



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 th . February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs Adam Scott (Vice-Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Tony Gearey, Jean Jennings, Roger Walker, CCC Sara Naylor, CCC Dennis Willets and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also present 5 members of the public.</p> <p>020/2025 Apologies for absence were received from ECC Lewis Barber and Cllr M. Lambert</p> <p>021/2025 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda. None Declared</p> <p>022/2025 To approve the minutes of the last meetings held on Tuesday 7th. January 2025 All Agreed</p> <p>023/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) No questions from the public but the offer to streamline payments for the use of the village hall to be taken outside the meeting</p> <p>024/2025 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willets / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) CCC Draft Local plan – the preferred options paper (that will see an increase in allocation for house building to over 1300 units a year) will be out on Friday. A public meeting at Charter Hall is to be held on 17th. February 2025 and will be followed by a public consultation lasting for 6 weeks. Next CCC meeting is a budget setting meeting. No dramatic cuts in the proposed CCC budget for 2025-2026 ECC Cllr L. Barber has secured £1633 locality funding plus funding from Cllr S. Naylor and Cllr D. Willets who will make up the difference for a new Speed Indicator device for Aldham</p> <p>025/2025 National Grid– update from Cllr A. Scott Debate over Norwich to Tilbury has always been in two parts; firstly, the National approach to energy overall and the need for a national strategy to energy distribution. The second aspect is the actual National Grid Project. Progress on a nation energy transition strategy has been lamentable while the pylon project continues to progress on their timeline Recent announcements have sent two mitigations removed from the table as National Grid have backtracked on undergrounding in Waveney valley in Norfolk and have shown no interest in considering HVDC in East Anglia. A second alternative to conventional pylons was T pylons, a modern Danish design that are 30% shorter that have been trialled in Somerset but National Grid have announced these are no longer being considered for use elsewhere. This only really leaves community benefits as an offer for mitigation from National Grid. Some minor changes are being proposed to the construction of the pylons and a short-targeted consultation for Norfolk and Suffolk sections has been launched Runs for 30 days from 30th. January to 3rd. March 2025. Consultation on the Essex section will be launched this month Update will be provided for the Grapevine</p> <p>026/2025 VE Day 80 - 8th May 2025 Councillors discussed possible village event/s and Concluded the village and Parish Council will not holding any specific events for the celebrations on 8th. May but the Village Hall is organising a summer BBQ on 21st. June for the village which falls between VE and VJ day. The Parish Council will be supporting this event Cllr M. Lambert is purchasing a new flag >>>></p> <p>027/2025 Planning Applications 250031 - Old Rectory Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR Single storey side extension to create a garden room. New entrance porch RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has no comment to make on this application</p>	<p>Cllr M. Lambert</p>

250032 (Listed Building application) - Old Rectory Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR
Single storey side extension to create a garden room. New entrance porch
RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has no comment to make on this application

028/2025 Planning Decisions affecting Aldham

No planning decisions made by CCC affecting Aldham

029/2025 Update on Key Priorities Housing, Millennium Playing Field, Gallows Green and FP/cycleway link to Marks Tey: Sam's Walk

This list of potential projects was created about 18 months ago. If any s106 or National Grid money comes to APC then these projects can be looked at. They are not necessarily priorities for this year but will be progressed as appropriate and will be looked at future meetings.

Sam's Walk initiative is being progressed by volunteers and will therefore be removed from the future agenda as the Parish Council is not involved in this project

Gallows Green – Cllr R. Walker requested that a risk assessment be undertaken on Gallows Green due to the platform is possibly a "Health & Safety" issue as well as the condition of the footpaths.

Sample Risk Assessment templates to be sought from EALC and Roger Walker

Clerk
and Cllr
R
Walker

030/2025 Highways & Traffic Working Group

- To consider draft note to LHP

Cllr M. Lambert submitted and forwarded his letter to Councillors for consideration prior to the meeting

Councillors discussed the 4-page letter which was well received; it has also been sent to Cllr L. Barber for his advice. The only suggested change was to highlight that parishioners have resorted to protecting the verge to prevent further damage and or accidents if Cllr L. Barber is happy without any significant changes, then this proposal should be sent to Colchester Local Highways Panel.

CCC D. Willetts indicated the LHP panel workload is high and there is often at least a 2-year waiting list before any proposals are validated, discussed and authorized. The Essex Speed Management Strategy was also relevant to any proposals made to the LHP.

https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/strategy_speed_management_strategy.pdf

Councillors felt it was important to keep progressing highway matters, to share the A1124 residents petition and to proactively propose solutions to the traffic issues the village faces

- To receive a petition from residents on A1124 Halstead Road

The Clerk had forwarded to Councillors, prior to the meeting, the petition from residents on the A1124 Halstead Road. The petition to accompany the Colchester Local Highways Panel submission.

031/2025 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2025

- 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 February 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

- d) To review Landscape Services contract for grass cutting (NB: charges same as last year)

Cllr T. Gearey proposed to accept the quotation from Landscape Services for 2025-2026 year. Cllr J. Jennings seconded. **All Agreed**

032/2025 To consider training opportunities available from EALC

All Councillors have been circulated the training courses from EALC

033/2025 Information Exchange

The SID works in both direction in slowing traffic down especially leaving the village.

The village entrance sign in Ford Street Hill. The sign has been removed totally. County Council will erect a sign that states "Aldham" if required.

New footpath sign erected on Rectory Road".

Enovert Community Trust provides grant support for community projects with in a 10 mile radius of the Bellhouse landfill site (previously Veolia)

Flytipping costs CCC over £1m per annum – householders were reminded they have a duty of care to only use licensed waste carriers for disposal and the new Essex initiative SCRAP it can help

034/2025 Items for next agenda

CCC Draft Local plan – Consultation response from Aldham PC and its residents
Annual Village meeting – April 2025

035/2025 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 4th. March 2025 at 7.30pm

036/2025 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Vice-Chair then closed the meeting at 8.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

MLambert
Mike Lambert – Chair

4th. March 2025