

## **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 8 April 2026 at 7. 30pm.

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

There were four members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Councillors Sara Naylor and Dennis Willetts also attended the meeting.

### **161-25/26 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Eldridge (illness) and acceptance of these apologies was concerned.

### **162-25/26 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Parker Adcock signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as agreed at the previous meeting.

Cllr Nokes declared an interest in Item 171-25/26.

### **163-25/26 Public Participation**

A representative from the Eight Ash Green Cricket Club said it would be advisable for the Parish Council to check on the vulnerability of the heath to intrusion from third parties.

He said the Cricket Club would be interested in using the current football pitch if the Football Club relinquished the lease.

The Chairman said further discussion could take place once the Football Club's intentions were known.

### **164-25/26 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 March 2026**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 were **agreed** as a true record.

### **165-25/26 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes**

The Chairman asked councillors to send suggestions for the website to the Clerk.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

He said that the completion documents for the transfer of Iron Latch Wood to Parish Council ownership were being drawn up.

**166-25/26 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.**

Cllr Naylor said that the Government had decided on the configuration of unitary authorities in Essex with five to be created. She said Colchester, Tendring and Braintree would join to form the North East Essex Council. She said this authority would take on all the City and County responsibilities for these areas, and there was a lot still to work out.

She said there was concern about the ability of the tax base to support the services required. She said adult and child social care and SEN services were disproportionately expensive and we would need to wait to see what would happen to ensure the new Council could support all required.

She said that there was concern about how the configuration would work for Colchester and she encouraged everyone to contribute to the conversations on this.

She said that the mayoral election had been postponed to 2027. She said the May 2026 City elections would see one-third of the Council up for election. She said all of the County Councillors would face an election. She said there were concerns regarding infrastructure so that the elections were very important.

Cllr Dennis Willetts referred to the recent smells across the parish. He said there had always been an issue with Stanway having been built on waste tips but that there were additional issues from the waste facility in Rivenhall. He said the Environmental Officer had been asked to investigate.

He said there had been complaints about the bus service with the recent closure of the main road especially the 88 service. He said there had been no contingency measures in place even though the road had been shut for some weeks. He said he would appreciate support from the Parish Council in gaining reassurance for better support for the next time this happened.

He referred to abandoned cars on the heath and said he felt it would be advisable for the Parish Council to have a written policy. He referred to a vehicle left on Parish Council land which had been moved eventually. He referred to a vehicle parked in the Heath Road car park for some weeks. He said the City Council would not act as this was not impeding the highway. He said the Parish Council needed a plan to deal with these issues.

He referred to flags flying in the parish and said there was some differing feelings with regard to this.

**167-25/26 Action Tracker**

- a) To review the Action Tracker
- b) Update on transfer of Iron Latch Wood
- c) Website and emails
- d) Planning, Local Plan and 5-year supply
- e) Any other matters

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

- a) The Action Tracker was reviewed. It was noted:
- The target date for progress on the new white gates would be June
  - The target for progress on the new website would be May
  - Cllr Triolo would look at migrating his email address
  - Cllr Manda would investigate speaking to the Aspen Walk developer regarding a new noticeboard.
- b) The transfer of ownership on Iron Latch Wood had already be addressed.
- c) The transfer of emails and new website had already been addressed.
- d) Cllr Jardine referred to the recent meeting that he had attended and the note that he had circulated subsequently.

He said the City Council had been defensive with regard to the Foxes Corner development with no planning reasons for refusal. He said Essex Highways had provided reasons. He said that the City Council had said that as the Local Plan emerged and gained strength, there should be more grounds on which to challenge developments. He said this was an issue of the City Council's own making and was a bit disappointing.

He referred to the possibility of joining with Aldham Parish Council to get a King's Counsel's opinion on whether a Judicial Review was a realistic proposition. He said in this way the City Council would see that the Parish Councils were serious about their challenge, and that the threat of a Judicial Review might prevent a sale.

He said he would like to arrange a public consultation in the parish on all the sites and the building would need to be phased. He said he would draft something for the City Council to clarify matters with assistance from Cllr Dennis Willetts on the wording, before consultation took place with residents.

- e) Cllr Jardine referred to the budget and said the Chair of CALC had emailed the City Council regarding the mess that had been made of the precept information supplied to Parish Councils for the 2026/27 year. He said five councils had seen reductions in the tax base imposed. He said the City Council had responded that the person responsible no longer worked for the Council. He said a copy of the calculations used had been requested and a reply was awaited.

He said he would look to send the budget out shortly.

### **168-25/26 Heaths, Greens and Allotments**

- a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens**  
**b) To receive a report on the Allotments**

- a) Cllr Nokes said that the final invoice for the current year of heath maintenance had been received. He said pond clearance would take place in the summer and hopefully a further pond in the 2026/27 winter season.
- b) There was no report to receive.

### **169-25/26 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

260409 - Green Acres, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO3 8NG - Change of use of ancillary outbuilding to self-contained holiday let

It was **agreed** that there was no objection to this application, subject to the new building being only ancillary to the main building and the holiday let to be limited to no more than a certain amount of days in a year.

### **Planning Decisions**

250816 - Mercers Place, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO3 0JU - Change of use of day care centre to assisted living accommodation, together with minor fenestration changes to front elevation and internal layout changes to ground floor and first floor to facilitate the change of use. – **Permission granted, 5 conditions, 25 March 2026**

### **170-25/26 Street Furniture**

**a) To consider and possibly agree to replace the white finger post on Wood Lane at a cost of £300**

**b) To consider and possibly agree to improve the entrance to FP1 at a cost of £500**

a) It was **agreed** to replace the white finger post on Wood Lane at a cost of £300

b) It was **agreed** to improve the entrance to FP1 at a cost of £500.

**171-25/26 To consider and possibly agree to award a grant of £2,500 to the Eight Ash Green Festival Committee towards the 2026 Festival.**

Cllr Nokes had declared an interest in this Item and took no part in the vote.

It was **agreed** to award a grant of £2,500 to the Eight Ash Green Festival Committee towards the 2026 Festival.

### **172-25/26 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 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

b) Payments were approved for authorisation as listed below:

Community 360	Shopper Bus	£920.00
Colchester City Council	Repayment of grant	£200.00
Cuttlefish Multimedia Ltd	Email cost	£46.18
Stephen Smith	Expenses	£196.81
Will Ralph t/a Brick Kiln Farm	Heath maintenance	£2232.00
Various	Staff costs	£836.83

### **173-25/26 To receive reports from Councillors**

Cllr Jardine said that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on 6 May 2026 in the new Eight Ash Green Village Hall and the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 20 May 2026.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Willetts said funding had been awarded for two new 83 bus services to Colchester station via Sainsburys and further information on the route was awaited.

Cllr Nokes said he would like to thank the Parish Council, on behalf of the Village Hall trustees, for all their support. He said it had been a long journey but now the new hall had been provided for the parish.

The Parish Council offered its thanks to the Village Hall Committee for all of their hard work in completing this project.

**174-25/26      Date of Next Planned Meeting**

**Wednesday 6 May 2026 Annual Meeting of the Council, 7.30pm, Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green CO6 3QF**

**Wednesday 20 May 2026 Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30pm, Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring lane, Eight Ash Green CO6 3QF.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman