

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE  
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 AT 7.30 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, Mr. D. Patient and Mrs. M. D.  
Pearce.  
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)  
Together with one member of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

99) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray (working), Mrs. D. Nott (another commitment), Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier.

100) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

101) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

102) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Belchamp St. Paul Community House

The Clerk reported that Mrs. S. Harris and himself had represented the Parish Council at the re-opening of Belchamp Community House on 25<sup>th</sup> February.  
There were no other matters arising.

103) CORRESPONDENCE

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

104) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

HMRC refund of VAT for the year 2025	£950.75
Easy Fundraising for the Recreation Ground	£26.73

The Clerk reported that he had decided to opt out of the Essex Pension Fund with effect from March 2026 but will not receive his pension until he retires.

105) TO CONSIDER RENEWING GRASS CUTTING SLA WITH BDC

It was proposed by Mr. D. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. M. Pearce and carried, that the grass cutting SLA with BDC be renewed for 2026-2027 for £1,160 net being an increase of £40 over 2025-2026.

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

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that the contractor, Mr. A. Wisby, had kindly agreed to replace the post free of charge for which Councillors expressed their gratitude.

107) UPDATE UPON REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER AT CHURCH GREEN

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that Mr. C. Cheale will carry out repairs to the bus shelter when the weather improves and will carry out the additional interior painting and supply the paint for no extra cost, which was much appreciated.

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

Mrs. K. Chapman gave details of her enquiries with the East Anglian Master Thatchers' Association and of her approach to various thatchers. One had retired, another was unable to quote as he was too busy, one had a waiting list of 2½ years, two others agreed to quote, but no quotes had been forthcoming, and the final thatcher had not responded. Mrs. Chapman reported upon a site meeting with a representative of Essex Heritage Trust who had been very helpful. It will be necessary to replace two corner posts and realign some roof rafters, which have become distorted. It was agreed to seek three quotes for the woodwork, which will need completing before thatching takes place and to keep the thatcher informed. Essex Heritage Trust gave the go ahead for the work and will pay for the woodwork and thatching less £1,791.89 from S106 monies from BDC.

109) TO CONSIDER RENEWING STREET CLEANSING AGREEMENT

It was agreed to renew the street cleansing agreement with BDC for another year. The Clerk will therefore invoice BDC for £1,394.06 for 2026-2027. The Chairman confirmed that he had placed the Channel Sweeping dates on the PC website and that purple sacks for street litter were available from the garage at the rear of Little Yeldham Village Hall. It was agreed to complete Activity Reports for the three villages and send them to the Clerk to forward to BDC.

110) TO CONSIDER HIRING SKIPS AND AMENITY VEHICLES

It was agreed to hire a skip for Ovington for August Bank Holiday weekend and to hire three Amenity Vehicles with Drivers for two hours from 10am to 12 noon as follows:

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> August – The Village Green, Tilbury Hill, Tilbury Juxta Clare

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> August – The Village Hall, School Road, Little Yeldham

Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> August – The Village Green, North End

The items not to be deposited were noted and flyers will be arranged to be delivered with the 4 Villages Magazine as appropriate.

111) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that all work on the Recreation Ground had been completed, and a report submitted to the Essex Community Foundation, with photos, which were circulated to councillors. There is a small sum left over from grants and LYRGC will consider this and make recommendations to the PC. The annual Easter Egg hunt and coffee morning had been fixed for 28<sup>th</sup> March and the Summer Barbeque for 8<sup>th</sup> August.

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

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that the proposed Solar Farm on the former airfield was on hold.

113) CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FARM NEAR OVINGTON

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported upon continuing issues arising from the construction of the Solar Farm at Bakers Road. These included lorries parking along the nearby roads, damage to the verges, lorries leaving large quantities of mud on the roads, obstructing the roads and preventing access for other road users and emergency vehicles. The frequent use of unauthorized routes was deplored. These and other breaches of planning conditions have been reported by the Clerk to the Planning Enforcement Team at BDC for action. Although the aggregate lorries had stopped other lorries were now delivering panels and the improved weather had resulted in less damage. However, extra signage and stop/go boards will be introduced and drivers not obeying the rules will be refused access. No holding space for lorries had been found between High Garrett and Great Yeldham, but councillors suggested the former Gosfield Airfield may be suitable. The contractors propose to issue a regular newsletter to keep residents informed. It was generally agreed that BDC should never have granted planning permission because of the bad access, which they had been warned about in representations made prior to granting planning permission. The Chairman thanked Mrs. L. Lawrence for her hard work and persistence with recoding and raising these issues with BDC and the contractors.

114) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

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

115) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. Schwier had sent a report, which was circulated to councillors and was in addition to the ECC information disseminated by email.

116) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

The Clerk reported that the Government should announce its decision this month regarding the proposed Unitary Authorities in Essex.

117) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Vehicle Breakers Yard at Mashey Road, Little Yeldham

A councillor reported that the Vehicle Breakers Yard was winding down. He understood that there were a few storage containers on the land, which may be commercial and possibly without planning permission. It was suggested that he enquires with the Planning Enforcement Team at BDC as a member of the public and not as a councillor.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)