

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 14 December 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 five members of the public in attendance.

81-22/23 To receive Apologies for Absence and confirm acceptance of those apologies

There were no apologies to receive.

82-22/23 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

83-22/23 Public Participation

A resident referred to the recent article in the local newspaper regarding the proposed new Village Hall.

Cllr Bilby confirmed that he had not spoken to the newspaper at any time.

84-22/23 To agree as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 November 2022 were **agreed** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

85-22/23 Report from the County and Borough Councillors: Report from County Councillor and Ward Councillors, if present.

Cllr Dennis Willetts referred to the issue of parking on the heath. He said there were concerns about enforcement by the North Essex Parking Partnership, and there were legal issues that should be discussed by

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman

Colchester City Council and the NEPP once this could be arranged. He said there were four possible options at this point:

- The Clerk to write a polite note asking drivers not to park;
- The NEPP to enforce the bye-laws, once it was confirmed this was possible;
- A person to be trained by the NEPP as an enforcement officer;
- A private firm of bailiffs.

He said a legal view would be necessary before a decision was made but it was not clear when this would be available.

He referred to the chaos of the highways work on the A12. He said maintenance of the road from J26-J33 was scheduled to begin in spring 2023. He said it would not be possible for these works to be delayed until after the current roadworks were completed although the question had been asked.

He referred to the issue of fly-tipping and said the Neighbourhood Services team had checked the area with the current problem regularly but as yet no further information was available.

86-22/23 To review the Council's Action Tracker and to note any action necessary.

The Council's Action Tracker was **reviewed** and the following points were noted:

- The Clerk would write to Mark Healy regarding identified projects for S106 funds;
- Proposed S106 money from Tangles could usefully be spent on the Village Hall website;
- Village Hall – to be moved to Long-term projects;
- A loan from PWLB to be investigated by the Clerk;
- Winter Warmer Space – no volunteers have come forward and this project can be removed from the Action Tracker;
- Flytipping – to be included in Current Projects;
- Website – the Clerk and Cllr Nokes to take forward;
- Overgrown vegetation – the Clerk to approach the City Council;
- Footpath maintenance – to be considered in the coming year.

Signed _____
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87-22/23 To agree the Parish Council response to planning applications received from Colchester Borough Council and to note decisions made on previous applications

222922 - formerly Mercers Place, Mercers Place, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO3 0JU - Minor fenestration changes to front elevation and internal layout changes to ground floor & 1st floor plans. Resubmission of 222089

It was **agreed** there was no objection to this application.

222789 - Thurgood Farm, Daisy Green, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO3 8NG - New dwelling for equestrian centre

It was **agreed** to object to this application as a new dwelling outside the village envelope. The conditions of the previous application regarding development to begin within three years were noted.

222835 - Abbots Dene, Abbots Lane, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QL - Construction of a granny annexe

It was **agreed** that the Council's comments from the previous application for this site would still apply: that this development should only be used in conjunction with the main house and not sold off as a separate entity as the site is outside the village envelope.

222834 - Alwyn, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Colchester CO6 3QA - The proposal is to extend the garage at the rear and convert the garage into a summer house / golf simulator

It was **agreed** that there was no objection to this application.

222991 - E French & Sons, Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PT - Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed excavation and laying of hardstanding for pumpkin crop.

It was **agreed** that the Council felt there was no requirement for prior approval.

223008 - Belvoir, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PU - Single storey rear extension to form Annex

It was **agreed** that the Council had concerns regarding the closeness of the proposed development to the boundary of the adjacent property.

Signed _____
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Planning Decisions

222796 - E French & Sons, Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PT - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed agricultural produce and farm machinery storage building – *Prior approval not required – 30 November 2022*

222795 - E French & Sons, Bullbanks Farm, Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3PT - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development - agricultural produce and farm machinery building. – *Prior approval not required, 30 November 2022*

222530 - 11 Heathfields, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QP - SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION – *Permission granted, 2 conditions, 30 November 2022*

221870 - Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Village Hall, 25 Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green Essex CO6 3QF - Demolition of existing hall (202m²) and replacing with new hall 272m². New hall to be positioned further back on the existing site making better use of redundant land to the sides and rear to increase off street parking. – *Permission granted, 10 conditions, 30 November 2022*

88-22/23 Heaths and Greens

a) To receive a report on Heaths and Greens

There was no report to receive.

b) To consider and possibly agree to accept the quote received for work on the Lower Heath and Abbots Lane pond

It was **agreed** to accept the quote received for work on the Lower Heath and the Abbots Lane pond. It was noted that a letter would be sent to all the residents of Abbots Lane to inform them of the scope of and reasons for the work.

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

It was noted that enforcement action had been taken regarding parking in Huxtables Lane. Residents can report parking infringements with date, time and a photograph to Planning Enforcement and they will take the necessary action.

A quote has been received for the requested easement across Parish Council land.

Signed _____
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The easement for the new dwelling on the Bridleway should be chased.
The Clerk said she would do this.

89-22/23 To consider the report regarding parking issues across the parish and note any action necessary.

The report circulated prior to the meeting by Cllr Dennis Willetts was discussed.

It was noted that the Council could write to residents regarding the bye-laws and the issue would be kept on the Action Tracker.

90-22/23 To consider and possibly agree the 2023/24 budget.

The draft budget was reviewed. It was noted that:

- The figure for Other Grants to be increased to £1,000;
- A line for Footpaths Maintenance of £3,000 to be included;
- An increase in pay for the Clerk and Street Officer of 10% was proposed, to be ratified in January.

91-22/23 To consider and possibly agree the 2023/24 precept demand.

This was deferred to January.

92-22/23 Accounts & Payments:

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

A & J Lighting	Streetlights	£202.20
The Cricketers	Volunteer Day	£153.10
Cllr Nokes	Expenses – fingerpost	£136.32
Mr G. Tye	Expenses – ink	£36.53
Identilabel	Fingerpost signs	£301.32
Mail Boxes Etc.	Newsletter printing	£396.00
Various	Staff costs	£722.88
Cllr Jardine	Expenses – Christmas Tree	£85.45
CALC	Renewal	£35.00
C360	Shopper Bus – November	£160.00

Signed _____
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93-22/23 To receive reports from Councillors including feedback from meetings attended

The following were noted:

- The crossing on Halstead Road to be added to the Action Tracker.
- Details on the Arts and Culture Fund to be passed to the Festival Committee.
- Cllr Jardine to attend a meeting on the A12 roadworks on 16 December 2022.
- Cllr Nokes said he would look to move the VAS in January 2023. He said there had been delays with organising the ongoing procedure but hopefully these would be sorted out soon.

94-22/23 Date of Next Planned Meeting: Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7.30pm at the Eight Ash Green Village Hall, Spring Lane, Colchester.

Signed _____
Cllr J. Jardine, Chairman