



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 th . January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Tony Gearey, Jean Jennings, CCC Sara Naylor, CCC Dennis Willets and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also present 2 members of the public.</p> <p>001/2025 Apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr Lewis Barber, Cllr Adam Scott and Cllr Roger Walker</p> <p>002/2025 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda. Cllr T. Gearey declared a pecuniary interest in item 013/2025 (c & d)</p> <p>003/2025 To approve the minutes of the last meetings held on Tuesday 3rd. December 2024 All Agreed</p> <p>004/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) Level crossing lights are in place on the Bridleway off Rectory Road. Orange lines have been placed around the potholes on Tey Road which are due for repair soon.</p> <p>005/2025 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willets / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) The Government has announced its proposals on devolution and local government reform. These matters are interlinked, but, in broad terms, devolution grants more powers away from national government to the local level (mainly via a mayor), on such matters as on transport. Local government reform is changing how councils are structured. On Friday 10th January, Essex County Council will be voting on the submission to Government of both devolution and local government reform. If accepted, it will envisage an Essex wide mayor with the abolition of the 'two tier' system of local government ie no Colchester and Essex Councils but one tier, covering (potentially) two or more current district council areas. This will not imminently come into force and it is anticipated that, as part of this process, Essex County Council elections (2025) and, potentially, Colchester Council elections (2026) are to be postponed. This is subject to Government approval, which is not guaranteed. It is expected that eventually all areas will be subject to these changes. The mayoral election would be expected to be in 2026, with a 'shadow' restructured authority to be elected in 2027. The existing authorities are expected to cease to exist in 2027 or 2028. There are no planned direct changes to Parish Councils. The transition process will be complex and not without risk. Once there is a clearer picture of Essex's position and, if voted for on Friday, the Government's stance Cllr Naylor proposes hosting a meeting with parishes to discuss this further in 2026. CCC are looking at the 2025-2026 budget.</p> <p>006/2025 Speed indicator Device for Brook Road The SID device has been erected on Brook Road and is working well. New brackets to be bought so that the SID can be turned around to face traffic leaving the village southbound</p> <p>007/2025 National Grid— update from Cllr A. Scott There is a fuller summary in the Grapevine that people will have seen but the part highlighted below is worth noting: This is a National Grid webinar on 21 January for the East of England. It is about its business plan (which you might have seen in the press this week) submitted to Ofgem for the period 2026-2030. As The Times said, "Ofgem will issue its draft ruling on the plans in July and final sign-off in December next year, which will determine how much the FTSE 100 group will be able to recoup from energy bills over a 40-year period to cover its costs. This could equate to about £21 extra per household. The</p>	<p>Cllrs Lambert & d'Aingib au</p>

group is seeking a return of 6.3 per cent within its spending plan, at the top end of the 4.57 to 6.35 per cent range set out by the regulator for network owners.

This webinar will be a great opportunity to ask questions like:

- Why is NG not transparent about pylon costings?
- Why does NG not include community benefits, biodiversity net gain, full Treasury Green Book compliant contingency, fair compensation and Treasury Green book costings for impact on society and natural capital in its N2T costings?
- Why is NG not demonstrating to us how it can upgrade the existing grid using the latest technology?
- Why is NG not helping consumers by working towards coordination offshore?
- Why is NG ignoring the HVDC option in East Anglia despite choosing it for Eastern Green Link 3 because it's cheaper, quicker and less risky? And choosing it for EGL2?

Noted that NG had sent out newsletter to all households this week

008/2025 Planning Applications

242365 - Old House Ford Street Aldham CO6 3PH

Retrospective application for completion of the boundary fence between Old House and Caterpillar Cottage. This work was completed in 2022.

RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has No comment to make on this application

242415 - Old House Ford Street Aldham CO6 3PH

Retrospective application for completion of the boundary fence between Old House and Caterpillar cottage. This work was completed in 2022.

RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has No comment to make on this application

009/2025 Planning Decisions affecting Aldham

241769 - Moon Acre Rectory Road Aldham

Creation of a hobby farm and limited amenity use on agricultural land together with a vehicle hard standing area, the erection of a timber fence and an agricultural hay barn, hedgerow replanted, installation of private sewage treatment plant, and the use of a small touring caravan on site under the '60 day permitted rights' rule. **Approve Conditional.** See decision notice at

<https://d0cs.colchester.gov.uk/Publisher/mvc/listDocuments?identifier=DC&ref=241769>

010/2025 Update on Key Priorities for 2024/25: Housing, Millennium Playing Field, Gallows Green and FP/cycleway link to Marks Tey: Ben's Walk

Local Plan Update: Council will have to find sites for an additional 10,000 houses by 2041 over and above existing commitments (also 10,000). There will be a consultation on the Preferred Option in March, with the Draft Plan to be submitted in September

Strategic Housing Land Assessment – 2 potential housing sites in the Parish have been deleted from further consideration (Ashington Lodge and Old Bouchiers Hall, both deemed too remote from village) as part of an initial assessment

Gallows Green – Councillors were asked to see if more work can be carried out following a good day of clearing and tidying up on 4th December. Thanks to all those who volunteered. A further date to be arranged.

Bens Walk - Ben Hughes was flattered at the suggestion of the name but would rather it be changed to Sam's Walk in memory of his beloved dog. Cllr Walker investigating funding avenues at the moment
Millennium Playing Field: Noted that rent for this year was payable

011/2025 Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Cllr M. Lambert

With other Parish Councils a resident is trying to link up the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy with the proposal to include the Roman River Valley in the Local Plan as Green Infrastructure
Other Councils have taken this on board. Aldham Parish Council endorses this proposal.

012/2025 Highways & Traffic Working Group

• To consider any update/recommendations from the Working Group meeting on 25th November
Cllr M. Lambert to draft a strategy for submission to Local Highways Panel and review need for further meeting at this time

Cllr
Lambert

<p>013/2025 Finance a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2024 Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. December 2024 b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25 Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25 c) To approve the payment of Accounts for January 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. All Agreed d) To agree the £420 grant to The Aldham Grapevine for 2024-2025 Cllr M. Lambert proposed the £420 grant to The Grapevine. Cllr A. D'Angibau seconded. All Agreed</p> <p>014/2025 Budget 2025/2026 - Councillors to finalise budget for 2025-2026 Cllr M. Lambert proposed an expenditure of £17658 for 2025-2026 year. This resulted in a Precept demand from CCC of £16742. By using the CCC tax base figure of 208 this resulted in a Band D property figure of £80.49p an increase of £2.17p pa or 2.77%. Cllr A. D'Angibau seconded. All Agreed. The RFO to send the appropriate signed form to CCC</p> <p>015/2025 To consider training opportunities available from EALC January calendar has been circulated to Councillors</p> <p>016/2025 Information Exchange All finger posts have been reported to PROW officer Gullies on Ford Street need to be cleared and chased up following the last visit</p> <p>017/2025 Items for next agenda</p> <p>018/2025 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 4th. February 2025 at 7.30pm</p> <p>019/2025 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business</p> <p>The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.40pm and thanked everyone for attending</p> <p>Signed <i>AScott</i> 4th. February 2025 Adam Scott – Vice Chair</p>	<p>RFO</p>
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