

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 13th JANUARY 2026 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

82) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (illness), Mrs. C. Gray (attending another meeting), Mrs. L. Lawrence
(nursing husband), Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier.

83) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

84) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025, having been previously
circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a
correct record.

85) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Ovington Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the Ovington Annual Parish Meeting will take place on
Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7pm in the Meeting Room, the Granary, Ovington Hall.

b) Village Green at Ovington

Mrs. D. Nott stated there was nothing to report.

There were no other matters arising.

86) CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received was referred to Councillors for information and the
contents noted. The Clerk referred to the invitation from the trustees of Belchamp
Community House to attend its Open Day on 25th February from 6 to 8pm. A few
councillors indicated they will attend.

87) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

Easy Fundraising for the Recreation Ground £20.83

The Clerk reported that he had made a claim to HMRC for refund of VAT
for the year 2025 amounting to £950.75

The following accounts have been paid since the last meeting:

Joe Berens Tree Care – tree surgery work £540.00

Little Yeldham Village Hall – hire of village hall during 2025 £210.00

Society of Local Council Clerks – balance of annual subscription	£4.00
Damma Building Services – battery and pads for Little Yeldham defibrillator	£409.20
HMRC - Employer’s National Insurance Contributions	£54.90

In respect to Employer’s National Insurance Contributions, the Clerk reported that the present Government had brought down the threshold to £5,000 per annum which equates to £417.00 per month. Although the Clerks annual pay is considerably less as he is paid twice a year in May and November it amounts to more than £417 for those two months and therefore the Parish Council was liable for Employer’s NIC. HMRC is not geared up for annual or twice yearly pay. It was therefore agreed that in future the Clerk is paid quarterly in May, August, November and February so the PC can avoid paying NIC.

The Clerk reported that the payment of three accounts was pending as follows:

Great Yeldham Parish Council–Contribution towards shortfall of 4 Villages Mag	£200.00
CT Eco Plus Limited – Belchamp Community House grant for two years	£1200.00
Ridgewell Garden Design & Construction Limited trading as Colin Ridgewell & Sons Landscapes – Work on Recreation Ground	£14,803.68

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

88) TO CONSIDER QUOTE FOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF POST NEAR BUS SHELTER AT NORTH END

89) UPDATE UPON REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER AT CHURCH GREEN

90) UPDATE UPON RE-THATCHING PUMP HOUSE AT NORTH END

In the absence of Mrs. K. Chapman, the above items were deferred. At the Chairman’s request, Mrs. A. Gardiner agreed to ascertain from Mrs. Chapman the present position regarding the repairs by Mr. Cheale of the bus shelter at Church Green, and particularly the added cost of interior painting.

91) TO CONSIDER BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2026-2027

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

Grass and hedge cutting	£3600
Administration	£3500
Servicing and parts for defibrillators	£270
Inflation on above at 3.2%	£236
Village Halls	£1000
Air Ambulance	£200
4 Villages Magazine	£200
Contingencies	£500
Maintenance of PC assets – Re-thatching Pump House	£500
Total	£10006

Mrs. A. Gardiner queried the re-thatching of the pump house and was informed that £1,791.89 should be available from S106 monies held by BDC from an old planning permission in North End. BDC had informally agreed that the money could be allocated towards re-thatching the pump house. The Clerk had completed the necessary application forms and a final decision from BDC was awaited. In addition, Mrs. Chapman had applied to Essex Heritage Trust for a grant, which would be considered at a

meeting in late January. As one quote was rather high for such a small building it was agreed to seek two further quotes to comply with financial regulations and Mrs. Chapman was consulting the East Anglian Master Thatcher's Association to recommend two other thatchers to approach for quotes.

Mr. D. Patient enquired about the 4 Villages Magazine. The Chairman explained that as Great Yeldham Parish Council had asked the PC for a contribution towards the shortfall the PC has a stake in the magazine and can ask the editor to include contributions from Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington.

It was proposed by Mr. D. Patient, seconded by Mrs. D. Nott and carried that the Parish Council precepts for £10,006 for 2026-2027. The precept form was completed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk.

92) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that Colin Ridgewell & Sons had completed work on the pathways, seats, bins, noticeboard and clearing away vegetation, but a little more work was required on the surface of the paths. The total cost of the work was £12336.40 net. The annual Easter Egg hunt and coffee morning had been fixed for 28th March and the Summer Barbeque for 8th August 2026. As the major work has been completed, it is likely that only two fund-raising events a year will be held in future to cover maintenance costs. It was pleasing to note that all the work carried out to date had been financed by grants and fundraising events and nothing from the precept. The Clerk reported that LYRG had £16,784.31 in hand, less the net invoice of £12,336.40 from Colin Ridgewell & Sons, which will leave a balance of £4,447.91. Mrs. M. Pearce and her committee were thanked for all the hard work carried out for the benefit of the village. Unfortunately, the Birch tree planted in memory of John Gardiner did not look very healthy and if necessary, Mrs. A. Gardiner will replace it.

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

Mrs. D. Nott reported that she had attended a meeting of Ashen Parish Council when some 60 or 70 people were present, who all opposed the proposed Solar Farm. The main concern was about unsuitable access routes. Residents were appalled that the applicant's agents had failed to visit the site prior to their consultation last October/November so were unable to answer questions at the earlier public meeting. A possible planning application was awaited.

94) CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FARM NEAR OVINGTON

Mrs. D. Nott reported that the Solar Farm at Bakers Road, Belchamp St. Paul close to Ovington was being built and lorries were parking along the nearby roads, damaging the verges leaving large quantities of mud on the roads, obstructing the roads and preventing access for other road users and emergency vehicles. As these matters were in breach of planning conditions imposed by BDC it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should report these breaches to the Planning Enforcement Team at BDC for action.

95) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker had sent a written report which was circulated to Councillors.

96) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

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

97) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

The Chairman reported that the latest situation was included in Mrs. Parker's report and on BDCs website. It should not directly affect Parish Councils.

98) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Trees and hedges overhanging highway at Tilbury Road

Mrs. D. Nott had reported overhanging hedges and trees adjacent to Spencers, Tilbury Road to ECC Highways last autumn. Mr. P. Schwier had also raised the issue with Highways, but no progress had been made. Mr. D. Patient suggested that another meeting with Mr. Schwier is arranged, which was agreed. In the meantime, Tilbury and Ovington councillors will work together to identify and film the worst locations and give Mr. Schwier his preferred what3words locations.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 8pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)