

He referred to the new road on Aspen Walk. He said the planning permission for the development had required the roads to be open prior to 75 dwellings being completed. He said two weeks ago the developer had started moving the ironware and preparing for the final surfacing.

He said he had no knowledge of the agreement between Bellway and Essex Highways regarding opening of the link road. He said Cllr Barber was looking into this and whether it would be open for HGVs. He said there was discussion about the warranty and that Bellway might wish to take into account damage from HGVs.

He said Essex Highways could not signpost vehicles over the new road without Bellway's permission prior to handover. He said he would clarify further in due course.

He referred to a series of closures of the A12 over the weekend. He said signage appeared to be working well regarding the No HGV signs. He said residents' support for this should be reflected back to National Highways.

He referred to the National Grid formal consultation. He said previous consultations had been informal and it was felt that many people believed they had already responded. He said response to this formal consultation should be encouraged.

8-24/25 Action Tracker

a) To review the Action Tracker

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Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

i) Current Projects**ii) 20mph zones within the parish****iii) Village of the Year**

Cllr Smith referred to Atlassian and the level of support available for Trello. He said the cost of one year's support should be investigated. The Clerk and Cllr Smith said they would investigate further so that something could be added to the website.

Gates – Cllr Nokes had said at a previous meeting he would look into the formal route. Cllr Triolo said the local option could also be investigated to keep costs down.

Play Area – the Clerk said she would check progress on the inspection.

Village Beautification – the possibility of planters at various locations and hanging baskets were discussed.

Utilities – it was noted that streetlight electricity was provided by Colchester City Council.

Newsletter – it was noted that Cllr Jardine, Cllr Triolo and Cllr Dennis Willetts were to meet to discuss this.

National Grid consultation – Cllr Jardine referred to the meeting held with Ward Cllr Sara Naylor and said the Council's response would be submitted by the middle of June. Cllr Jardine said he would collate all objections.

Cllr Triolo referred to the issue of obtaining a 30mph limit all the way along Heath Road.

Cllr Christie referred to issues on Porters Close and Porters Lane.

It was noted that the Council could consider entry to the Village of the Year competition in 2025.

b) To discuss presentation of the Action Tracker and the project list

It was noted that this would be considered at the next meeting.

8-24/25 To review and adopt the following:**i) Standing Orders****ii) Financial Regulations****iii) Bullying and Harassment Policy****iv) Communications Policy****v) Complaints Procedure**

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

vi) Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure

vii) Equal Opportunities Policy

viii) Expenses Policy

ix) Health and Safety Policy

x) Publications Policy

xi) Memorials Policy

xii) Media Policy

The policies listed above were reviewed and adopted.

9-24/25 To consider and possibly agree to adopt the Model Publication Scheme as circulated prior to the meeting.

The Model Publication Scheme circulated prior to the meeting was adopted.

10-24/25 To review the Council's legal arrangements with outside bodies

a) Eight Ash Green Football Club

b) Eight Ash Green Cricket Club

The legal arrangements with outside bodies were reviewed as listed above.

11-24/25 To appoint three councillors to the Complaints Committee

It was noted that councillors would be appointed as required to the Complaints Committee.

12 -24/25 To review the inventory of land and assets of the Parish Council

The inventory of land and assets of the Parish Council was reviewed.

13-24/25 To confirm arrangements for the Council's insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

Arrangements for the Council's insurance cover in respect of all insured risks were confirmed.

14-24/25 To review and confirm the Council's subscription to the following bodies:

i) NALC/EALC

ii) Open Spaces Society

iii) RCCE

iv) CALC

The Council's subscriptions to the bodies listed above were reviewed and confirmed.

Signed _____

Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

15-24/25 To review the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligation under Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation.

The Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation were reviewed.

16-24/25 To review the Council's employment policies and procedures.

The Council's employment policies and procedures were reviewed.

17-24/25 To agree the time, place and dates of ordinary meetings of the Council as follows:

12 June 2024, 10 July 2024, 11 September 2024, 9 October 2024, 13 November 2024, 11 December 2024, 8 January 2025, 12 February 2025, 12 March 2025, 9 April 2025, 14 May 2025 (Annual Meeting of the Council) at 7.30pm, at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester CO6 3QF

The time, place and dates of ordinary meetings of the Council were **agreed** as listed above.

18-24/25 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

240685 – West Oaks, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PS - Amendments to elevations approved via application 181199.

It was **agreed** that there was no objection to this application, as the applicant had now reverted to the original design.

232925 - Heathside Cottage, The Bridleway, Fordham Heath Essex CO3 9TA - Construction of a small conservatory.

It was **agreed** to object to this application as it was felt that the proposal was of very poor design bearing no resemblance to the house and looking out of keeping with it. The proposal for the conservatory shows a flat roof and different style of window. The design of the conservatory should reflect the style of the house by using matching windows and a pitched roof.

240867 - E French & Sons, Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PT - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed road.

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

Planning Decisions

None received.

19-24/25 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne said he had spoken the Council's contractor who said he was planning to sort out the holes in the heath car park once the weather improved. He said Cllr Nokes was looking at prices for cutting the footpaths. He said the heath was as wet as it had been for years, and as wet heathland it was well worth seeing. 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

Mr Morgan said all the allotments were rented out and the ground was ok, as it drained quite well.

20-24/25 Accounts & Payments:

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

The Statement of Accounts was 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 as follows:

Colchester City Council	Dog bin	£150.00
Various	Staff costs	£826.71
Zurich Muncial	Insurance	£1493.44
Eight Ash Green Village Hall	Hall hire	£112.00
G Tye	Expenses – boots	£33.96
Community360	Shopper Bus - April	£160.00

c) To consider and possibly agree to appoint signatories to the Parish Council's Lloyds Bank account

It was **agreed** to appoint Cllrs Jardine, Nokes and Willetts as signatories to the Parish Council's Lloyds Bank account.

d) To consider and possibly agree to open a new account with Unity Trust Bank

It was **agreed** to open a new account with Unity Trust Bank.

e) To consider and possibly agree to appoint signatories to the new Unity account.

It was **agreed** to appoint the Clerk and Cllrs Jardine, Nokes and Willetts as signatories to the new Unity account.

f) To consider and possibly agree to appoint signatories to the new Metro account for the Eight Ash Green Shopper Bus

It was **agreed** to appoint the Clerk and Cllrs Jardine, Nokes and Willetts as signatories to the new Metro Bank account.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

g) To consider and possibly agree expenditure for the Annual Parish Meeting

Expenditure for the Annual Parish Meeting was **agreed**.

21-24/25 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Jardine said he had given the D-Day anniversary flag to the school for them to use in an assembly for the children. He said it would then go to the Cricketers to be flown. He said the flag would also be flown at the flagpole at the church.

He said on behalf of the Council he was sad to see Cllr Dadds leave.

Cllr Willetts said she was trying to contact Essex County Councillor Lewis Barner regarding the bus stops.

22-24/25 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 11 June 2024, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman