

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mrs. S. J. Harris, Mr. D. Jenkins,
Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. L. Mathieson, Mrs. D. Nott, Mr. D. Patient and
Mrs. M. D. Pearce.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. P. Schwier (County Councillor)
Together with 1 (one) member of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

49) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray (working in London) and Mrs. I. Parker.

50) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

51) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2025, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

52) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) GDPR

Mr. D. Patient reported that Mrs. C. Gray and Mrs. D. Nott had confirmed that they had deleted all emails up to May 2024.

b) Village Green at Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that she had spoken to Mr. P. E. and Mrs. S. Pawsey and that Mr. Pawsey had claimed that he owns the Village Green in front of Upper Farm. Mr. J and Mrs. D. Nott will approach Mr. Pawsey again.

c) Roundels in roads

Mr. D. Jenkins reported that 30mph roundels had appeared on roads in Little Yeldham, but one in North End Road had mistakenly appeared as 3mph rather than 30mph. Mr. P. Schwier stated that this was rectified the previous evening.

d) Drains in the highway cleared in Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that the drains in the highway in Ovington had been cleared and thanked ECC Highways and Mr. Schwier for this work.

e) Risk assessment and BDC activity report

The Clerk reported that completed risk assessment forms were awaited from litter picking volunteers and the activity report needs completing and returning to BDC otherwise there will be no street cleansing funding next year for skips and amenity vehicles. Councillors agreed to request completed forms from volunteers and obtain the necessary information to enable the Clerk to complete the activity report for BDC.

There were no other matters arising.

53) CORRESPONDENCE

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

54) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

Proceeds of BBQ & Classic Car Show for Recreation Ground	£654.25
National Lottery – Grant for Recreation Ground	£6000.00
East of England Co-op Community Care Fund – grant for Recreation Ground	£4000.00
Braintree District Council – second half of the precept	£4764.00

The following accounts had been paid:

Braintree Association of Local Councils – Annual subscription	£24.00
Playdale Playgrounds – VAT on insurance claim the net amount of £616.07 having been paid by BDC's insurers	£123.21
Colne Skips – skip for Ovington	£588.00
Braintree District Council – Grass cutting for year	£1344.00
Braintree District Council – Amenity Vehicle	£360.00
Braintree District Council – Amenity Vehicle	£360.00
Joe Berens Tree Care – Tree survey	£500.00
Lifting crown of two oak trees	£300.00
VAT	£160.00
	£960.00

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

55) TO CONSIDER QUOTE FOR REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER

The Chairman reported that a quote had been received from Mr. S. Shoesmith, but two further quotes were required to comply with financial regulations. It was therefore agreed to seek quotes from Mr. C. Cheale and Mr. P. Ashton to consider at the next meeting.

56) TO CONSIDER TREE SAFETY REPORT AND QUOTE

A safety inspection report by Joe Berens Tree Care of all trees on Parish Council properties was circulated to Councillors. Unfortunately, he sent two different quotes for which Mrs. A. Gardiner will seek clarification for the Parish Council to consider at the next meeting. Mr. R. Gardiner had kindly agreed to cut the hedge when convenient.

57) TO CONSIDER RE-THATCHING PUMP HOUSE AT NORTH END

The Chairman reported that Mrs. E. Clayton had reported that the thatched pump house on the Village Green at North End requires re-thatching. Mrs. K. Chapman agreed that the work needs to be done. If possible, it was agreed to seek three quotes including one from Mr. Richard Mann.

58) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that the BBQ and Classic Car Show held on 9th August had raised £654.25. The equipment damaged by BDC's mower had been repaired. Grants of £6,000.00 from the National Lottery and £4,000.00 from the East of England Co-op Community Cares Fund were received towards the additional pathway, seating, bins and noticeboard for the Recreation Ground. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Mrs. Pearce for her report, and particularly her success with obtaining grants.

59) TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR WORK ON RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. Pearce reported that the two grants in minute 58 above together with the earlier grant of £2,500 from the Bruce Wake Trust was sufficient to cover the additional work required in the Recreation Ground. Three quotes were received, which had been carefully considered by the Sub-Committee which had recommended acceptance of the quote of £10,548.00 from Colin Ridgewell & Son. In addition, Colin Ridgewell & Son had quoted £1,170.00 for remedial work on the existing path. It was proposed by Mr. D. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. A. Gardiner and carried that both quotes are accepted. The remaining funds will remain unallocated until the Sub-Committee considers the possibilities.

60) BELCHAMP COMMUNITY HOUSE

On 2nd September 2025 the Clerk circulated a report from the trustees of Belchamp Community House seeking support from the PC for proposed insulation and heating efficiency. The trustees were not seeking any funds from the PC as it was anticipated that funding would be forthcoming from elsewhere. However, the trustees would appreciate the PCs support for the proposed insulation and heating efficiency work. It was unanimously agreed to support the trustees in this respect.

An email had been received on 23rd September on behalf of British Solar Renewables stating that a Community Benefit Fund associated with the Solar Park at Bakers Road will make £50,000 available for the Community House to support the energy saving project, which will not affect the availability of the Essex Community Foundation fund. An additional £50,000 will be available upon energization of the solar park, which has been ring fenced for Belchamp St. Paul, Ovington, Belchamp Otten, Ashen, Tilbury Juxta Clare, Little Yeldham and Clare. Another communication will be sent next year with details of how to apply to receive funding.

Quite apart from the above, the trustees are intending to renew windows later in the year and desire the PC grants of £500 for 2024-2025 and £500 for 2025-2026 to be allocated towards this, which was agreed.

61) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker had sent a written report which was circulated to Councillors. Arising from the report the Chairman stated that on 24th September the BDC Local Plans Sub Committee will be reviewing the site allocation (GRYE 2175) at Little Hyde Road where BDC Officers are recommending that part of the site is allocated, but to be limited to 30 dwellings, not the 159 previously refused with no access from Little Yeldham Road only through Little Hyde Road.

Mr. D. Patient asked if BDC could reverse its previous decision made as recently as June 2025 to refuse 159 houses. The Clerk reported that he had carried out some research and under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 District Councils have the power to revoke or modify decisions if deemed expedient or in the interests of the area especially if new information arises, such as the allocation of more houses in the district by 2041.

The Chairman had liaised with Mr. P. Rawlinson, the Chairman of Great Yeldham Parish Council and they will both attend the meeting and speak against the proposed development upon inter alia, the following grounds:

- a. The site is outside the development boundary.
- b. It is not appropriate in the countryside.
- c. Over capacity for residents.
- d. Leather Lane is in a flood zone.
- e. Poor infrastructure in Great Yeldham, particularly at the Primary School.

Mrs. K. Chapman confirmed that Great Yeldham Primary School was full and even families within its catchment area had to look for schools further away. In short, the same arguments, which applied to the refusal of 159 houses equally applied to opposing 30 houses. The lack of notice by BDC for the proposed modification was deplored.

62) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. Schwier reported upon the following:

- a. Essex Transport Strategy.
- b. The number of potholes reported has reduced during the last 2 or 3 years, because they were being filled in more quickly and with better quality work.
- c. Increase in footway repairs carried out and significant progress with white lining.
- d. Beaulieu Park Station near Chelmsford had opened on time and on budget and was the first new station in the UK for one hundred years.
- e. ECC Highways asked landowners to cut hedges along highways and around signs.
- f. Local Government re-organisation with Mayoral elections in May 2026.

Mr. Schwier then answered questions from councillors:

- a. It was agreed that solar panels should be erected on all new houses for which the benefits will be immense, but Central Government has not changed building regulations to allow this.
- b. Highway issues to be pursued are: (i) Village Name Sign at North End needs replacing, (ii) Vegetation around Little Yeldham Name Sign needs clearing along the road from Great Yeldham, (iii) vegetation overhanging Tilbury Road from Spencers estate needs cutting back. It was suggested that the PC approach the landowners initially and in default ECC Highways will pursue action.

63) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

This item was covered by Mrs. Parker in her BDC report.

64) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)