

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mrs. C. Gray, Mr. D. Jenkins, Mrs. D. Nott, Mr. D. Patient and Mrs. M. D. Pearce.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 1 (one) member of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

91) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (unwell) and Mrs. L. Lawrence (attending funeral in Scotland)
Post meeting apologies were received from Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

92) ABSENT

Mr. A. Osmond-Evans

93) CASUAL VACANCY FOR TILBURY JUXTA CLARE

It was reported that no one had come forward to fill the vacancy, although Mrs. C. Gray had endeavored to find a candidate. The filling of the vacancy will be deferred until the next meeting. Consequently the filling of Highways, PROW and Community House representatives will also be deferred to the next meeting.

94) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

95) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

96) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Painting former telephone kiosks

The chairman reported that Mr. S. Shoesmith intended to paint the interior and exterior of the former telephone kiosks at Ovington and Tilbury Juxta Clare before the end of the Parish Council's financial year. He thanked Mrs. D. Nott and Mrs. C. Gray for emptying the kiosks in advance of the painting.

b) Ovington Annual Parish Meeting

Mrs. D. Nott reported that the date of the Ovington Annual Parish Meeting has been changed to Monday 3rd March 2025.

There were no other matters arising.

97) CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received was referred to Councillors for information and the contents noted.

98) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that he had made a claim to HMRC for refund of VAT paid during the year 2024 amounting to £907.19, which had been paid.

The following accounts were presented for payment:

Little Yeldham Village Hall – Hire of Village Hall for the year 2024 £162.00

Great Yeldham Parish Council – Share of shortfall for 4 Villages Magazine £200.00

It was proposed by Mr. D. Patient, seconded by Mr. D. Jenkins and carried that payment of the above accounts are approved.

99) TO CONSIDER BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025-2026

The Clerk reported that following consultation with the Chairman the following budget was recommended:

Grass and hedge cutting	£3600
Administration	£3500
Servicing defibrillators	£270
Inflation on above at 3.5%	£258
Village Halls	£1000
Air Ambulance	£200
Contingencies	<u>£500</u>
	£9328

Mr. D. Jenkins proposed an additional £200 in respect of the 4 Villages Magazine, which was seconded by Mrs. A. Gardiner and carried.

It was then proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. D. Jenkins and carried that the Parish Council's budget and precept for 2025-2026 is £9528. The precept form was completed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk.

100) TO CONSIDER THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE (4VM)

The Chairman reported that Great Yeldham Parish Council had agreed the offer of £200 towards the 4VM shortfall for 2024-2025 and in future the figures will be reviewed annually in December each year. Mr. D. Patient supported the continuance of the 4VM, being a lifeline for residents not on the internet and provides a necessary service. Mr. D. Jenkins had calculated that if future shortfalls are similar to this year, the average cost would be about £1 per house per annum. Mrs. D. Nott reported that Ovington has the additional benefit of a separate Benefice Magazine, which does not exist in the Four Villages. Mrs. M. Pearce expressed concern that the majority of the contents of 4VM relates to Great Yeldham and little for Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare or Ovington (the three villages). Following some discussion the Chairman agreed to contact Mr. John Marks, the editor of 4VM, to ask for more space preferably a minimum of an extra page a month with effect from 1st April 2025 for use by organisations within the three villages, including the Parish Council, Village Hall, Recreation Ground and the Friends of the Church. If more space is approved these organisations will be requested to be more proactive in sending contributions to the editor.

101) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported upon the Sub-Committee meeting held 14th January, the minutes having been circulated. It was decided to resubmit the grant application to the National Lottery and to reduce the amount to about £8000 to cover the pathway improvement, seating, bins and notice board. Details were given of fund raising events for 2025. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Pearce for her report.

102) UP DATE UPON DOG BINS IN TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON

The Clerk reported that BDC had approved the sites for three dog bins in Tilbury Juxta Clare, which they will supply and install. The request for dog bins for Ovington was still pending although Mrs. L. Lawrence had communicated with Mr. Levi White of BDC and provided information about proposed locations and the need.

103) UPDATE UPON SOLAR FARM PLANNING APPLICATION

Mrs. D. Nott reported that it had taken BDC three months to settle the conditions for the permission for the Solar Farm at Cut Bush Farm. Although a Judicial Review was considered into BDCs handling of the application it was decided not to proceed with it. With regard to Condition 25, the Clerk had written to BDC asking for the Parish Council to be consulted upon any further submission from the applicant. Following a reminder, the Development Planning Manager had replied and agreed to notify the Parish Council if and when any further submissions are received. He had assured the Parish Council that in respect of Condition 25 details will be carefully considered and BDC will liaise with ECC Highways prior to any decision being made.

The Chairman advised that the applicant will need to apply to BDC for confirmation that each condition has been satisfied. If it is believed that any work has started before Conditions are approved then it should be reported to the BDC Planning Enforcement Team requesting any work to be stopped immediately until all conditions relating to commencement have been satisfied. Councillors will also continue to monitor the BDC Planning Portal.

104) UPDATE UPON PROPOSED WEIGHT AND WIDTH RESTRICTIONS

Mr. D. Patient confirmed that the application for weight and width restrictions had been validated and had appeared in a LHP report. The minutes of the LHP meeting held on 16th January 2025 were awaited

105) OTHER HIGHWAY ISSUES

Unfortunately the Zoom meeting with Mr. P. Schwier regarding highway issues, which was fixed for 21st January 2025, has had to be re-arranged and a new date is awaited.

106) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mr. P. Schwier there was no report but County Council information is disseminated by email.

107) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mrs. I. Parker no report was given. (Post meeting apologies were received and a report later circulated to councillors).

108) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Leave of absence

Mrs. C. Gray reported that she would be working away from home from 17th March to 1st July 2025 when she would be unable to attend any meetings. Leave of absence was granted.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)