MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM, TILBURY JUXTA CLARE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7 P.M.

In the chair: Mr. D. Patient
Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. A. L. Gardiner, Mr. P. J. Gentry, Mrs. S. Harris, Mr. D. Jenkins, Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. L. Mathieson, Mrs. D. Nott and Mrs. M. D. Pearce.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 3 (three) members of the public

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. E. Clayton requested an update upon repairs to the Pump House at North End, which was on the agenda.
Mrs. Clayton reported that the North End sign is still missing. Mrs. K. Chapman had reported it to Mr. N. Robins and the Chairman had previously reported it on the ECC Highways portal and that he will continue to pursue it.
There was no other public comment.

41) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. C. Gray (post meeting apologies - working) and Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Mr. N. Robins (County Councillor - post meeting apologies)

42) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

43) TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026, having been previously circulated were taken as read, were confirmed and duly signed by the chairman as a correct record.

44) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Recycling and waste bins

The Chairman referred to the issue of the new arrangements for recycling and waste bins particularly the lack of sufficient blue bins, which in many households were filled quickly and the emptying of black bins only three weeks instead of the original two weeks. It was noted from the BDC report that the issues relating to bins were currently being reviewed by BDC.
There were no other matters arising.

45) CORRESPONDENCE

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

46) ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:
Proceeds of Summer BBQ for Recreation Ground £1014.70

DRAFT AWAITING APPROVAL

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

Chris Cheale – work on bus shelter at Little Yeldham	£850.00
Colne Skips – skip for Ovington	£624.00
Braintree District Council– Amenity Vehicle for Tilbury Juxta Clare	£304.00
Braintree District Council – Amenity Vehicle for Little Yeldham	£304.00
Mr. A. Corder-Birch – quarterly salary	£240.00
H.M.R.C. – Income Tax	£60.00
P. K. F. Littlejohn LLP – External Auditors fee	£252.00
Bluetree Print Limited – printing new signs for Recreation Ground	£42.11

It was proposed by Mrs. K. Chapman, seconded by Mrs. L. Lawrence and carried that payment of the above accounts are approved.

Regarding the Amenity Vehicle for North End, BDC failed to send it on the day it was ordered and apologized. It was re-arranged for 26th September and at the request of the Clerk would be free of charge.

47) REPORT OF COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2025-2026

The Clerk reported that the external audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the year 2025-2026 had been completed and the external auditor's report was as follows:

"Except for the matter reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. Information has come to our attention highlighting the fact that the smaller authority does not have a generic email address hosted on an authority owned domain. The response to Section 1, Assertion 10 is therefore incorrect and should be 'No'."

The Clerk read out Section 1, Assertion 10, which states: *"We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year."* This was answered *"Yes"* because the Parish Council was fully compliant with GDPR and upon consultation with the webmaster it had a generic email address, but the external auditor had disagreed. A copy of the external auditor's report had been placed on the website together with a notice of completion of audit.

48) UPDATE UPON REPLACING WOODWORK ON PUMP HOUSE

Mrs. K. Chapman outlined the history of repairs to the pump house and the efforts to seek quotes for thatching and re-building the wooden frame, together with grant applications. Essex Heritage Trust (EHT) met in July and approved a grant, which will cover the work of re-building the wooden structure. The builder had temporarily covered the building and erected metal poles to make it safe and had scheduled in the work for the second or third week of October 2026. The Clerk reported that the quote from R. C. Mumford, the builder, was £3,315.00 and the grant from EHT was £3,500.00. Mrs. Chapman added that EHT had agreed that the difference of £185 could go towards the thatching. When the structure is sound further applications will be made for grants towards re-thatching, less £185 and S106 money of £1,791.89 and if necessary £500 from the Parish Council. At the request of Mr. P. J. Gentry, the Clerk agreed to communicate with BDC to ensure that the S106 money was still safe. Mrs. Chapman was thanked for all her work in connection with seeking quotes and grants.

DRAFT AWAITING APPROVAL

49) UPDATE UPON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND

Mrs. M. D. Pearce reported that Messrs. Ridgewell had installed a new bench, but without the engraving, only a plaque. Therefore, a replacement bench suitably engraved is awaited, which should be delivered soon. Some essential new signage has been arranged by Mr. P. Gentry at a cost of £35.10 net which was approved. The annual Summer Barbeque, which took place on 8th August, had raised £1014.70, which was an excellent result. The Easter Egg hunt was being arranged for 20th March 2027. Mrs. Pearce was thanked for her report and for the hard work or herself and her team.

50) CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FARM NEAR OVINGTON

Mrs. L. Lawrence reported that a temporary road closure was in place, with the approval of ECC Highways, whilst the entrance is being constructed so traffic must be re-routed through Belchamp St. Paul, which is the only other available route. This work is expected to be completed in two weeks when the road from Ovington will re-open. Many large items have been delivered to the site, but the large 80 ton grid transformer is not expected until October 2026. Mrs. Lawrence was thanked for her report.

51) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. I. Parker had sent a written report, which was circulated to councillors and the contents noted. Arising from the report Mrs. A. L. Gardiner asked if the PC wishes to consider applying for a grant to replace two trees. However, following some discussion, Mrs. M. Pearce offered to cover the cost of the trees as a donation to the Parish Council. Mrs. Pearce was warmly thanked for her generosity and Mrs. Gardiner agreed to order the trees, arrange planting and the provision of water.

52) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mr. N. Robins, who was expected to attend, no report was given at the meeting, but his written report was circulated the following day.

53) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION AND DEVOLUTION

It was reported that following legal advice the Government had decided to withdraw from the proposed creation of unitary councils in Essex. Therefore, the elections planned for May 2027 will not take place, but a BDC election will now proceed.

54) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Damaged post near bus shelter at North End

Mrs. K. Chapman reported that the post near the bus shelter at North End had not been fixed but she was reluctant to chase the contractor as he will carry out the work FOC.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 7.43pm

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(Date) (Chairman)

DRAFT AWAITING APPROVAL