

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. S. J. Harris, Mr. D. Jenkins, 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.

65) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner (holiday), Mrs. C. Gray (working in London), Mrs. D. Nott
(holiday), Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier.

66) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

67) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2025, having been previously
circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a
correct record.

68) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) GDPR

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

b) Village Green at Ovington

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that Mr. J. and Mrs. D. Nott intended to approach Mr. Pawsey
again and it was agreed to defer this item for Mrs. Nott to give a report at the next
meeting.

c) Risk assessment and BDC activity report

It was reported that the Clerk had received all completed risk assessment forms from
litter picking volunteers. The activity reports had been completed from April to July
2025 and returned to BDC. Further activity reports will be required during December
2025 from August to November 2025.

There were no other matters arising.

69) CORRESPONDENCE

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

70) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

UK Power Networks PLC – wayleave payment

£41.31

The following accounts were presented for payment:

John Bright – grass and hedge cutting in Little Yeldham	£272.00
Kevin Shears – Tilbury Juxta Clare Churchyard	£196.00
Little Yeldham Churchyard and North End Green	£960.00
Replacing bollard at Church Green	<u>£50.00</u>
	£1206.00
Society of Local Council Clerks – annual subscription	£80.00
Adrian Corder-Birch – Clerks salary	£447.00
HMRC	£120.00
Essex Pension Fund	£184.48

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

71) TO CONSIDER QUOTE FOR REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER

The Chairman reported that the following quotes had been received

Mr. Paul Ashton t/a Ashton Carpentry and Joinery	£2592.00
Mr. Stuart Shoesmith	£1400.00
Mr. Chris Cheale t/a C. R. Cheale's Plastering	£850.00

It was proposed by Mrs. K. Chapman, seconded by Mrs. M. Pearce and carried that Mr. Cheale's quote for £850.00 is accepted and that he is asked to add on the cost of interior painting.

72) TO CONSIDER TREE SAFETY QUOTE

It was reported that Mrs. A. Gardiner had consulted Joe Berens to seek clarification regarding his previous quotes. As a result, his quote dated 22nd September 2025 had been reduced by £250 from £780 to £530 plus VAT. It was proposed by Mr. D. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. L. Mathieson and carried to accept the revised quote of £530.00 net.

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

The Clerk had previously circulated an exchange of emails with Mrs. Sarah Burder, the S106 Officer at BDC from which £1,791.89 was available from S106 monies held by BDC from an old planning permission in North End to be allocated for use on Public Open Spaces in Little Yeldham. BDC had informally agreed that the money could be allocated towards re-thatching the pump house. This proposal was approved by the Parish Council and the Clerk agreed to complete the necessary application forms.

It was considered that the quote from Richard Mann was rather high for such a small building. In these circumstances it was agreed to endeavour to seek two further quotes to comply with financial regulations. Mrs. K. Chapman kindly agreed to consult the East Anglian Master Thatchers Association to recommend two other thatchers to approach for quotes. It was also agreed to make enquiries with Essex Heritage Trust for a grant.

74) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that further discussions have taken place with Colin Ridgewell & Sons regarding the pathways resulting in a saving of £200, which will be allocated towards the cost of £520 for clearing away vegetation before work commences. There is an additional charge of £348.40 for the name engraving on the notice board namely 'LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND' which was approved. The

total cost of the work was £12336.40, and an order had been placed with Colin Ridgewell & Sons who will commence work early in the New Year. Unfortunately, the Birch tree planted in memory of John Gardiner did not look very healthy following the summer drought and may have to be replaced if it fails to shoot again from the base next spring. The annual Easter Egg hunt and coffee morning had been fixed for 28th March 2026. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Pearce and the Sub Committee for their hard work. The cost of £12336.40 will be covered by grants and fundraising without any funds from the PC.

75) BDC LOCAL PLAN – SITE ALLOCATION GRYE 2175

The Chairman circulated a written report of the BDC Local Plans Sub Committee meeting held 24th September 2025, together with a copy of his letter to Mrs. I. Parker and her reply, all of which accompanies these minutes as appendix one.

The outcome was that 30 (thirty) houses will go forward in the Local Plan. Councillors understood that all thirty houses were just within the Great Yeldham boundary with Little Yeldham. They will square off an area of land and will not encroach into Little Yeldham, as the previous 159 houses did, which were rejected. The Chairman and the Chairman of Great Yeldham Parish Council together with the District Councillor for Great Yeldham had all attended the meeting and opposed the allocation. The Chairman and the Chairman of GYPC had both written to Mrs. Parker expressing concern that she had supported the site allocation and had not supported this PC and GYPC. Her reply had explained that she had acted in the interests of the whole district and that she would have opposed the original 159 houses.

