

## **EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Alan Bilby  
Cllr John Jardine  
Cllr Tina Morgan  
Cllr Dean Nokes  
Cllr Stephen Smith  
Cllr Christine Willetts

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended the meeting.

In the absence of Councillor Tolfrey, Vice-Chairman John Jardine chaired the meeting.

### **79-21/22 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Tolfrey (health) and acceptance of those apologies was confirmed.

### **80-21/22 Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **81-21/22 Public Participation**

Mr Chambers referred to the six trees to be planted by the Cricket Club to celebrate their 6 decades. He said he had liaised with Mr Winterbourne and they were now ready to proceed. He said the trees would be a gift from the Club but that they could access a grant with a letter from the Parish Council confirming approval of planting of the trees on Council land.

Mrs Alden referred to the article about community facilities in the recent newsletter. She said a lot of information had been distributed. She said no progress could be made without more information and a meeting of the Village Hall trustees needed to be held.

### **82-21/22 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were **agreed** as a true record

**83-21/22 Report from the County and Borough Councillors:** Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

CBC Councillor Dennis Willetts gave apologies for councillors Barber and Leatherdale who were attending other meetings.

He said Aldham Parish Council were beginning the process of putting together a Neighbourhood Plan and he had volunteered the expertise of the Eight Ash Green Group to meet their Councillors.

Major Allcock said he had visited Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Council for a similar reason.

Cllr Willetts said Turkey Cock Lane was currently closed for patching and the work was going well.

He referred to proposed work on Heath Road. He said due to complaints the last time the work would be undertaken between 8am and 4pm, so that the work would continue for longer but inconvenience would be minimised.

He said consultations on work on other roads were beginning including Argents Road.

He said concerns about dangerous parking on Heathfields had been raised and there had been a site visit from Highways experts to see whether an extension of the current restrictions could be supported.

He referred to the problem of parking in The Rise and The Walk. He said it appeared most of these vehicles belonged to residents. He said a questionnaire would be sent to residents by the North Essex Parking Partnership and there was a probability of a resident parking scheme although the value of this might be limited.

He said yellow lines on Spring Lane might be considered although this might exacerbate the speeding issue.

He said policy had now changed on Vehicle Activated Signs. He said Parish Councils or residents' groups could now finance their own VAS or Speed Indicator Device (SID) as long as the expense was approved. He said the cost of calibration and maintenance of the devices would be borne by the Council as well.

He said discussions were ongoing between developers and CBC but there was no further information on the new bus stops near the proposed development at the moment.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

He referred to the new lights at the A12 junction and said there had been some delay in delivery of equipment so the work had overrun,

**84-21/22 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.**

The Council's Action Tracker was reviewed.

- Cllr Nokes said he was due to meet the Festival Committee the following day regarding planning an event next year for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Christmas Tree – Debbie and Will Ralph had very kindly offered a tree again this year, and the Church would provide electricity. Donations of decorations had been requested. The school and the Brownies were involved. It was noted that refreshments could be provided from the Chairman's Allowance.

**85-21/22 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications**

**212729 - West Oaks, Foxes Lane, Eight Ash Green CO6 3PS - Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission 181199**

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

**212941 - The Old Pink House, Cooks Mill Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TE - Replacement dwelling**

**It was agreed to comment as follows:**

The application form states that the house cannot be seen from a public highway which is inaccurate. The proposed upper balcony to look at the view could also potentially look into the rear gardens of both Rickstones and Applegarth which would be contrary to the Eight Ash Green Village Design Statement DG5.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

The Council would object to this application until a full and formal survey by English Heritage/Historic England etc has been conducted, and CBC Planning dept should be asked to arrange this asap.

### **Planning Decisions**

**212175 - Greenacres, The Bridleway, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TA - Erection of ground floor rear extension. – *Permission granted, 3 conditions, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021***

**212146 - Little Steading, Huxtables Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TJ - Application to vary condition 4 following grant of planning permission 201382 – *Permission granted, 6 conditions, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021***

### **86-21/22 Heaths and Greens**

#### **a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens**

Mr Winterbourne said the most recent Volunteer Day had gone very well with around 35 people attending including 16 from Essex University. He said he was very grateful to Mr Allum at the Cricketers pub for providing the food for all volunteers.

He said the Council's contractor was finishing off the last bits of this year's maintenance contract. He said the contractor had dug out the ditch along the allotments on Huxtables Lane and it remained to be seen whether this improved the flooding situation.

He referred to a tree which was nearly dead and asked if he could arrange for this to be sorted out. The Council noted that Mr Winterbourne would deal with this matter.

Cllr Jardine thanked Mr Winterbourne for arranging the Volunteer Day.

Cllr Nokes said a new brushcutter that was fit for purpose was needed. Cllr Dennis Willetts said it was possible the Locality Fund could help.

#### **b) To receive an update on any outstanding issues affecting Parish Council land.**

There were no outstanding issues to discuss.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

**87-21/22 Accounts & Payments:**

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

CBC	Streetlight Electricity	£382.31
Green Square	Village Sign Plaque	£84.00
Mailboxes Etc	Newsletter	£389.00
Stour Valley Tree Services	Play Area Maintenance	£150.00
TDP Ltd	Memorial bench	£566.37
Various	Staff costs	£700.32

**88-21/22 To discuss the Parish Council's budget for the 2022/23 municipal year**

The Parish Council's budget for 2022/23 was discussed. It was noted this would be brought back to the December meeting.

**89-21/22 To discuss the Highways Devolution scheme and note any action necessary**

Cllr Smith demonstrated a spreadsheet he had put together to keep records for the Scheme. He said if anyone could suggest jobs for the scheme they should let him or Cllr Jardine know.

He said he would start to build a list of contractors.

**90-21/22 To receive reports from Councillors**

Cllr Nokes said he would be seeing Mr Allum on the following day and would advise regarding the Jubilee event.

Cllr Willetts said she had investigated buses not stopping at stops in the village and had written to the bus company Hedingham, who had said there was a national shortage of bus drivers. She said she had also written to First Bus who ran a bus at 8.15am on Saturday. She said she had asked for a bus to run at the same time Monday-Friday and would keep councillors updated.

Cllr Jardine referred to the poppy wreath to be placed at the Church.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Cllr Jardine also offered thanks to Cllr Dennis Willetts for his hard work in putting the newsletter together and said all were grateful.

**91-21/22**      **Date of Next Planned Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman