

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 11 September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Lorraine Christie
Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Flavia-Maria Manda
Cllr Andrew Triolo
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were five members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

55-24/25 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nokes and Smith, and acceptance of these apologies was confirmed.

56-24/25 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

57-24/25 Public Participation

Mr Chambers from the Eight Ash Green Cricket Club said that the season had ended better than it had started, with success on the field and much better weather. He said fundraising efforts had raised nearly £30,000 towards the refurbishment of the pavilion and he hoped that the interior work would start this autumn. He said the last match of the season would be held on the coming weekend and all were welcome. He said the Sunday would be a special occasion to thank all those who had donated to the pavilion fund.

He said he had met with the Chairman and Mr Winterbourne to look at ways to mitigate against adverse weather in the future, given how wet the 2024 spring had been and how that had affected play. He said possibly trees would be planted strategically.

He said there was much optimism at the Club and money in the bank, and fingers were crossed for better cricket weather next year.

58-24/25 To agree as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 July 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 July 2024 were **agreed** as a true record.

59-24/25 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

All matters were dealt with under the Action Tracker Item.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

60-24/25 Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts gave apologies from Cllrs Barber and Naylor and said they were attending a meeting of the full City Council.

He referred to the finances of the City Council and said they were looking perilous. He said unless considerably more money than in the past was passed on by central Government, services would be under pressure.

He said Cineworld, a key tenant at the Northern Gateway, had gone into administration and would be pulling out of their lease. He said without this anchor tenant, other tenants would ask for a rent reduction. He said it did raise questions about a Council's involvement in property development.

He said street services would certainly not improve and more would be known in December.

He referred to various planning applications regarding vehicle movements and said there was limited control over these movements. He said the Local Authority could put a limit on the number of movements to avoid a backlog if the vehicles were involved in waste collection. He said if they were for any other industrial purpose, for example composting, permission could be given or refused, but vehicle movements could not be limited.

He referred to the Wormingford site where ECC had issued a Stop Notice for the composting facility. He said this had been appealed and a planning application submitted to continue the activity which had been rejected.

He said there were two appeals on the same site covering different issues which would be dealt with separately. He said the Inspector hearing the appeal had said that a decision on that should be made after the planning application for retrospective permission had been decided. He said therefore in the meantime the activity could continue but no mitigating factors could be implemented.

He said the retrospective application for the composting facility was awaited and the Planning Inspector would consider this.

He referred to the CSH site and said CSH had expanded their capacity so the number of lorry movements was likely to increase from 150 to 250 or more. He said there would be a significant number of movements through the village over the coming year.

He referred to the additional composting and biomass movements through the village during spring and summer over which there was no control at all.

He said there were many issues concerning traffic through the village and mitigating would be incredibly difficult.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

61-24/25 To review the Council's Action Tracker

i) To note any action under the Action Tracker headings

Cllr Jardine referred to the new format.

Cllr Triolo said there had been no interest so far from Facebook from residents willing to help with footpath maintenance. He said he would publicise a date and see what happened.

Cllr Jardine said there had been no progress on a 30mph limit for Heath Road and he would contact Cllr Lewis Barber.

ii) To note updates:

- **Colchester Skip Hire decision** – addressed under the previous item.
- **Fairfield's Farm decision** – addressed under the previous item.
- **Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Meeting with West Bergholt**
- **PROWs and paths.**
- **Response from Simon Cairns regarding planning applications.**
- **Any other matters**

Cllr Jardine said he had met with Colchester City Council officers from the Planning department regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. He said Cllr Nokes and Triolo had agreed to work with him with Cllr Dennis Willetts offering to act as an advisor. He said they were hoping to consider reviewing the Plan up until 2041.

Cllr Jardine referred to a meeting with West Bergholt Parish Council, where signs for Argents Lane had been discussed.

The Council noted the reply from Simon Cairns of Colchester City Council regarding a query about planning applications.

62-24/25 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

241722 – 11 Flock Drive, Fordham Heath, Colchester Essex CO3 9GB - Retention of existing covered seating area and garden shed

This application was noted.

Essex County Council Notifications

The Essex County Council (Footpath 11 Eight Ash Green and Footpath 29, Stanway) (Temporary Prohibition of Use) Order 2024

This application was noted.

Planning Decisions

241248 - E French & Sons, Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

proposed change of use from Agricultural buildings to B8 storage. – ***Prior approval required and granted, 27 August 2024***

241567 - Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed Excavations to construct an areas of hardstanding to form an agricultural storage area for the storage and access of machinery to support the existing agricultural building. – ***Prior approval required and granted, 2 September 2024***

63-24/25 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne said he had spoken to the Council's contractor regarding the post opposite the Cricketers and said it would be done this week. He said the grass had been cut on the heath and the verges were still to be done. He said he would ask about the triangle at the end of Spring Lane. He said there were bad potholes on the bridleway and by the allotment gate and that he had asked the contractor to fill these. He said work on the heather continued and that Cllr Triolo and Cllr Nokes would take this forward. He referred to work on a tree by the Cricketers car park and an ash tree on Seven Star Green.

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

b) To receive a report on the Allotments

There was no report to receive.

64-24/25 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.

The Statement of Accounts had been circulated.

Cheques were approved for signature as listed below:

Various	Staff costs	£1290.38
A & J Lighting Solutions	Streetlight maintenance	£359.64
CALC	Subscription	£35.00
Stour Valley Tree Services	Tree work	£80.00
Eight Ash Green Village Hall	Hall hire	£150.00
Wave	Allotments – water	£19.66
Community360	Shopper bus	£320.00
Playquip Ltd	Equipment repair	£7309.68

Signed _____
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65-24/25 To consider and possibly agree to accept the quote from Stour Valley Tree Services for work on the ash tree on Turkey Cock Lane

It was **agreed** to accept the quote from Stour Valley Tree Services for work on the ash tree on Turkey Cock Lane.

66-24/25 To consider and possibly agree to move the Parish Council's emails and website to a gov.uk domain.

It was agreed to move the Parish Council's emails and website to a gov.uk domain.

67-24/25 Litter Collection

a) To consider and possibly agree to accept a quote from Colchester City Council for collection of litter from the Parish Council's bins.

b) To consider and possibly agree whether to retain the bin near the A1124/A12 junction.

This Item was deferred.

68-24/25 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Jardine said he and Cllr Triolo had attended the most recent meeting of CALC, with Essex's Deputy Commissioner for Police as speaker. He said visibility of police especially with regard to reassurance for new residents had been discussed.

69-24/25 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 9 October 2024, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman