

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE  
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mr. D. Jenkins, Mrs. S. J. Harris,  
Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. L. Mathieson, Mr. D. Patient and Mrs. M. D.  
Pearce.  
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

31) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. D. Nott (another meeting) and Mr. P. Schwier

32) ABSENT

Mrs. C. Gray

33) CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman reported that Mrs. L. Mathieson had applied to fill the casual vacancy for Tilbury Juxta Clare. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs. S. Harris and carried that Mrs. Mathieson is co-opted onto the Parish Council.

34) DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Mrs. L. Mathieson signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk who countersigned the Declaration.

35) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

36) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record, subject to an amendment in the second sentence of minute 25 to read: *'The Chairman reported upon an erroneous item which had appeared on Facebook, which implied that BDC had done a great job with the dog bins in Tilbury Juxta Clare, whereas the reality was that it took eighteen months and the perseverance of the Parish Council to make it happen'.*

37) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Dog bins in Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that after a delay of nearly two years, BDC had now installed two dog bins in Ovington and provided details of the locations.

b) Risk Assessment

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had added the Risk Assessment to the PC website where it is available to download. No completed copies had been returned and Councillors agreed to seek copies from volunteers to hand in at the next meeting. There were no other matters arising.

38) CORRESPONDENCE

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

39) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

Braintree District Council – Street cleansing contribution	£1353.46
Proceeds of plant sale for Recreation Ground	£234.20

The following accounts had been paid:

Tilbury Juxta Clare PCC – Use of Tilbury Church for Parish Meeting	£25.00
Direct 365 Online Limited – Items for Ovington defibrillator	£77.65
David McNamee – Repairs to Tilbury Juxta Clare Notice Board	£300.00

The following accounts were presented for payment:

Saffron Accounting Services – payroll returns	£70.00
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance – donation – S137 payment	£200.00

It was proposed by Mr. D. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. M. Pearce and carried that payment of the above accounts are approved and that the donation to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance is authorised under S.137 of the LGA 1972.

40) TO COMPLETE GDPR SECURITY COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Mr. D. Patient circulated GDPR Security Compliance Checklists, which were completed by all Councillors present at the meeting. Mr. D. Patient will liaise with Mrs. C. Gray and Mrs. D. Nott to ensure that they complete their forms. The Chairman thanked Mr. D. Patient for his guidance to ensure compliance with GDPR.

41) TO CONSIDER REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER AT LITTLE YELDHAM

It was reported that the bus shelter at Church Green, Little Yeldham requires some maintenance work, particularly to the roof. It was agreed to request a professional assessment and quote for repairs, which the Chairman agreed to seek from Mr. S. Shoesmith for consideration at the September meeting.

42) TO CONSIDER TREE SAFETY INSPECTION

It was agreed to ask Joe Berens Tree Care to carry out a safety inspection and prepare a report upon the trees on Parish Council owned properties, namely the Village Green and Recreation Ground at Little Yeldham. As Tree Warden for Little Yeldham, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner offered to liaise with Mr. Berens on behalf of the Parish Council.

43) REPORT OF DAMAGE ON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk reported that during early June 2025, when BDC was cutting the grass, the mower went over and damaged a rope attached to the Tram Tracks Assembly. BDC reported the damage the same day, sent photos and provided details of their insurers. The Clerk obtained a quote from Playdale Playgrounds Limited, which amounted to £739.28 including VAT, delivery and installation. When the insurers agreed to pay the full amount, the Clerk gave an order to Playdale to carry out the work, which will be done during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Upon completion they will inform the Clerk and send their invoice directly to the insurers for payment.

44) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce had circulated the minutes of the LYRG Sub Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and gave further details of grant applications made to the Co-op via Essex Community Foundation and to the National Lottery for the pathway, seating, bins and notice board for the Recreation Ground. A fund-raising event on 9<sup>th</sup> August was promoted. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Pearce for her report.

45) REPORT UPON BDC LOCAL PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The Chairman reported that three sites had been put forward namely two in Ovington and one largely in Little Yeldham, which had curiously been listed under Great Yeldham. In connection with all three sites the Planning Officers had stated that they are not recommended for allocation for the valid reasons included in the report. At the BDC Local Plans Sub-Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 the Committee approved the Officer's report so plans will not include the three sites. Councillors were pleased to note that the sites will not become part of the Local Plan.

46) BALC REPORT

The Chairman reported that when the Braintree Association of Local Councils was reformed, he had been elected to its Executive Committee. One object of BALC was to take BDC to task, but this was not being achieved. Mr. Gentry has therefore resigned from the Executive Committee although the Parish Council can remain as a member. In view of the lack of activity during the last few months the annual subscription will be reduced by one half. It was agreed that the PC remain as a member.

47) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

The Chairman reported that the next BALC meeting will be about Local Government Re-Organisation when Mr. G. Butland, Leader of BDC, may be the guest speaker. The Clerk reported that it was still uncertain how many Unitary Authorities may be proposed for Essex. (Post meeting note – see ECC proposal in release dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025)

48) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Potholes in Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that potholes in Church Lane, Ovington had been filled in recently.

b) Footpath posts

Mrs. A. Gardiner reported that she has a stock of about four footpath posts if any are required in the three villages.

c) Village Green in front of Upper Farm, Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence enquired about the Village Green in front of Upper Farm, Ovington. The Clerk reported that Essex County Council stated they have highway rights over this area but do not own it, despite realigning the junction some years ago and closing the access road on one side of the Village Green. Mrs. Lawrence will ask Mr. P. E. and Mrs. S. Pawsey if they have any knowledge of ownership and if they own it whether they are prepared to transfer ownership to the Parish Council.

d) Proposed defibrillator for North End

Mrs. K. Chapman enquired about the possibility of a defibrillator for North End, which was supported. The most suitable location is the former telephone kiosk, which still has electricity connected. Some grant making bodies, such as Essex Community Foundation and the British Heart Foundation, were recommended, with whom Mrs. Chapman will make enquiries.

e) Roundels

Mr. D. Patient will chase Mr. P. Schwier for the provision of roundels for Little Yeldham.

There was no other business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)