

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green, Colchester CO6 3QF, Wednesday 10 June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Lorraine Christie
Cllr Mike Eldridge
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 Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts sent his apologies.

27-26/27 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Manda and acceptance of those apologies was confirmed.

28-26/27 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interests.

29-26/27 Public Participation

A representative from one of the football clubs interested in the heath pitch said that they had looked at the pitch and spoken to a local contractor about maintenance. He said there was local interest in the team and they would start with U12s. He said they were very happy to work with residents and the various policies that would be needed.

A representative from the Cricket Club asked whether the car parks on the heath would be levelled as this would help with parking.

Cllr Nokes said he would check with the contractor this week.

30-26/27 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 6 May 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 6 May 2026 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

31-26/27 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

There were no matters to note.

32-26/27 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Dennis Willetts said that Cllrs Sara Naylor and Lewis Barber had sent their apologies for the meeting. He said Cllr Barber had stepped down from Essex County Council and Cllr Naylor had been elected in his place.

He said that the City Council had been unable to appoint a leader at their recent annual meeting. He said after twenty years of a Liberal Democrat/Labour coalition, with Labour fractured, a Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition had been agreed. He said members of the new coalition would now sort out membership of committees and other issues.

He referred to travellers in the area and said that he hoped that the Parish Council was prepared as necessary.

He said the Local Plan Committee was yet to meet.

He said the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter was 14 June 2026. He said this deadline was important as the issue would be advertising the Village Festival so there would be a strict timeline. He said it would be wonderful if every councillor could write something for the newsletter.

He said he would be happy with contact details for new councillors if they found this acceptable, or they could just have their name published if they preferred.

33-26/27 Action Tracker

- a) To review the Action Tracker**
- b) Any other matters**

The Chairman said the Action Tracker would be reviewed for the July meeting.

It was noted that progress would be made on the website over the summer months.

Iron Latch Wood – it was noted that £2,000 in fees had been waived by Colchester City Council. The Council noted that maintenance of the area now needed to be organised. It was also noted that it would be important to engage with those using the wood and this would be done as soon as possible.

It was noted that the Clerk would circulate a draft Risk Assessment for consideration.

Abandoned Cars – the Chairman said this was an increasing problem in the parish. He said action would be taken as previously, which was to liaise with the police to send correspondence to the owners of abandoned vehicles.

34-26/27 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

260967 - 6 The Rise, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QQ - Rear single storey extension incorporating an existing garage, conservatory.

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application.

Planning Decisions

None received.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

35-26/27 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

- a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens**
- b) To receive a report on the Allotments**
- c) To receive the annual inspection for the Play Area and note any action necessary**

- a) Cllr Nokes referred to the wayleave request recently received. It was noted that it would be asked if the wires could be moled instead.

It was noted that the tree by the heath car park would be monitored.

- b) There was no report to receive.
- c) The annual inspection for the Play Area was received. It was noted that there was a general theme of age and this would be monitored. It was noted that Playquip would be asked to weedspray the surface and securing the bin would be considered.

36-26/27 To review the effectiveness of the system of internal audit of the Parish Council

The effectiveness of the system of internal audit of the Parish Council was reviewed.

The Internal Auditor's Report was received.

37-26/27 To agree to approve the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2026 was **approved**.

38-26/27 To agree to approve the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2026

The Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2026 was **approved**.

39-26/27 To discuss arrangements for the football pitch on the heath for the coming season

It was agreed to offer the pitch to Colchester Tekkers. It was noted that the licence would be reviewed.

40-26/27 To consider and possibly agree to pay a contribution towards legal advice on planning matters

It was agreed to pay a contribution of £1,000 to Aldham Village Council towards legal advice on planning matters.

41-26/27 Accounts & Payments:

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting**
- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2026/27 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.**

Invoices were agreed for payment as listed below:

Signed _____

Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Various	Staff costs	£1441.38
Open Spaces	Subscription	£45.00
Wave	Water – allotments	£39.86
S Gentry	Maintenance	£800.00
Playquip	Play Area	£354.00
Eight Ash Green Village Hall	Hall hire	£60.00
Colchester City Council	Streetlights	£654.44
CALC	Subscription	£35.00
Aldham Parish Council	Legal costs	£1000.00
Clear Insurance	Renewal	£1421.27
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£7.00

42-25/26 To receive reports from Councillors

The Chairman referred to planning applications in the parish and said developments were awaited. He said there would be a meeting on the following Thursday and he would update afterwards.

Cllr Eldridge referred to the salt bin which should be at the end of Porters Lane. Cllr Nokes said there was a salt bin belonging to the Parish Council which was at the allotments.

Cllr Nokes said a piece of hardwood had been added to the broken footbridge which had been discussed at previous meetings. He said this was extremely dangerous.

43-25/26 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 8 July 2026, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman