

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE
YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 7th JULY 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. Lawrence,
Mrs. L. Mathieson and Mrs. D. Nott.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Together with one member of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

27) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. K. Chapman (post meeting apologies – no babysitter), Mrs. C. Gray (holiday), Mr. D. Patient (holiday), Mrs. M. Pearce (unwell) and Mr. N. Robins (County Councillor)

28) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

29) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2026, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

30) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Audit of Accounts 2025-2026

The Clerk reported that he had sent the necessary documents to the external auditor for audit and had received an acknowledgement confirming it is in the queue for processing. There were no other matters arising.

31) CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received was referred to Councillors for information and the contents noted. The Clerk reported upon two items of correspondence as follows:

- a. A letter from Strategic Land Holdings Limited in the Isle of Man seeking to acquire ownership of Little Yeldham Recreation Ground for development. The Clerk had responded and made it clear that the Recreation Ground was not for sale and his action was approved.
- b. A letter from the Colne Stour Countryside Association regarding its proposed merger with the Dedham Vale Society, which if approved will take place on 1st January 2027 and a letter will be sent later in the year about membership.

32) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

Mr. R and Mrs. A. Gardiner – contribution towards bench on Recreation Ground £100.00

The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made since the last meeting:

Braintree District Council– Cutting grass on Little Yeldham Recreation Ground £1394.10
Saffron Accounting Services – Annual payroll administration £78.00
Playdale Playgrounds – Inspection fee £216.00
Payment of the above accounts was approved, and it was agreed to pay Mr. Cheale's account of £850.00 when received for work on the Bus Shelter at Church Green.

33) UPDATE UPON REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER AT CHURCH GREEN

The Chairman reported that Mr. C. Cheale had satisfactorily completed the repairs to the bus shelter, and it was agreed that he had done a good job.

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

In the absence of Mrs. K. Chapman this item was deferred until the next meeting.

35) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce had circulated a report stating that the inspection had taken place, there were no major problems, and minor issues have been rectified. The old bench has been removed and replaced with a new bench. The annual Summer Barbeque will take place on 8th August.

36) CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FARM NEAR OVINGTON

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported deliveries were continuing to be made for the construction of the Solar Farm at Bakers Road, including 50% module deliveries. Solar Farm traffic signs had been erected over a wide area. About 70% of the piling had been completed and an 80-ton grid transformer will be arriving from India in October. Concern was expressed as to how this load will negotiate the small narrow winding lanes to the site. Significant low water pressure was experienced by households in the area, particularly in Ovington and Tilbury Juxta Clare, caused by the large quantities of water being used in the construction of the Solar Farm.

37) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker gave the following report:

i. Bins - the first full month of the new bin system had been completed and recycling had increased significantly. However, there was a capacity issue with some bins particularly the blue bins. BDC will wait for the second cycle to be completed and then officers will conduct a review of the problems in September. A second bin can be requested on a case-by-case basis, or an additional collection may be considered. There were no plans to remove bottle banks in the district.

ii. Local Plans – BDC is progressing the Local Plan for the period 2028-2043, with a target of 1,132 dwellings a year. The largest sites are over 2,000 houses in Halstead and another large site in Kelvedon.

iii. Local Government Re-organisation - The Government had proposed that the Braintree District is included in a new Unitary Authority area with Colchester and Tendring. It was proposed to have 101 councillors and possibly a main office in Colchester. The new ECC has launched a Judicial Review action against the Government for which the result is awaited.

iv. Wethersfield – The Government proposes to increase the capacity of Wethersfield

from 800 to 1200, which had resulted in numerous protests. Sir James Cleverley, M.P., is opposing the proposed increase.

Arising from this item it was agreed to invite a Police Officer to a future PC meeting. However, Mrs. A. Gardiner pointed out that the Police frequently meet Parish Councillors at Drop-In Sessions at local venues such as Great Yeldham and Castle Hedingham to discuss policing issues in our area.

38) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. N. Robins sent a report, which was circulated to councillors and the contents noted.

39) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

This was covered in the BDC and ECC reports and the Judicial Review action against the Government being taken by the new ECC was welcomed.

40) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) BDC Awards scheme

Mrs. L. Lawrence referred to the Braintree District Volunteer and Active Braintree Awards Scheme and suggested that Mrs. M. Pearce is nominated for all her hard work and fund raising towards Little Yeldham Recreation Ground and Little Yeldham Village Hall. It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Lawrence on behalf of the Parish Council should enter Mrs. Pearce with the assistance of information from the Chairman and Clerk.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 7.45pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)