Mr. D. Jenkins then made the following statement:

“In view of the concerns and tenor of Peter’s letter to Iona, which I did not have sight of before it was sent, I wish to make it absolutely clear that I did not, at any point, support the views expressed in that letter. I would like my disagreement with and disassociation from the Parish Council position, as expressed in the letter, to be formally minute-ed.”

Mrs. K. Chapman agreed with Mr. Jenkins’ statement as she had not seen the letter.

76) TO CONSIDER SOLAR FARM AT ASHEN, TILBURY AND OVINGTON

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported upon the public meeting held on 4th November 2025 at Ashen, which Mrs. S. Harris had also attended, regarding the proposed Solar Farm by Radiance Energy on land in Ashen, Ovington and Tilbury Juxta Clare. ADAS Planning of Manchester were in the process of applying for planning permission but did not know anything about our area and were unable to answer questions. A preplanning enquiry has been submitted with full application by the end of January 2026. They put forward the same arguments as for the Solar Farm currently under construction between Ovington and Belchamp St. Paul. The proposed access for construction traffic was one through Ovington and the other through the edge of Ashen to Clare, which were both very poor. Feedback was requested by 28th November, but residents opposed it on the grounds that land should be for food production not solar panels. If permission is granted it will limit the activities of the adjacent Gliding Club. The Clerk reported that on 25th October he had made representations to ADAS because they had only notified residents of Ashen of the public consultation and had failed to notify residents of Ovington and Tilbury Juxta Clare and he had pointed out that most of the site was in Tilbury juxta Clare with some in

Ovington and Ashen. ADAS had apologized for not notifying the Parish Council. It was agreed to maintain a watching brief.

77) **BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Mrs. I. Parker had sent a written report which was circulated to Councillors. The report included the Local Plan, Waste Service Review, Local Government re-organisation, Economic development and Leisure. Regarding the local plan BDC had finished assessing all the sites but were still short of 1,100 dwellings and will have to revisit some of the sites which were rejected. The draft plan will go out to public consultation in the New Year.

78) **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

In the absence of Mr. P. Schwier no report was given, but ECC information is usually disseminated by email.

79) **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION**

This item was included in Mrs. Parker's report and BDC had voted in favour of a three unitary council model, which would see north, mid and south Essex Unitary councils with Braintree joining Uttlesford, Colchester and Tendring in a North Essex Unitary. The final decision will be made by the Government at the end of March 2026.

80) **MEETING DATES FOR 2026**

The following meeting dates were agreed for 2026:

13th January 2026 - Parish Council

Wednesday, 4th March 2026 - Ovington Annual Parish Meeting

10th March 2026 - Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting 7pm followed by PC at 7.30pm

28th April 2026 - Tilbury Juxta Clare Annual Parish Meeting (Mrs. Harris agreed to book Tilbury Church for the meeting)

12th May 2026 – Annual Parish Council Meeting

7th July 2026 – Parish Council

15th September 2026 - Parish Council

17th November 2026 – Parish Council

81) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **Post at North End**

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that a post near the bus shelter at North End had been damaged and agreed to obtain a quote for repair or replacement from the contractor.

b) **Vegetation in Belchamp Brook at North End**

It was agreed that Mrs. Chapman will ask Mrs. A. L. Gardiner to request Mr. I. Yeldham to clear the vegetation in the brook.

c) **Trees and hedges overhanging highways**

Mr. D. Jenkins reported that conifers at Red House were encroaching into the road, which will be reported to ECC Highways. Mrs. Chapman also reported vegetation obstructing a sign at 'Pegges' Little Yeldham Road, which will also be reported.

It was noted that Mrs. D. Nott, on behalf of local farmers had reported overhanging hedges and trees adjacent to Spencers, Tilbury Road to ECC Highways. Mr. P. Schwier

raised the issue with Highways, which was unable to locate reports of overgrown vegetation but stated that Tilbury Road is classified as a priority route that is inspected on a quarterly basis. The most recent inspection took place on 14th October 2025 when no vegetation defects were identified. However, considering concerns raised, Mr. Schwier was arranging for a highways inspector to visit to assess the vegetation and identify any necessary action. (Progress can be monitored under Highways ref no: 4004523) Councillors considered that the initial response from Highways was not acceptable and desire to meet the inspector on site upon the visit being arranged by Mr. Schwier. Following a long discussion about vegetation overhanging highways Mr. D. Patient suggested another item is included in the Four Villages Magazine reminding landowners to cut hedges and trees overhanging highways. (Post meeting note: see item for magazine circulated 19th November 2025)

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

APPENDIX 1

LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE & OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2025 - AGENDA ITEM 11

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BDC LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24TH SEPTEMBER 2025 REGARDING SITE ALLOCATION GRYE2175

As agreed at the last meeting on 23rd September 2025 under minute no. 61, I attended the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting on the 24th September 2025 to speak against the development of site GRYE2175, which is on the border of Great Yeldham and Little Yeldham and had been brought back to the table by BDC Planning Officers with their revised and recommended proposal for 30 houses, after previously being rejected for 159 houses.

The Great Yeldham Parish Council Chairman and the Great Yeldham District Councillor also attended the meeting and spoke against the revised proposal.

The District Councillor who represents Little Yeldham, along with other Parishes, and is a member of the Local Plan Sub-Committee, spoke for the revised proposal.

The outcome of the meeting was that development of site GRYE2175 for 30 houses was agreed and will form part of the Local Plan going forward to public consultation.

The absence of support from our District Councillor was disappointing to both myself and the Great Yeldham Parish Council Chairman. This disappointment resulted in separate representations being made to our District Councillor to ascertain why this stance was adopted.

For information, below is the representation sent by Little Yeldham and our District Councillor's response.

Peter Gentry
Chairman

LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Gentry,
Chairman of the Parish Council

Penny Farthings,
68 Little Yeldham Road,
Little Yeldham,
Halstead. CO9 4LN

Email: cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com

Cllr. Iona Parker,
Bendysh,
North End Road,
Little Yeldham,
Halstead, Essex.
CO9 4LE

29th September 2025

Dear Iona,

Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting and site GRYE 2175 for 30 dwellings

I write on behalf of Little Yeldham Parish Councillors regarding your participation in the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting on 24th September 2025.

It is clear to our residents from the recording of the meeting that you led the Committee's response to supporting the allocation. Parish Councillors feel very let down that as our District Councillor you did not support the Parish Council or your electorate with their objection to this allocation. You may recall that last year some forty residents of Great and Little Yeldham attended a Parish Council meeting to strenuously object to any allocation of the site, whatever the number of proposed dwellings. In addition, BDC was inundated with many letters of objection, including a long letter from the Parish Council. The statements at the meeting by myself and Councillors, Rawlinson and Van Dulken, which you had prior sight of, repeated the same arguments applied equally for the reduced number of 30 dwellings as for the original 159 dwellings.

The Parish Council has questioned why, as our District Councillor, you did not support us and your electorate? Councillors have also questioned why you were allowed to participate in the meeting when you rightly declared at the start of the meeting, that you have a connection with the proposers of the site?

Councillors consider that you should have stepped aside for this item and the fact that you spoke first and specifically led support for the allocation, which gave the Committee impetus to join you in voting the allocation through, is of great concern.

I want to make it clear that Councillors are "extremely disappointed". Councillors desire to remind you of your duty to your electorate and your moral responsibility to support the Parish Council, who also have a duty to your electorate and are the first line of defence.

Councillors would like to give you the opportunity to respond to the questions raised above and explain why this was not the case at the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gentry
Chairman of the Parish Council



Peter Gentry <cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com>

Local Plan Sub-Committee Meeting on 24th September 2025

Cllr Iona Parker <cllr.iparker@braintree.gov.uk>
 To: Peter Gentry <cllr.pgentry.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com>
 Cc: Adrian Corder-Birch <clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com>

2 October 2025 at 17:33

Dear Peter,

I refer to your letter attached to this email and wish to make the following points to assist with the understanding of my role as Member of the Local Plan Sub-Committee.

- My participation as a Member of the Local Plan Sub-Committee is to act in the interests of the whole District having regard to the Council's duties for the Local Plan. I regret there are sometimes tensions between all those I represent as ward member for Stour Valley North (not just the Parish) and the duties I am required to discharge in the interests of the whole of the District. Whilst I can bring my knowledge of the issues within the Parishes to the Local Plan Sub-Committee and can refer to them, I cannot fetter my decision making and participation based on those issues or the views of the Parish Council. The decision to allocate the reduced area of site GRYE2175 for up to 30 dwellings was made by all members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee and had a positive recommendation by officers. I do not feel it is necessary to address your assertion that I was leading the Sub-Committee response. I contributed to the debate as an equal and it was for each of the Members of the Sub-Committee to make their own decision when called to vote on the matter.
- I spoke because I am the only one on the Sub-Committee who has any knowledge of the sites in the rural northern wards. I Monitoring application because BDC regarding needed to find sites for an additional 250 dwellings of interests which can be delivered quickly, Great Yeldham is in a sustainable location, the site is much smaller than originally proposed, access would be from an existing estate road in Great Yeldham not Little Yeldham road and there were no landscape or other constraints. I was strongly opposed to allocation of the larger area.
- I took advice from the Council's Deputy Officer regarding my declaration of interests having regards to the Council's Code of Conduct and was advised I could participate in the meeting. Whilst you may not agree with the decision, I took advice and acted accordingly.

Kind regards

Iona