

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held online on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Alan Bilby
Cllr John Jardine
Cllr Tina Morgan
Cllr Dean Nokes
Cllr Alan Tolfrey (Chairman)
Cllr Christine Willetts

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

There were two members of the public in attendance.

104-20/21 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies to receive.

105-20/21 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

106-20/21 Public Participation

Mr Winterbourne referred to the clearing of the Abbots Lane and Chippets ponds. He said the Council's contractor had cleared half of the Abbots Lane pond but that along with other issues the weather had been too wet to complete the work. He said the contractor had reported plenty of wildlife activity so it was probably best if work was stopped anyway.

He referred to the potholes in the Heath Road car park and said again the weather had been too wet to complete the work but it would be done. He said he was getting a quote to re-hang the gate at the bottom of the Parish Field. He said this was not urgent but it would be best to get this done.

He said he would be buying the bird boxes funded by the Locality Budget as soon as they were in stock.

He said the Kier road sign was still outside his house even though the company had said they would pick this up.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Mr Tim Chambers introduced himself and said it was a pleasure to be attending his first meeting as Chairman of the Cricket Club.

He referred to an email sent to the Clerk and asked if the pattern of grass-cutting carried out last year could be continued.

The Chairman said this would be done.

He referred to the trailers put across the entrances to the heath when necessary.

Mr Winterbourne said the trailers were placed by local farmers when necessary. He said the ditches needed walking to be inspected and that they would also need digging out again.

Cllr Bilby asked if the stopcock for the pitch's water supply had been located.

Mr Chambers said he would check this had been done.

He asked about the provision of concrete blocks to block access to the heath.

The Chairman said this had been considered before and could be re-visited this year.

Mr Chambers said the Club had planned to plant trees last year to mark their anniversary, and although they had not been able to do that they planned to go ahead this year with the Club liaising with the Council and Mr Winterbourne.

107-20/21 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th February 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 were **agreed** as a true record.

108-20/21 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Willetts said the newsletter had been distributed and that he recommended paying the invoice when presented.

He referred to a notice posted on FP4 on Bulbanks Farm. He said this was a precautionary notice served under legislation to prevent informal paths and play areas being created along the footpath once the new development began.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

He referred to the water issuing from the spring on Spring Lane. He said Anglian Water had been called out on many occasions but said this was not their responsibility. He said the Environment Agency also did not consider this within their remit.

He said it appeared water was coming from Blind Lane under the A1124 and emerging at various points on Spring Lane. He said historically there had been a pond on Spring Lane which had been turned into parking spaces. He said an option was to ask the Environment Agency to carry out a hydrographic survey of the area but he believed the only long-term solution would be to reinstate the pond and pipe the water out. He said the Parish Council perhaps could consider within their budget for 2022/23.

He said a meeting had been held with Essex Highways regarding the lack of a swept junction on the proposed development at the Fiddlers Hill end. He said they had been told there was a problem with the location of utilities. He said reports on traffic flows had shown the A1124 was close to capacity. He said the flow along the main road had to be preserved but that options would be considered. He said traffic from Fordham would be encouraged to use the link road through signage and there was an ongoing discussion about the introduction of a weight limit. He said he was not sure this was possible but it was worth a try. He said another option was "School Streets" although enforcement would have to be by the police. He said he had a further meeting with officers from the Local Highways Panel and Essex CC in two weeks' time.

He said two bus tops had been planned on the A1124 in the vicinity of the link road which needed to be clarified. He referred to the £160,000 for community facilities and said there was concern about the 5 year limit so there were allocated plans in place to prevent the developer clawing back the money.

109-20/21 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

210339 - 46 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green CO6 3QR - Rear Extension at ground floor. Garage extension to adjoin with existing house. Extend 2 storey to the front for porch and enlarged bathroom.

It was **agreed** that the Council had no objection to this application.

210148 - 77 Fiddlers Folly, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9UF - Single storey rear extension between neighbouring property and existing kitchen.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

The Council have looked at this application but without a block or location plan do not consider that they have enough information to make an informed decision.

210396 - Oakdene House, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PX - Demolition of existing rear conservatory, replaced by proposed two storey rear extension. First floor side extension and replacement porch. Resubmission of 201489

It was **agreed** that the Council had no objection to this, although concern was expressed that there could be overshadowing of both neighbours' rear gardens.

210333 - Great Porters Farm, Porters Lane, Fordham Heath CO3 9TZ - Application to determine if prior approval is required for hardstanding with associated top soil bund for the storage of hay, silage and straw.

The Council noted that CBC had already confirmed prior approval was not required.

210497 - 2 Brick Street, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TQ - Single storey side extension

It was **agreed** that the Council had no objection to this application.

Decisions

202842 - The Coach House, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3PT - Change of use from building used for short term accommodation to a residential dwellinghouse (C3). – *Permission refused, 3 reasons, 12th February 2021*

210333 - Great Porters Farm, Porters Lane, Fordham Heath CO3 9TZ - Application to determine if prior approval is required for hardstanding with associated top soil bund for the storage of hay, silage and straw. – *Prior approval not required, 4th March 2021*

210271 - Great Porters Farm, Porters Lane, Fordham Heath CO3 9TZ - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - proposed building. - *Prior approval not required, 4th March 2021*

110-20/21 To review the Council's Action Tracker

The Action Tracker was reviewed.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

It was noted that the Clerk would send out the Action Tracker with any revisions within a week of the meeting.

111-20/21 Play Area

To consider and possibly agree the following:

a) To accept the quotation received for £150 per month for grass-cutting in the Play Area

It was **agreed** to accept the quotation received for £150 per month for grass-cutting in the Play Area for the months March-October 2021.

b) To accept one of the quotations received from Playquip for inspection of the Play Area

It was **agreed** that the Council would accept the quote for the maintenance inspection at £245 per year.

c) To ask Playquip to provide a tailored inspection list at a cost of £65.00

It was **agreed** that the Council would ask Playquip to provide a tailored inspection list at a cost of £65.00

112-20/21 To consider and possibly agree to the request from the Football Club to continue playing on the heath throughout June 2021.

It was **agreed** to allow the Football Club to continue playing on the heath throughout June 2021 on Sunday mornings to enable them to complete their season.

It was noted that the Clerk would inform residents living close to the football pitch prior to the additional mornings starting.

113-20/21 To consider and possibly agree to the request from the U3A Walking Cricket Club to use the heath for a Walking Cricket Group for the summer 2021 season.

It was **agreed** to allow the U3A Walking Cricket Club to use the heath for a Walking Cricket Group for the summer 2021 season.

114-20/21 Accounts & Payments:

- a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting
- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2020/21 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.
- c) To receive the December bank reconciliation and budget figures to date for 2020/21

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Cheques were **approved** for signature as follows:

Various	Staff costs	£635.77
HMRC	PAYE Q4	£376.40
Open Spaces	Subscription	£45.00
A & J Lighting Solutions	Streetlight maintenance	£179.64
K Kane	Expenses – website	£36.00
Mail Boxes Etc Colchester	Newsletter	£425.00
RCCE	Subscription	£72.00
K Kane	Expenses – Zoom	£14.39
K Kane	Expenses – ICO registration	£40.00

The Clerk said she would query the invoice received from CBC regarding streetlight repairs.

It was noted that the Council could consider offering grants to community groups over the coming year reflecting the difficult past year many of them had had.

115-20/21 Reports from Councillors

Cllr Nokes raised the issue of the Village Flag. It was noted that there was no objection to the flag being flown at the Cricketers pub. It was noted that a policy regarding the flag could be considered.

The Clerk said she would clarify with CBC the position regarding s106 contributions for parks and green spaces.

The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall Committee had decided not to place a textile bin at the Village Hall.

It was noted that the Eight Ash Green Festival would not go ahead on 2021. It was agreed that it would be possible for the Council to consider arranging something for residents during the summer depending on the situation at the time.

It was noted that the Clerk would contact the Environment Agency regarding the Daisy Green pond.

The Council considered the issue of parking on parish council land. Cllr Tolfrey said he would consider the issue and come back to the Council in due course.

It was noted that provision of salt bins would be added to the April agenda.

116-20/21 Date of Next Planned Meeting: To be confirmed

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held online on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.30pm.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman