

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 December 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 six members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

102-24/25 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies – All apologies should be sent through the Clerk

There were no apologies to receive.

103-24/25 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

104-24/25 Public Participation

There were no comments.

105-24/25 To agree as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 November 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 November 2024 were **agreed** as a true record.

106-24/25 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

The Clerk said that the Street Officer had confirmed that Colchester City Council were collecting rubbish from the heath on a fortnightly basis.

The Chairman referred to Iron Latch Woods and said CCC were looking to bring in a consultant company to advise on the bike jumps in the wood. He said discussion with CCC had been positive but it would depend on funding. He said options would be considered for the woods including transfer of ownership or a lease, but that at the moment these were very informal discussions. He said he felt local residents, the Parish Council and the young people who used the bike track should be involved in the consultation process. He said he had visited the wood and had been impressed by the politeness and helpfulness of the young people he had met there.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Dennis Willetts referred to the on-costs of management of the wood but said the Parish Council already managed the heath and there were many positives involved with Parish Council involvement with Iron Latch Wood.

The Chairman said this would be taken further in January.

107-24/25 Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts referred to the issue of advertising consent mentioned at the November meeting and said that CCC Planning Enforcement had visited the site and the sign involved had been taken down. He said ECC Enforcement had visited due to the issues involved but that the officer had left with no further action to be taken. He said the site would be monitored.

He referred to the full Colchester City Council meeting he had attended and the issues debated at that meeting in November.

108-24/25 To review the Council's Action Tracker

i) To note any action under the Action Tracker headings

It was noted that draft minutes would be sent to the Chairman by the Clerk within a week of each meeting. Following this, the minutes and an updated Action Tracker would be circulated to all councillors so that momentum was not lost on actions.

It was noted that the Parish Council would look to use the same supplier for the move to a gov.uk site as Aldham Parish Council.

109-24/25 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

No applications received.

Planning Decisions

241506 - Ellore, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QJ - Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a new four bedroomed detached bungalow with associated works. – Permission granted, 8 conditions, 5 December 2024

It was noted that the appeal had been dismissed regarding the digester site although official notification had not been received. The Chairman said Cllr Lewis Barber had queried whether action had been taken to dismantle the site.

110-24/25 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Mr Winterbourne said he and Cllr Nokes would be meeting with the contractor after Christmas regarding pond cleaning and they would advise further in January.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

b) To receive a report on the Allotments

There was no report to receive.

111-24/25 Accounts & Payments:**a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting**

The Summary and Bank Reconciliation had been 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 listed below:

Various	Staff costs	£1,296.37
Anglian Water Business	Allotments – water	£110.40
J. Jardine	Expenses – Christmas Tree	£89.35

112-24/25 To discuss the 2025/26 budget.

The 2025/26 budget was discussed.

It was noted that further clarity would be sought regarding the costs of maintenance of the heath.

It was noted that this would be brought back to the January meeting.

113-24/25 To receive reports from Councillors

The Chairman said the Christmas Tree Lighting-Up event would be held on 12 December 2024 at 6pm.

He said the Council was very grateful for the assistance of all the volunteer residents who had come along to help with decorating the tree.

Cllr Nokes said the tree surgeon would be looking at the tree on Turkey Cock Lane after Christmas.

He said the village gates licence application had been submitted.

Cllr Triolo referred to the path next to the House on the Heath and said shingle would be sourced and spread along the path to improve access. He said Collier and Catchpole had quoted a price of £120 and agreement of this would be added to the next agenda.

114-24/25 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 8 January 2025, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman