

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 13 November 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

There were five members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

86-24/25 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

There were no apologies to receive.

87-24/25 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

88-24/25 Public Participation

There were no comments.

89-24/25 To agree as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 October 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 October 2024 were **agreed** as a true record.

90-24/25 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

Cllr Jardine said he had attended the recent meeting of the Festival Committee. He said that the event had been successful, with good weather and many residents enjoying the day. He said despite this however the event had made a loss and this was not sustainable. He said the very active committee is already looking towards next year and the annual grant from the Parish Council is vital. He said new volunteers for the committee had been welcomed and everyone was optimistic for 2025.

He referred to litter bins within the parish. It was noted that the Street Officer would be asked about the effectiveness of the collection service provided now by Colchester City Council. It was noted that Cllr Manda would contact the Aspen Walk Management company regarding the bin on the new play area, which was full but was not being emptied. It was noted that the bin at the bus

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

stop close to the A1124/A12 junction would be added to the collection service by CCC.

Cllr Nokes said the new heather on the heath had all been planted.

Cllr Nokes said vegetation outside Halfmoon Farm had been cut back.

91-24/25 Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts said the latest issue of the magazine had now been published. He said he had been disappointed by the lack of contributions and hoped for more local news for the next issue.

He referred to the recent discussions about Iron Latch Wood. He said following problems with finding management for the wood, at the end of 2023 Colchester City Council had agreed to manage it. He said this management would be different to the "light touch" applied by the Parish Council to the heath. He said a very popular bike trail had been developed in the wood over the years where there was little supervision but which was very much enjoyed by those who used it. He said in general it was self-managed and provided an invaluable service for youth in the area. He said the Portfolio Holder had decided this trail would be dismantled. He said that negotiation was a better way forward and to work with those who used it. He said there was now a stay of execution until community consultation had been undertaken, which should involve the Parish Council. He said there were other alternatives that could be explored.

92-24/25 To review the Council's Action Tracker

i) To note any action under the Action Tracker headings

The following points were noted:

Footpath volunteers – further efforts would be made to find these;

Open Spaces briefing – Cllr Nokes had signed up for this;

Friends of the Heath – as with footpath volunteers, further efforts would be made;

30mph on Heath Road – Cllr Lewis Barber had been asked for progress;

Village Gates – Cllr Nokes would contact Essex Highways;

National Grid consultation – this issue continues;

Play Area – the Council is waiting to hear from Cllr Barber about a contribution to maintenance;

Website hosting – to be discussed at this meeting;

Link Road – further communication with CCC is required. The Play Area should now be open and maintained.

Bollards in Wood Lane – still waiting to hear from Cllr Barber but in general the parking situation has improved.

ii) To discuss Colchester City Council's proposed action for Iron Latch Woods

This had been discussed above.

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93-24/25 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

242149 - 16 Searle Way, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QS - 2 story side extension 1st floor single story extension and single story rear extension.

It was agreed to comment as follows:

The Parish Council is concerned about whether there is sufficient space on site to manoeuvre vehicles so they can exit the site in forward gear. We would ask for clarification that this will be the case and also request that any building is only to be used in conjunction with the main dwelling, not used by third parties and not sold off as a separate entity.

242151 - The Coach House, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Erection of proposed outbuilding, incorporating existing shed, incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse.

Planning Decisions

Planning Inspectorate APP/A1530/W/23/3330823: Swallowfield Glamping Pods, Heath Road, CO3 9TN - 231142 - ***** APPEAL ALLOWED *****

The Parish Council noted concern with the decision in this case. It was noted that the Inspector found in favour of this proposal, despite acknowledging it was outside the village envelope and situated on land not allocated for development. It was noted that reasons were it was not sufficiently isolated and was continuous with the existing development, which the Council felt could set a dangerous precedent.

241722 - 11 Flock Drive, Fordham Heath, Colchester Essex CO3 9GB - Retention of existing covered seating area and garden shed – *Permission granted, 2 conditions, 10 October 2024*

94-24/25 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne said that the recent Volunteer Day had been very successful with 20 attendees and a completed list of tasks. He said the heather had now been replaced. He said the owl box had been damaged but a resident had engineered a way to fix it and it would be reinstalled.

He said there was money left in the heath maintenance contract for additional work and this would be spent on clearing the blocked ditch on Seven Star Green. He said the broken post on the car park opposite the Cricketers would also be fixed and both tasks would hopefully be done this week.

b) To receive a report on the Allotments

Mr Morgan said all was in order with the allotments.

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c) To consider and possibly agree to accept a quote for work on the specified oak tree on Turkey Cock Lane

It was agreed to accept the quote from Stour Valley Tree Services to work on the specified oak tree on Turkey Cock Lane.

95-24/25 Accounts & Payments:

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

The Statement of Accounts had been circulated.

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 listed below:

A & J Lighting Solutions	Streetlights	£886.44
C360	Shopper Bus	£390.00
Cricketers	Volunteer Day expenses	£186.00
Green Square	Newsletter	£720.00
Various	Staff costs	£791.98
G A Bilby	Remembrance wreath	£60.00

96-24/25 To consider locations for submission to Essex County Councillor Lewis Barber for his priority highway repair scheme.

Cllr Jardine referred to the list that had already been submitted to Cllr Barber.

Cllr Nokes said there were loose kerbstones in Porters Close.

Cllr Jardine said he would follow this up.

97-24/25 To consider and possibly agree a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Remote Meetings Consultation

The Council noted the advantages of meeting in person and it was noted this response would be submitted.

98-24/25 To consider and possibly agree a supplier for the proposed gov.uk domain for Council emails and website.

Cllr Jardine said he would consult with members of CALC for recommendations.

99-24/25 To discuss the 2025/26 budget.

Cllr Jardine said he would look at a first draft and asked councillors to forward to him suggestions for the budget.

It was noted that the Clerk would forward information and possibly an informal meeting would be held in advance of the December Council meeting.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

100-24/25 To receive reports from Councillors

The following were noted:

- IPTU Open Day on 4 December 2024;
- Neighbourhood Plan Presentation;
- Locality Budget submissions;
- Local Plan briefings – 17/18 December 2024
- Initiative by Fordham Parish Council regarding a joint Council working group to present a coordinated response to development in the area.
- Noticeboard for Aspen Walk – Cllr Manda to liaise with the management company;
- Christmas Tree to be put up on Thursday 5 December 2024, 1.30pm;
- Christmas Tree lighting up – Thursday 12 December 2024 at 6pm.

101-24/25 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 11 December 2024, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman