

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

There were five members of the public in attendance.

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended the meeting.

52-21/22 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

There were no apologies to receive.

53-21/22 Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

54-21/22 Public Participation

The Chairman of the Cricket Club said they had had an enjoyable and safe season with women's, men's and youth teams playing and no Covid outbreaks. He referred to a visit from a Look East reporter regarding the Club's carbon-neutral initiative. He said the coming Sunday would see a charity game and the Club's presentation of awards, to which Councillors were welcome.

He said the fence between the pitch and the Play Area had been flattened. He said the Club had made it safe and would see that it was permanently fixed over the winter.

Cllr Bilby asked about music at a recent game.

The Chairman of the Club said this was an annual game against a team from Dulwich. He said the music between overs and commentary should only be audible to players. He said he had lowered the volume and would ensure the problem did not arise again. He said he hoped no-one had been annoyed by it.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

55-21/22 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

56-21/22 Report from the County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Dennis Willetts gave apologies for Cllr Barber and Cllr Leatherdale, who were both at other meetings.

He referred to work on the A12 Junction 26 and said he was disappointed it was proceeding so slowly. He said materials were not available but that the permit for work expired on 5th November 2021, and that the contractor would have to pay a penalty to Highways England if the work was not completed to schedule.

He referred to current Local Highways Panel schemes. He said funding for the 20s Plenty scheme at the primary school had been agreed. He said these schemes often proved more effective than more expensive, official schemes.

He referred to the provision of roundabouts on the A1124 at the junctions with Spring Lane and Wood Lane. He said engineers would not support roundabouts with the Primary 1 road being close to capacity. He said a roundabout would give all roads equal priority where the A1124 should retain priority. He said this was the position at the moment.

Cllr Jardine referred to roundabouts on the A120 at Marks Tey and asked if these had not set a precedent.

Cllr Willetts said he would take this back to the engineers.

Cllr Smith asked if the lights being installed on the junction would be 24 hour. Cllr Willetts said not as far as he was aware but that he would ask the question.

He said Cllr Barber had written to the Parish Council about locations for Vehicle Activated Signs and four sites had been identified. He said the sites on Wood Lane and Spring Lane had been chosen but the locations on Halstead Road needed further information and safety checks and analysis. He said this scheme would proceed and was being part-funded following an offer from the Parish Council.

He referred to flooding issues on Huxtables Lane and the Bridleway. He said the road had been dug up again with no chlorinated water found which meant this would not be dealt with by Anglian Water. He said the issue was on County Council land.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

A resident referred to several issues on local highways including signs obscured by growth and paint fading on many roads.

Cllr Jardine asked about the opening of the new B & Q store if completion of the work was not achieved.

Cllr Willetts said the work on which this depended was on schedule for completion by 2nd October 2021.

57-21/22 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.

a) Salt bins

i) To note existing and potential sites for Parish Council salt bins

It was noted that one bin was located in Heathfields and one had been located in the Walk but was missing.

ii) To agree to purchase new salt bins at a cost of £159.99 including VAT each.

It was **agreed** to purchase new salt bins at a cost of £159.99 including VAT. The Clerk said she would look into installation costs.

b) To discuss the Eight Ash Green Welcome pack and note any action necessary.

Cllr Nokes said he would speak to Mr Winterbourne about the Pack. It was noted the Welcome Pack would be included on the October agenda.

Cllr Jardine asked councillors to send any updates for the Tracker to the Clerk who would send then send out the document the following week.

PCSO Scheme – the Clerk said she would re-send the email regarding the briefing on this subject.

Cllr Nokes said new padlocks were needed for the heath. It was noted he would look into this and a new key list would be started.

The Clerk said she was due to meet with the Allotment Steward regarding renewals for 2021/22.

The Community Garden was discussed and various options considered.

58-21/22 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

211958 – no details available

**212175 - Greenacres, The Bridleway, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TA -
Erection of ground floor rear extension.**

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

**212146 - Little Steading, Huxtables Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3
9TJ - Application to vary condition 4 following grant of planning permission
201382**

It was **agreed** that the Council had no comment about this application.

Planning Decisions

**211912 - The Firs, Abbotts Lane, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QL -
Single storey rear extension & single storey front extension & alterations –
Permission granted, 3 conditions, 19th August 2021**

**Planning Inspectorate APP/A1530/W/20/3256768: Mantells, Foxes Lane,
Eight Ash Green CO6 3PS – 2 Appeals dismissed, 2 allowed.**

**Application No: CC/COL/70/21 - Proposal: The retention of an existing
classbase for a temporary period without compliance with Condition 2
(time limit) attached to planning permission CC/COL/28/16 - Holy Trinity
Church Of England Primary School, Fiddlers Folly, Fordham Heath, CO3 9UE
– Permission granted.**

59-21/22 Heaths and Greens

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Cllr Nokes said he would look at the new padlocks required. He said that the ones for the Bridleway would not change and that the residents at either end could have a key.

He referred to the emergency tree work done by Stour Valley Tree Services.

He said the tender documents for maintenance of the heath had gone out to a couple of interested parties.

He said the next Volunteer Day would be held on 23rd October 2021.

He referred to the ditches along the Huxtables Lane side of the allotments and said clearing this might relieve some of the standing water issue in the

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

vicinity. He said he would discuss with Mr Winterbourne and look into a quote for clearing and installing a pipe.

b) To consider the security of the heath and note any action necessary.

This had been discussed under a) above.

c) To note tree work undertaken on Parish Council land under delegated authority.

This had been noted under a) above.

d) To receive an update on any outstanding issues affecting Parish Council land.

This had been discussed under a) above.

60-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to replace the Village Sign at an estimated cost of £250.

It was **agreed** to replace the Village Sign at an estimated cost of £250.

61-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to install a memorial bench within the allotments (cost to be met by resident)

It was **agreed** to install a memorial bench within the allotments (cost to be met by a resident).

It was noted that details of the benches previously installed on the heath would be sent to the resident for consideration.

It was agreed that discussion would take place with the allotment steward regarding location and the possibility of a concrete base.

**62-21/22 Highways Devolution
To agree to join the Essex County Council Highway Devolution Scheme (details circulated prior to the meeting).**

It was **agreed** to join the Essex County Council Highways Devolution Scheme.

Cllrs Jardine and Smith said they would be happy to be involved in this initiative.

63-21/22 Accounts & Payments:

a) Statement of Accounts to be circulated prior to the meeting

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2021/22 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.

Cheques were approved for signature as listed below:

Starboard Systems Ltd	Accounts software	£345.60
Stour Valley Tree Services	Play Area	£150.00
EAG Village Hall	Hall hire	£60.00
Various	Staff costs	£1055.67

64-21/22 To receive reports from Councillors

It was noted that legal advice could be sought from RCCE regarding use of the heath and granting of permission for various activities. It was agreed that a policy could then be adopted for future reference.

Cllr Nokes said residents had attended the AGM for the Village Hall and the feedback had been that other sites should be considered. He said that further discussions were to be held.

65-21/22 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman