

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 18 March 2026 at 7. 30pm.

Present: Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Dean Nokes
Cllr Stephen Smith
Cllr Andrew Triolo
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended the meeting.

145-25/26 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Lorraine Christie, Mike Eldridge and Flavia Manda.

146-25/26 To consider and possibly agree to coopt to fill the current vacancy on the Council

It was agreed to co-opt Kim Adcock to fill the current vacancy on the Council.

In Cllr Adcock's absence, it was agreed that she would sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

147-25/26 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Nokes declared an interest in Item 157-25/26 as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

148-25/26 Public Participation

A representative from the Festival Committee referred to the request for permission to hold the 2026 Festival and a potential grant.

The Chairman said the request for permission would be dealt with at this meeting and the grant would be on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

A representative from the Cricket Club gave an update on the Club activities.

149-25/26 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 February 2026 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

150-25/26 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

There was no progress to discuss that was not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

151-25/26 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts referred to the Richborough planning application and said it had been agreed at a meeting of the Colchester City Council Planning Committee.

He said with no 5-year supply of housing until the new Local Plan was agreed, there was a presumption of approval and if CCC had turned it down the application would have been approved by the Secretary of State.

He said this vulnerability would last until the Planning Inspector had approved the new Local Plan.

He said that agreed applications would not form part of the 5-year supply.

He referred to the playground at Aspen Walk and said there was no progress to report. He said that discussion was continuing between the developer of the estate and the new management committee.

He referred to the issue of abandoned cars in the parish and said the Council could consider signage in the heath car parks.

152-25/26 Action Tracker

- a) **To review the Action Tracker**
- b) **Update on transfer of Iron Latch Wood**
- c) **Website and emails**
- d) **Planning Application 251310**
- e) **Any other matters**

- a) The Action Tracker was reviewed. The Chairman said he would update it and it would be circulated and added to the website.
- b) The Chairman said that he, Cllr Triolo and Cllr Manda had looked over the documents from CCC. He said that he recommended that the Council proceed to transfer and options could be considered over the next few years.
- c) The Clerk said she would appreciate input from councillors regarding the website. She said she would send the link around after the meeting for councillors' comments.
- d) Planning Application 251310 had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- e) The Chairman referred to the budget and the 2025/26 year end figures which were to be discussed at the April meeting.

153-25/26 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

- a) **To receive a report on Heaths and Greens**
- b) **To receive a report on the Allotments**
- c) **To consider and possibly agree to allow the Festival Committee to use the heath for the 2026 Eight Ash Green Festival**
- a) Cllr Nokes referred to pond clearance and the car left on parish land. He referred to the recent Volunteer Day and said it had gone well. He said the Council's hand tools needed to be reviewed to ensure they were safe and fit for purpose.

Signed _____

Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

- b) There was no report to receive.
- c) It was **agreed** to allow the Festival Committee to use the heath for the 2026 Eight Ash Green Festival.

154-25/26 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

260301 - New House Adjacent To Bungalow, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PX - Side extension to existing dwelling. Alterations to roof of existing dwelling. Erection of an annex and provision of a glazed link between the house and annex (renewal of 230506)

It was **agreed** that there was no comment on this application, other than a request for clarification regarding the lack of height measurements on the submitted drawings.

Planning Decisions

260054 - Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Erection of a Building for Agricultural. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 6 - **Prior approval granted, 11 February 2026**

260173 - Ellore, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QJ - Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning application 241506. – **Permission granted, 8 conditions, 13 March 2026**

260108 - Orchard Cottage, Seven Star Green, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QB - One and a half storey side extension and altered front entrance canopy- Resubmission of approved application 221508 – **Permission granted, 6 conditions, 13 March 2026**

260250 - Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Excavations or Deposits of Waste Material reasonably necessary for the purposes of Agriculture. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 – **Prior approval granted, 11 March 2026**

155-25/26 To consider and possibly agree to contribute one half of the cost of a new noticeboard for the new Eight Ash Green Village Hall (£719.80).

It was **agreed** to contribute on half of the cost of a new noticeboard for the new Eight Ash Green Village Hall.

156-25/26 To consider and possibly agree to execute the Deed of Transfer for Iron Latch Wood from Colchester City Council to Eight Ash Green Parish Council

It was **agreed** to execute the Deed of Transfer for Iron Latch Wood from Colchester City Council to Eight Ash Green Parish Council.

157-25/26 Grants – Village Hall

Cllr Nokes had declared an interest in this Item and did not participate in the vote.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

- a) To confirm the purpose of the previously agreed grant of £2,500 to the Village Hall Committee as meeting room tables, 16 chairs, two storage cabinets and two noticeboards for the new Village Hall

The purpose of the previously agreed grant of £2,500 to the Village Hall Committee was **confirmed** as detailed above.

- b) To consider and possibly agree to award a grant of up to £5,000 to the Village Hall Committee, to be paid in the 2026/27 budget year, to be used for fixtures and fittings in the new building

It was **agreed** to award a grant of £5,000 to the Village Hall Committee, to be paid in the 2026/27 budget year, to be used for fixtures and fittings in the new building.

158-25/26 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.

a) The Statement of Accounts was circulated prior to the meeting.

b) Payments were **approved** for authorisation as listed below:

Aldham Village Hall	Hall hire	£16.00
Blake Tree Care	Tree work	£2,100.00
Community360	Shopper bus – December	£200.00
The Cricketers	Volunteer Day	£274.24
Cuttlefish	Website/Emails	£1,026.00
Cllr Nokes	Expenses – Volunteer Day	£10.99
Fisher Jones Greenwood	Legal Costs – Iron Latch Wood	£4,262.40
Green Square	Newsletter	£810.00
RCCE Membership	Subscription	£85.80
Various	Staff Costs	£1,444.78
Cllr Smith	Expenses – Village Enhancement	£51.96
Wave	Allotments – Water	£17.29

159-25/26 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Nokes said that the Village Hall opening was planned for 2pm, 19 April 2026 and all were welcome.

Cllr Nokes said he was looking for a quote for the broken finger post and for the ground next to the House on the Heath to make it walkable.

Cllr Willetts said there were rotten planks on the bridge on a local path. Cllr Nokes said these had been reported and action by Essex Highways was awaited.

Cllr Jardine said that he would like to encourage a positive attitude. He said some things the Council had no control over, but there were lots of good things happening.

Signed _____

Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

160-25/26 Date of Next Planned Meeting

Wednesday 8 April 2026, 7.30pm, Aldham Village Hall, New Road, Aldham, Colchester CO6 3QT.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman