

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Aldham Village Hall, New Road, Aldham, Colchester CO6 3QT on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 7. 30pm.

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

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillor Sara Naylor also attended the meeting.

Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts sent his apologies.

100-25/26 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies
 Apologies were received from Cllr Manda and acceptance of these apologies was confirmed.

101-25/26 Declaration of Interests
 There were no Declarations of Interest.

102-25/26 Public Participation
 There were no comments.

103-25/26 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12 November 2025
 The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12 November 2025 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

104-25/26 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes
 The Chairman said that the Christmas Tree had been put up and there had been eight offers of help. He said he and Cllr Smith had done the planting for the first part of the village enhancement initiative.

105-25/26 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.
 Ward Councillor Sara Naylor referred to Colchester City Council's Local Plan consultation and said that responses should be submitted before 5pm on 14 January 2026. She said she would be submitting a response which would

Signed _____
 Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

consider the implications on local communities with input from residents and Parish Councils.

She referred to the City Council's decision to write to the Government to request that the May 2026 elections be held. She said it was important that CCC should make clear their feeling regarding the principles of democracy.

She referred to the draft budget published by the City Council's administration. She said 40% of reserves has been burnt through in one year. She said City Council assets would have to be handed in good shape to any future authority, and also referred to the impact of changed business rates and the increased minimum wage.

Cllr Jardine said he and Cllrs Triolo and Nokes had met with potential developers in the parish. He said the proposals of these developers had advantages over the applications already submitted to CCC. He said there was good liaison regarding infrastructure.

It was noted that there was concern that potentially all applications would be approved and the parish would end up with double the proposed number of dwellings being built.

It was noted that a meeting for residents would be organised if possible, given the tight schedule.

It was noted that Cllrs Jardine and Triolo had met with a representative from Aldham who had experience of the planning system and who had written to six parishes with a view to submitting a joint response.

Cllr Jardine said he would take the matter of communication with residents ahead of the consultation deadline forward.

106-25/26 Action Tracker

- a) To review the Action Tracker**
- b) Update on Iron Latch Wood**
- c) Update on proposed developments in the parish and meetings with developers**
- d) Any other matters**

- a) The Action Tracker was reviewed. Cllr Jardine said he would take a closer look at the document and circulate prior to the next meeting.
- b) Cllr Jardine said the Council seemed to have hit a brick wall with the City Council's solicitors. He said they were looking for an indemnity for a licence which expired at the end of the current month. He said he hoped for better progress in 2026.
- c) The discussion earlier in the meeting also referred. He said he would update the Council on future meeting.

Signed _____
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107-25/26 Heaths, Greens and Allotments**a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens**

Mr Winterbourne said if work was to be done on the Council-owned ponds this year it would have to be sorted out very soon. He said possibly the pond on the heath could be cleared and dug slightly deeper. It was noted that quotes for this work would be investigated.

b) To receive a report on the Allotments

There was no report to receive.

108-25/26 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

None received.

Planning Decisions

252475 - Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Change of use from agricultural building to Class E (D) Leisure use - indoor padel court. – ***Withdrawn, 28 November 2025***

109-25/26 To discuss the new website and transfer of emails and note any action necessary.

It was agreed that the Council would move forward with the transfer of email administration according to the email circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr Christie would look at the website.

110-25/26 To consider and possibly agree to accept one of the quotations received for maintenance of the Parish Council's streetlights.

It was **agreed** to accept the quotation from A & J Lighting to continue the contract to maintain the Parish Council's streetlights.

111-25/26 To discuss the budget for the 2026/27 Council year.

The budget was discussed. It was noted that this would be brought back to Council for agreement at the January meeting.

112-25/26 Accounts & Payments:

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting**
- b) Approve payments for authorisation in accordance with 2025/26 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.**
- c) To receive the cash budget document circulated by the Chairman**
- d) To consider and possibly agree to pay for the Clerk and councillors to do GDPR training at £17 + VAT per person**

Signed _____
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- a)** The Statement of Accounts was received.
- b)** Payments were authorised as listed below:

Various	Staff payments	£1,451.99
Aldham Village Hall	Meetings	£16.00
CALC	Subscription	£35.00
Colchester City Council	Streetlight electricity	£420.00
Premier Signs & Wraps	Road signs	£84.00
Wave	Allotments – water	£62.68
Community360	Shopper Bus	£520.00

- c)** The cash budget document was received.
- d)** It was agreed to pay for the Clerk and Cllr Nokes to do GDPR training at £17 + VAT per person.

113-25/26 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Willetts referred to the possibility of arranging better signage for Porters Cottages. Cllr Christie said she would discuss this with residents.

114-25/26 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 14 January 2026, 7.30pm, at Aldham Village Hall, New Road, Aldham, Colchester CO6 3QT

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman