

## **EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green on Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

Ward Councillor Dennis Willetts also attended.

There were seven members of the public in attendance.

### **67-22/23 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies**

There were no apologies to receive.

### **68-22/23 Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman referred to correspondence regarding the chaos on the A12 and surrounding roads over the past few weeks. He said he would like the Council to discuss this and that Essex County Councillor Lewis Barber was joining the meeting through Whatsapp to be involved in the discussion.

Cllr Barber said there had been a nightmare start to the A12 roadworks and National Highways had not intervened. He said he had spoken to NH earlier that day and they had apologised for the lack of response. He said they had acknowledged there were issues but that they needed to liaise with Essex Highways. He said he felt this should have been done a long time ago but NH were willing to look at mitigation measures and he hoped some progress would be made. He said if anyone had any thoughts about the matter they should let him know.

Cllr Dennis Willetts said that public consultations had been held at Marks Tey and Copford where members of the public had told NH what the results of the roadworks would be five months ago. He said NH had clearly ignored the warnings of local residents who had now been proved correct.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Cllr Barber said the local anger had been fed back to NH. He said NH had no awareness of the extent of the impact of the roadworks. He said this impact would not be sustainable with the planned length of the roadworks. He said he, Cllr Willetts and Cllr Sara Naylor would keep pushing this, involving the ECC Cabinet Member and the local MP where necessary.

Cllr Jardine asked if it would be worth the Parish Council putting forward their view.

Cllr Barber said this would definitely be worthwhile and he would send a contact to the Chairman. He said he would keep the Parish Council updated.

Cllr Jardine thanked Cllr Barber for attending. He said he would draft a response and circulate.

**69-22/23 Public Participation**

There were no comments.

**70-22/23 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 October 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 October 2022 were **agreed** as a true record.

**71-22/23 Report from the County and Borough Councillors:** Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts said that Aldham was also experiencing an uplift in traffic and it was possibly worth considering a joint approach.

He said the problem was that the body concerned was the same as the one which had not reinstated the walking route across the A12 junction and would not speak to local people. He said National Highways was not an accountable body.

He referred to the pending planning application for the new Village Hall. He said this was due to be considered at a CBC Planning Committee meeting on 25 November 2022 and pressure should be kept up for a decision.

He said the latest edition of the newsletter had been distributed and cognisance should be taken of the new development with an increase in magazines required and the consequence of costs rising for the Parish Council.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

He referred to the issue of illegal parking on Parish Council land. He said the North Essex Parking Partnership could intervene, or the Parish Council could bring in a private company to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. He said he would suggest setting up a Working Group with Cllr Barber, himself and a couple of Parish Councillors to look at options which would then be brought back to Council. He said vehicles were parking illegally in Turkey Cock Lane every day.

He referred to the issue of flytipping especially near the river. He said CCTV was an option but he would like to encourage local residents to keep an eye out to try to address the problem. He said he would send further information through to councillors.

**72-22/23 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.**

The following points were noted:

- VAS/speeding issue – to be moved to Completed;
- Reinstatement of walking route across A12 – stalemate at the moment, move to Long-term, to be raised with National Highways;
- Heath Road safety – waiting for Cllr Barber;
- S106 project list – to add bins and village gates for Halstead Road;
- Village Hall – revised drawings submitted, decision awaited;
- Meeting to be arranged to raise awareness of agricultural vehicles use of parish roads, also to emphasise preferred route once link road open – Cllr Jardine;
- Christmas Tree – this would be put up on 6 December 2022 with the lighting-up on 8 December 2022 at 6pm. Refreshments to be provided. Cllr Jardine has spoken to the school regarding their involvement and Cllr Nokes and Cllr Smith said they would put boxes outside their houses to collect decorations;
- GREEN Consultation – Cllr Smith and the Clerk said they would look at this and draft a response.
- Welcome Pack – these have been distributed but tracking of new addresses will need to be addressed.
- Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Christie said she would represent the Parish Council;
- School Sign – Cllr Barber to contribute £100 and the Parish Council £70.

**a) Winter Warm and Welcoming Spaces Fund**

It was noted this would be added to Current Projects. Cllr Jardine said he would draft something for Facebook to gauge interest in the parish.

**b) Highways – to discuss the traffic issues affecting the parish and note any action to be taken**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

This had been discussed at the start of the meeting.

Cllr Nokes said he would write to Essex County Councillor Lee Scott regarding the traffic issues proposing a site visit.

**73-22/23 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications**

222603 - Tangles, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QJ - Resubmission of 221852 change of use A1 from hair salon to C3 studio flat

It was **agreed** to object to this application for the following reasons:

The original application was refused by CBC on the grounds of lack of natural light into the premises (hence the proposed additional window), poor design and unacceptable living conditions. It is also CBC's policy to refuse single aspect north-facing homes. This application still fails on all of these counts.

The Council also noted that the surrounding area of the old post office is shown on this plan and this area was originally a sorting office but now seems to be residential.

222473 - 33 Porters Cottages, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TT - Proposed two storey rear extension and single storey side extension linked with outbuilding to rear garden.

It was **agreed** to object to this application for the following reasons:

This proposal is a gross overdevelopment of the site with the majority of the existing garden being used for this extensive building work. Such an overdevelopment could easily affect the existing water table and therefore have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties which are obviously in very close proximity.

It is totally out of keeping with the area and will overshadow neighbouring properties to either side. This is contrary to the Eight Ash Green Village Design Guide VDG 1, 4 and 5. There is no indication for the reason for this development nor an internal plan of room layout. It is therefore unclear whether this proposal is for residential, industrial or any other use, and this matter should be clarified as soon as possible.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

222530 - 11 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QP - SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

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

Although there is nothing contrary to the Eight Ash Green Village Design Guide, the Council notes this small extension is built up to the neighbour's boundary. The Council does not think this will result in blocking of light but would ask for this to be confirmed.

### **Planning Decisions**

221685 - Fiddlers Farm, Fiddlers Hill, Fordham Heath Colchester CO3 9TU - Demolition of Barn and Erection of a Dwellinghouse – *Permission refused, 5 reasons, 21 October 2022*

222108 - 33 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QR - Single storey rear/side extension – *Permission granted, 3 conditions, 20 October 2022*

**74-22/23**

### **Heaths and Greens**

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

Mr Winterbourne said the latest Volunteer Day had gone very well although he would have preferred to see more volunteers from the parish. He said there had been 16 from Essex University.

Cllr Nokes said there was as yet no quote for Abbots Pond but he, Mr Winterbourne and the contractor had looked at the work to be done. He said overall this would be a big project.

He said as soon as the work was agreed a letter should be sent to residents in the vicinity to give them full information about the work involved.

He said the ditches on Heath Road would be re-done.

He said the bin in Cooks Mill Lane had been replaced by CBC.

#### **b) To agree to accept one of the quotations received for remedial tree work on Parish Council land**

It was **agreed** to accept the quotation received from Richard Fordham for remedial tree work on Parish Council land.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

- c) **To delegate to the Clerk the authority to action Play Area repairs immediately, in consultation with the Chairman and reporting to the next Council Meeting.**

It was **agreed** to delegate to the Clerk the authority to action Play Area repairs immediately, in consultation with the Chairman and reporting to the next Council Meeting.

- d) **To consider and possibly agree to allow the Cricket Club to use the pavilion for a non-cricket related event on Saturday 1 April 2023.**

It was **agreed** to allow the Cricket Club to use the pavilion for a non-cricket related event on Saturday 1 April 2023.

- e) **To consider and possibly agree to allow access across Parish Council land as detailed in the email circulated on 4 November 2022**

It was **agreed** to allow access across Parish Council land as detailed in the email circulated on 4 November 2022. The Clerk said she would seek legal advice.

- f) **To receive an update on any outstanding issues affecting Parish Council land.**

There were no updates to receive.

- 75-22/23 To agree the VAS sign rotation and the associated costs (details circulated prior to the meeting)**

It was **agreed** to move the VAS once per month at an annual cost of £1,200, to be reviewed in one year.

- 76-22/23 To consider and possibly agree expenditure of up to £150 for a new fingerpost.**

Expenditure of up to £150 for a new fingerpost was **agreed**.

- 77-22/23 To discuss the 2023/24 budget**

The 2023/24 budget was discussed. The Clerk said she would circulate more detailed figures for the December meeting for consideration.

- 78-22/23 Accounts & Payments:**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

- b) Approve cheques for signature in accordance with 2022/23 Budget (Invoices Sheet) – to be circulated at the meeting.

Cheques were approved for signature as listed below:

Various	Staff costs	£679.50
C360	Shopper bus	£570.86
SWARCO Traffic Ltd	VAS Signs	£6659.94
Aster la Vista	Wreath	£60.00
A & J Lighting	Streetlights	£179.64

**79-22/23 To receive reports from Councillors including feedback from meetings attended**

Cllr Willetts gave a update on the shopper bus, She said the funding had run out in June although the Parish Council had not been advised. She said the backdated invoices had now been received and payment arranged, with a significant amount gathered from residents using the bus being held in the Parish Council accounts.

Cllr Smith asked about the damaged bus shelter. The Clerk said she would investigate a glazier to replace the glass.

**80-22/23 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman