

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 9th June 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

CBC Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

There were six members of the public in attendance.

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

There were no apologies to receive.

22-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to co-opt Mr Stephen Smith on the Eight Ash Green Parish Council

It was **agreed unanimously** to co-opt Mr Stephen Smith on to the Eight Ash Green Parish Council.

Cllr Smith signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

23-21/22 To elect a Vice-Chairman to the Council

Cllr John Jardine was **elected unanimously** as Vice-Chairman to the Council.

24-21/22 Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Nokes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 30-21/22, application no. 211390.

25-21/22 Public Participation.

Mr Winterbourne referred to the proposed closure of Spring Lane from 21st June 2021 and asked if the Council had any further information.

Cllr Nokes said he would look into this.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

The Chairman said Item 31-21/22 would be taken next.

31-21/22 To consider and possibly agree a list of proposed names for streets on the Bellway development for submission to Colchester Borough Council

The Chairman referred to an email from CBC regarding naming of streets in the Bellway development. He said the Parish Council had been asked for input and had consulted with the family concerned.

A family member said the smaller field had always been referred to as the Fouracre Field and this was also the family name of her grandmother. She said she would therefore be grateful if one of the roads could incorporate Fouracre in its name.

She said she would consult further with family members and come back to the Clerk with some more suggestions.

26-21/22 To agree as a true record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

27-21/22 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts apologised for the absence of his colleagues which was due to a Cabinet meeting.

He referred to the link road through the proposed development and said the difficulties faced by the Parish Council had been mentioned at the last meeting. He said Cllr Barber was trying to progress the matter but additional signage would go through the Local Highways Panel.

He said the junctions at either end of the link road had been discussed at County Hall. He said various views had been expressed. He said a roundabout on the A1124 was definitely off the table as this would impede traffic flow, which was already closed to capacity and predicted to increase over the next few years. He said the "ghost" junction was a major scheme with cost implications. He said options were still being considered.

He said like many residents he could not understand why Spring Lane had been re-surfaced only to be dug up again shortly afterwards. He said there

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

was no method to ensure utility companies worked in consultation with each other.

He said residents were unhappy regarding HGVs accessing businesses by using Seven Star Green. He said councillors were watching developments. He said the rail bridge at the other end of the road was blocked, leaving Seven Star Green as the only access. He said Essex Highways might be able to come up with a solution but he was not sure what this could be.

He referred to damage to roads within the parish and said many of the road edges did not have the stability to support large vehicles. He said he had seen the damage around the parish but it was no use filling holes as the foundations capable of withstanding the additional pressure were not in place.

28-21/22 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.

Cllr Morgan referred to the Village Sign and said this would be removed by the end of the month so that remedial work could be undertaken.

Cllr Tolfrey said provision of a VAS unit was sitting with the LHP.

Cllr Morgan said she would provide a report on the bus shelters as a response to the email from Essex Highways regarding upgrade and replacement of two bus shelters in the parish. The Council noted that they did not wish the Wood Lane shelter to be replaced by a metal shelter although upgrades to the shelter would be welcome.

29-21/22 To confirm arrangements for the Council's insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

Arrangements for the Council's insurance cover in respect of all insured risks was confirmed.

30-21/22 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

211390 - 24 Porters Close, Fordham Heath CO3 9TY - Rear and side single storey extension

211259 - Land To The Rear Of, The Retreat, Wood Lane, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TR - Application for a lawful development certificate to erect a summerhouse of 2.5m octagonal base, that is having an area less than 50% of the area of the house, and not exceeding 2.5m in height, and sited within 2m of the boundary of the curtilage

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Cllr Willetts declared a pecuniary interest in this Item and took no part in the discussion or the vote.

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

Planning Decisions

210903 - Rowan, Brick Street, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TQ - Remodel and extend the existing detached house to create an open plan Kitchen, living, dining room to the rear & utility room & games room to replace existing side extension. Side extension at first floor comprising bedroom, bathroom & ensuite. –

210856 - Mayfield, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QJ - Single storey front and rear extension -

32-21/22 To consider and possibly agree to use part of the Highways budget to fund a Vehicle Activated Sign through an application to the Local Highways Panel

It was **agreed** to use part of the Highways budget to fund a Vehicle Activated Sign through an application to the Local Highways Panel.

33-20/21 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**.

34-20/21 To agree to approve the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2021

It was **agreed** to approve the Annual Governance Statement section of the Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2021.

35-20/21 To agree to approve the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2021

It was **agreed** to approve the Accounting Statement section of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2021.

36-21/22 Heaths and Greens

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

Mr Winterbourne said the ditches had been walked during the previous week. He said some work was required along Heath Road which the Council's contractor would undertake. He said he believed the heath was as secure as it was possible to be.

He said the gate on the Lower Heath had been re-hung. He said paths would be re-cut through the long growth on the heath. He said although it would be desirable to cut different paths each year, this was not easy as people tended to walk along the same paths anyway.

He said Richard Fordham Tree Surgeons would provide a replacement tree to block vehicle access on to the heath at a particular point.

He said he had opened the Bridleway to provide access and discovered the first post needed to be replaced. The Council noted they would be happy with this and that the probable cost would be under £100.

b) To consider and possibly agree to pay expenses for Volunteer Days from the 2021/22 Chairman's Allowance

It was agreed to pay expenses for Volunteer Days from the 2021/22 Chairman's Allowance.

It was noted that Cllr Bilby would liaise with Mr Winterbourne regarding provision of equipment to trim vegetation.

It was agreed that permission would be granted to a resident to place aggregate on the heath in order to access their field more easily.

Cllr Nokes said he had sent photographic evidence of pollution in the Daisy Green pond to the Clerk who would pass it on to the Environment Agency.

37-21/22

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:

Cllr Nokes	Expenses – sig	£45.94
Stour Valley Tree Services	Play Area	£150.00
Zurich Insurance Ltd	Insurance renewal	£1213.22
K Kane	Expenses – Zoom	£14.39
Various	Staff costs	£672.82

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman

#38-21/22 To receive reports from Councillors

Cllr Nokes said the Village Hall committee had met with Church representatives and discussions were ongoing.

Cllr Jardine referred to information received on the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Cllr Jardine said a summer event looked uncertain this year and said he hoped it would take place next year. He said he would add this to the Action Tracker.

39-21/22 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.

Signed _____
Cllr A. Tolfrey, Chairman