



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3 rd . March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs M. Lambert (Chair), B. Brown, A. D'Angibau, J. Jennings, R. Walker and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 4 members of the public.</p> <p>040/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from CCC S. Naylor, Cllrs A. Scott and Cllr T. Gearey</p> <p>041/2026 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr A. D'Angibau declared an interest in planning application 260253</p> <p>042/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3rd. February 2026 All Agreed</p> <p>043/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) Penny Lang, on behalf of ESNP reported that a national Day of Action is planned by ESNP and Community Planning Alliance, on Sat 18th. April ahead of the local elections, including a Talk by Richard Negus in Aldham Village Hall Request for ideas/help with the following possibilities:), 1.Photos of: pylon sites, floods, groups – to send to ESNP fb/email and 10 Downing St The first Planning Inspectorate Hearings were held in Norwich, Ipswich, Orsett and online from 10-13 Feb. There was a Preliminary (procedural) Hearing, two Single Issue Hearings: Compulsory Acquisitions and Alternative project options. Several participants requested further Alternatives Hearings, and more site visits. The Inspectors had, unusually at this first week, organised Open Floor Hearings (for anyone to speak) and about 100 MPs/councils/groups/individuals submitted statements. These statements were hugely varied, thoughtful, articulate and very moving. They laid bare much despair and desperation; financial repercussions, loss of heritage, nature, business and house-values, and all the other arguments of which we are aware. NG are required to respond meaningfully, via PINS, to all of these statements, in writing by 26 Feb. A few comments and thoughts: The Inspectors were insistent with NG, requiring further details, clarifications and responses by Deadline 1, 26 February. One particular request was for accurate and complete funding details of pylons. Their questions were quite searching. It was noticeable that NG often appeared unable to answer the Inspectors' questions verbally, so would instead submit written replies before the deadline. This was surprising as presumably they had their top team present in the room, and I understand they also had access to dozens of other members of staff online and in other rooms. NG's main line of attack is that Critical National Infrastructure requires that urgency and speed are of the essence, and that public benefit outweighs private loss, and overrides the Human Rights Act. Their barrister continually stressed the urgency point. There was a weak explanation from NG as to why there were no hearings at Colchester Stadium in February, but while it might be considered going forward, it maybe there will be only one hearing centre in April. But still always online. It seems that NG has been as dilatory and unengaged in coordinating with Councils, Highways, Lower Thames Crossing, a crucially important oil pipeline, etc, as they have been with us over the years. They were politely requested to do better ... Pylons East Anglia have submitted several points and rebuttals from these first hearings. Together with a long list of questions for NG, including costings, which they will be required to respond to in writing before the next sessions in April.</p> <p>044/2026 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) No reports were given</p>	

045/2026 National Grid– update on Examination of DCO application from Cllr M. Lambert
Following the statement made at the first Open Hearing of the Examination of National Grid's application on 12th February a further written submission has been made on behalf of Aldham Parish Council with more detail and can be found on the website. In summary we have stated that Aldham Parish Council continues to object in principle to the proposed use of OH pylons to reinforce the Grid through East Anglia on the grounds it is the wrong solution and the option of using an off shore under sea route has not been properly explored.

The Parish Council believes the Environmental Statement submitted with the application under plays the impact on heritage, landscape and residential amenity by taking a narrow assessment of each individual impact rather than assessing the cumulative impact of the scheme taken as a whole.

The statement has been supported by a separate request for an accompanied site visit to view five examples of the impact on Aldham at Hines Close, St Margarets Church and Aldham Hall Grade II* listed buildings, Ford St Conservation Area and the impact on both the Colne Valley and Roman River Valley.

046/2026 Gallows Green – update from Cllr M. Lambert & Cllr B. Brown

a) *Crassula helmsii* management - FWAG East Consultancy Ltd quote
Cllr M. Lambert proposed deferring this item to another meeting, pending further investigation. Cllr B. Brown seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr M. Lambert has purchased orange fencing and signs to go around the section of the pond affected. The fencing has now been erected and made secure.

047/2026 Millennium Field – to consider future options in light of update from owners

No further action has been taken on the future on Millennium Playing Field, pending the outcome of the Local Plan. This land has not been identified in the Preferred Options. A possible long lease (15 - 20 years) could be sought to protect this piece of land in the village. Cllr M. Lambert and Cllr J. Jennings to approach the landowner for future discussion

A playground equipment report to be commissioned

048/2026 New IT policy – Councillors to agree draft IT policy

Cllr M. Lambert proposed to accept this draft IT policy. Cllr B. Brown seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr T. Gearey to place this policy onto the website. Clerk to provide Passwords to Chair

049/2026 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings

3 new footpath signs have erected in Green Lane FP5 & 7 Rectory Road FP13

No new issues have been reported

050/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

260253 - Mill Race Nursery New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QT

Change of use to a Mixed-Use Venue, comprising exhibition/gallery space, office, retail and restaurant/cafe

RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

260311 - Crapes Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR

New vehicle entrance with driveway parking and timber gate to existing dwelling house

RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

260312 - Crapes Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR

Listed building consent application for a new vehicle entrance with driveway parking and timber gate to existing dwelling house

RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

Local Plan Review - Consultation on Preferred Options

Update from Cllr M. Lambert regarding discussions with neighbouring Parishes & City Council

A letter from the Planning Portfolio Holder confirming an invitation to attend a meeting will follow.

Regarding Halstead Road, Aldham the planning officer has advised this application will be recommended for approval subject to s106 agreement at Planning Committee on 12th. March 2026.

Agreed Chair be authorised to speak at Committee against recommendation and liaise with Chair of Eight Ash Green and City Councillors

Cllr M.
Lambert

Clerk

Cllr T.
Gearey
Clerk

s106 Planning Obligations Wish List - Review of current Wish List

The City Council has asked the Parish to review and update its 'wish list' for contributions under s106 of the Planning Act towards infrastructure that supports the future needs of new residential development and likely increases in demand for services and facilities.

Infrastructure is defined as:

- Schools and other educational facilities
- Health and social wellbeing
- Transport
- Police & Emergency services
- Utilities
- Digital Connectivity
- Waste
- Social and community (including libraries, allotments and community halls);
- Community facilities (including children's play, youth and sports facilities)
- Green infrastructure and open space

Under the City Council's current planning policies, seeks contributions for Community Facilities and Sport & Recreation from new housing developments.

The contribution is calculated by a formula relating to the cost of new infrastructure linked to the number of bedrooms and by implication the number of people likely to be living in any new dwelling. By way of example at present the contribution for Community Facilities for a 3-bed home would be £2872.83 (split 35% towards city wide facilities and 65% to the Parish) plus £ 6560.79 for Sport & Recreation.

The Colchester Local Plan Preferred Options proposes significant new development in the Parish, including 15 homes at New Road and the extensions to Eight Ash Green and Marks Tey. It is important that we put on record the priorities for Aldham, as this will not only inform the City Council when considering any speculative applications in the Parish, but also inform the overall infrastructure needs for the whole City Council area when seeking funds from s106 on much larger schemes across the City and/or other potential funding streams.

Infrastructure List for Aldham:

The List approved in May 2023 sought to identify the Parish Council's priorities that could be eligible for funding from s106 contributions under Community Facilities and Sport & Recreation for developments of 10 dwellings or less, and also other priorities under the wider definition of infrastructure for which alternative funding sources would be needed.

Councillors are invited to consider whether the items on the 2023 are still relevant and any others that should now be included given the scale of development now proposed. It is suggested that the list of measures we proposed to the Local Highways Panel be included in any revised list

Further wish list items to be considered:-

Purchase of land and equipment for Millennium Playing Field,

Traffic calming: Safe pedestrian/cycle access to Marks Tey (Brook Road/North Lane: Safe passing places and/or kerbing along Brook Road and Tey Road:

051/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham No planning decisions have been made by CCC affecting Aldham

052/2026 Highways & Transport Matters

- 1) Potholes – pot holes in Brook Road and Green Lane have been reported

053/2026 Finance

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 28th. February 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 March 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet

the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

054/2026 To consider training opportunities available from EALC

055/2026 Information Exchange

Gullies have been cleaned in Ford Street and New Road corner

056/2026 Items for next agenda

057/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 7th. April 2026 at **7pm** which is the Annual Parish meeting followed by APC Council meeting

058/2026 To note 2026 meeting dates: 05.05 APC AGM: 02.06: 07.07: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26

059/2026 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

Mike Lambert – Chair

7th. April 2026

DRAFT