

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 8 July 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr John Jardine (Chairman)
Cllr Lorraine Christie
Cllr Mike Eldridge
Cllr Dean Nokes
Cllr Andrew Triolo
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were four members of the public in attendance.

Colchester City Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

44-26/27 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Parker Adcock and acceptance of these apologies was confirmed.

45-26/27 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

46-26/27 Public Participation

There were no comments.

47-26/27 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 June 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

48-26/27 To note progress on matters mentioned in the minutes

The lease for the football club was agreed and signed at the meeting. Item 53 was therefore brought forwards. The new club said there was a bill of £20 owing for electricity, and they were awaiting clearance from the previous club. The new club did not wish to contact the electricity provider until after 18th July 2026 to prevent a break in service. The electricity account details will be sent to the Parish Council.

Iron Latch Wood - agenda item. CCC cannot locate their risk assessment – Parish Council will chase.

The Parish Council paid for a Kings Counsel to give an opinion on site PP31. The Kings Counsel stated there were no legal grounds to appeal.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

A large map of the Bellway site was produced following Bellway's meeting with the Parish Council. The position of the access roads had been queried at the meeting, especially the reason why the west exit had not been placed directly opposite Seven Star Green to create a mini roundabout. Bellway had stated that this was a request from CCC Planning Dept, and this will be queried by the Parish Council. Bellway will submit a full planning application and the need for meetings, publicity, opportunities to voice concerns etc was discussed.

49-26/27 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts thanked the Parish Council for extracting the information from Bellway re the S104 agreement to adopt the sewers and water services. This is the reason for the hold-up in the road being adopted by Highways. He stressed the need for a management plan to deal with abandoned cars in the village and said that Aspen Walk residents had been monitoring the situation. There is still a lorry parked on the central reservation near the hotel. The bridge over footpath 24 is still not replaced. Ringway Jacobs have ordered a replacement, but there could possibly be a 6 month delay on repairs. The Local Plan committee is deciding on sites in August - date TBC and no agenda as yet. It was agreed to try and amend the classification of Eight Ash Green from a medium to a small settlement. All councillors agreed that an August meeting should probably be held this year as there were matters that should not be left until September.

50-26/27 Action Tracker

- a) To review the Action Tracker
- b) To discuss traffic calming measures on Halstead Road and Seven Star Green
- c) Any other matters

Cllr Nokes reported village gates would hopefully be installed at the end of the year. He will speak to the contractor re missing posts and pond work. The grass will be cut for the Festival. Nothing has been heard re the notice board for Aspen Walk. Cllr Triolo advised that a lady working via the Woodland Trust was interested in upgrading local ponds with S106 money and has a map of the original ponds. Cllr Christie has started work on the map to hang in the new village hall and gave a lot of information. In the absence of Cllr Parker-Adcock, traffic calming measures would be discussed at the next meeting.

51-26/27 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester City Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

261074 - 2 The Murrells, Heath Road, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TW - Proposed side and rear extension

There was no objection to this application.

Planning Decisions

260674 - Land Off, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green - Application for variation of condition 2 following grant of planning permission 190473 – **Permission granted, 4 conditions, 16 June 2026**

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

52-26/27 Heaths, Greens and Allotments

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

Cllr Mike Eldridge is taking over as allotment steward. He is awaiting the allotment map from the clerk. He would like to change the memorial garden into a wildlife meadow, and ask the local primary school to get involved, with the proviso that they should be told that other schools might be interested if they do not wish to get involved.

53-26/27 Football Pitch

- a) To consider and possibly agree the wording of the licence between Eight Ash Green Parish Council and Colchester Tekkers Community Youth Football Club**
- b) If 53-26/27(a) above is agreed, to confirm arrangements for signing of the licence by both parties.**

The wording of the licence between Eight Ash Green Parish Council and Colchester Tekkers Community Youth Football Club was agreed as circulated.

The licence was signed by both parties at the meeting.

54-26/27 Iron Latch Wood

- a) To consider and possibly agree to appoint members to an Iron Latch Wood Working Group**
- b) To discuss how this Working Group will operate.**

Iron Latch Wood – Cllr Triolo introduced a neighbour who had spent 20 yrs looking after the Wormingford area and was keen to get involved. There had been a lot of engagement with a father of one of the bikers and a tree surgeon. £75K has to be spent by October. A shelter with benches for bikers and the general public could be installed and a bike repair area was necessary. Any shelter etc must be of agricultural design. Cllr Dennis Willetts stressed the potential need for planning permission and stated that the agreement to purchase items through S106 did not automatically give the applicants the right to install any structures. A mission statement would be prepared and circulated. It was agreed to determine whether legal expenses could be claimed against S106. £117k is for ongoing maintenance, and £88k for facilities.

54b) In view of the tight timeframe, it was agreed that the working party should spend what was necessary and get the invoices ratified at the following Parish Council meeting. There were 34 days over Aug/Sept to do the clearing work and create an emergency access. Wood chips would be used to create pathways, and mitigation to keep the bike track and pedestrians safe. A 10 year forestry licence could then be put into place. Heavy machinery needed could probably be stored on the allotments. It was agreed that applications to release the S106 funding should commence.

55-26/27 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.**

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Invoices were approved for payment as listed below:

Various	Staff costs	£816.32
A & J Lighting	Streetlight maintenance	£293.64
ICO	Renewal	£52.00
GP Allen	Internal Audit	£360.00
EDF Energy	Football Pavilion	£272.17
EAG Village Hall	Hall Hire	£30.00
Cuttlefish	IT support	£255.32

Payments were authorised other than one invoice for the shopper bus from C360 where Easter Monday had been charged. This incorrect invoice had been noted and details previously circulated to councillors. The clerk had been asked to query with C360 and request a corrected invoice. Cllr Nokes would confirm with the clerk that everything else was in order.

56-25/26 To receive reports from Councillors

The chairman said there could be funds available to mitigate against any damage caused by pylons. Cllr Willetts said that 2 extra 83A bus services were going to be provided early morning Mon-Fri which would terminate at Colchester railway station. Unfortunately, there appeared to be no return services during the evening, and she had already asked for clarification.

57-25/26 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 9 September 2026, 7.30pm, at Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green.

A Parish Council meeting should be organised for August possibly the second Wednesday, to discuss the Local Plan following the CCC Planning meeting, and also to note the progress on Iron latch Wood. An email would be circulated to confirm. The chairman gave his apologies for 9th September meeting.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman