



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3 rd . February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs M. Lambert (Chair), A. Scott (Vice-Chair), B. Brown, J. Jennings, T. Gearey, R. Walker, CCC S. Naylor and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 1 member of the public.</p> <p>021/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr A. D'Angibau</p> <p>022/2026 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr T. Gearey declared an interest in item 033/2026 (c) Cllr A. Scott declared an interest in item 030/2026</p> <p>023/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6th. January 2026 All Agreed</p> <p>024/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) Pot holes in Green Lane are getting deep and worse Ditch dug out in New Road after heavy rain it was running well in the right direction when it comes to the second layby it stops and does not flow into the ditch which results in cascading down to residents' properties. Verge by Sunnyside cottages requires cutting back. Could the Council contact the Church to get this verge cut? As new people have moved into the village can information be placed on the notice boards on who and what the Parish Council does.</p> <p>025/2026 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) Cllr S. Naylor informed the meeting of the Local Plan Committee on 11th. February with limited speakers allowed. The draft report did not find many comments in favour of the local plan. Infrastructure concerns came through strongly. Cllr S. Naylor will speak at this meeting. Final stages of budget setting. There are major concerns over the budget. Cllr S. Naylor's Locality Fund has now been used by local organisations, including a contribution to Sam's Walk. ECC elections will go ahead on 7th. May '26 also CCC elections will take place in May '26 (same day). The local government reorganisation has gone quiet. Mayor elections happen in May '27</p> <p>026/2026 Local Government Re-organisation in Essex – update from Cllr M. Lambert Cllr M. Lambert has completed and forwarded the representation from Aldham Parish Council. A hard copy of the ECC proposal for three unitaries can be found in the local library</p> <p>027/2026 National Grid– update from Cllr A. Scott A submission has been made to the Planning Inspectorate to the effect that, considering that Ardleigh, Dedham, Lt Bromley and Aldham are particularly badly affected, we are surprised there was no hearing venue at Colchester for the first round of hearings. Colchester United Stadium is the obvious location, and we've requested it is used regularly going forward. The deadline to participate in the first tranche of Examination hearings, Feb 10- 13th has now passed. Our barrister, Lord Banner KC, is lined up to speak as follows: Tuesday 10th. February, at 10.00am. Preliminary Meeting (mostly discussing procedures for the Examination) Friday 13th. February at 10.00am. Issue-Specific Hearing - on Alternatives If you simply wish to observe a meeting then you do not need to register as you can either: 1. Watch a livestream of the event online (via Microsoft teams) - a link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin</p>	<p>Cllr R. Walker</p>

2. Watch the recording of the event which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the event has finished.

The next stage is the Rule 6 letter comprising 46 pages and will last for 6 months. Key issues in the appendix. To speak at meeting deadline has passed. Cllr M. Lambert has applied and will speak at the meeting on 12th. and is speaker number 19. A link to view the meeting will be online.

028/2026 Gallows Green Grant Application – update from Cllr M. Lambert & Cllr B. Brown
A good meeting with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group but there was some invasive weed that prohibits any grant assistance. Therefore, no machinery can be used to clear the area. An expert is required to legally remove it. A suggestion is to fence off the pond around the weed. It is on the edge of the pond and can cause massive problems to the pond if disturbed.
Cllr M. Lambert and Cllr B Brown to come to the next meeting with future action plans

Cllr M.
Lambert

029/2026 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings update on FP7 at Ashington Lodge
Cllr J. Jennings has walked footpath 7 and it is open and no dogs were on the footpath.
Previous footpath problems are being scheduled for repair

030/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response
No planning applications have been received

Local Plan Review - Consultation on Preferred Options

Update from Cllr M. Lambert regarding discussions with neighbouring Parishes

Cllr M. Lambert has submitted the response from Aldham Parish Council. A report summarising all the representations is on the Local Plan Committee meeting on 11th. February. Cllr M. Lambert to attend this meeting.

If any development goes ahead the s106 money should be addressed and the PC need to update the s106 list to CCC. An initial list to be produced by Cllrs M. Lambert and A. Scott for future meetings.

Millennium Playing Field should again be revisited and a conversation had with the owners. Cllr M Lambert to report back to next meeting

Cllr M.
Lambert
& Cllr A.
Scott

031/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham

252553 - Oak House New Road Aldham

Proposed replacement of agricultural building with a self-build/custom build new dwelling. (In lieu of Prior Approval for conversion of building into a dwelling 221000). **Refused**

032/2026 Highways & Transport Matters

1) Speed Indicator Device – update from Cllr T. Gearey

Cllr T. Gearey circulated to Councillors the SID data for December '25 and January '26 and this will be placed on the website

2) Love your Bus Grants – update on application from Cllr M. Lambert

Application submitted with the assistance of Konect Buses who will continue and promote an increase in buses coming through Aldham early morning. Timings to be decided later.

Cllr T.
Gearey

033/2026 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2026

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026

c) To approve the payment of Accounts for February 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

034/2026 To consider training opportunities available from EALC

035/2026 Information Exchange

Sam's Walk is being well used by residents and children and Cllr R Walker was thanked for his hard work on the project

New Events Group created in the village. Can this Group please go into the Grapevine magazine

There will not be a BBQ this year but maybe next year use the Millennium Field for an event

List of village events can be found in the Grapevine magazine

036/2026 Items for next agenda

Millenium Play field: s106 monies: Cllr T. Gearey apologies for March meeting

037/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 3rd. March 2026 at 7.30pm

038/2026 To note 2026 meeting dates: 07.04: 05.05: 02.06: 07.07: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26

039/2026 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.35pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

MLambert

3rd. March 2026

Mike Lambert – Chair