



# ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> . April 2026 at 7.35pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Jean Jennings, Adam Scott, Roger Walker, CCC Sara Naylor, CCC Dennis Willetts and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 6 members of the public.</p> <p><b>060/2026 Apologies for Absence</b> were received from Cllr Tony Gearey</p> <p><b>061/2026 Declaration of Members interests</b> To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr M. Lambert declared an interest in item 070/2026. Cllr A. Scott declared an interest in item 070/2026</p> <p><b>062/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 2026</b> <b>All Agreed</b></p> <p><b>063/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)</b> The wheelie bins for Aldham are being phased in during the summer. The decision on Foxes Corner planning application was raised. The CCC meeting was extraordinary. The vote was tied and the chair of the Committee had casting vote. Concerns expressed about the way the decision was made and whether the officers' report dealt with the outstanding concerns of key consultees. Councillors were asked to consider whether a JR could be justified. Offer to assist funding KC opinion.</p> <p><b>064/2026 Visitors Report</b> (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) The effect of the gas main works in Earls Colne affected local businesses badly, particularly Shoulder of Mutton. Following discussions with Cadent the works were completed 4 weeks early. Utility road works should not penalise resident and businesses. A compensation scheme is available but it is down to individual circumstances. The signage was placed too far away from Earls Colne and this affected Aldham. Has the recycling in Colchester improved? 52% of recycling in the last few years, which has remained about the same since Food Recycling was first introduced.</p> <p><b>065/2026 National Grid</b>– update on Examination of DCO application The DCO application process is still proceeding A few notes from Penny Lang to summarise some of what's been on Facebook, and in emails lately. We hope people from Aldham will be able to take part in the National Nature Activity Day on 18<sup>th</sup> April, by: 1. Attending the Richard Negus book talk in the Village Hall at 2pm 2. As many as possible sending photos to 10 Downing Street showing where pylons will spoil the village Does anyone know of an abseil expert who could organise a fund-raiser against the pylons? In emails and Facebook, a survey has been circulated requesting information on Heritage &amp; History; our Heritage Expert feels that NG have been woefully inadequate and dismissive of the need to protect the settings of listed buildings, and other local heritage, and we need residents' help again, with specific details. On 20 March PINS published 72pp of around 400 questions mostly to National Grid, about which Interested Parties can <b>comment before Deadline 3, Friday 10 April</b>, through Have Your Say On 31 March, PINS published their Rule 13 letter, with more hearings, in Colchester and Ipswich (or online) from 28 April -1 May</p> <p><b>066/2026 Gallows Green</b> – update on <i>Crassula helmsii</i> management from Cllr B. Brown</p>	

Cllr B. Brown visited Gallows Green where the water level is high so there is no visible evidence of the weed. When the water level falls covering the Crassula helmsii with black pond liner could kill it off. This issue to be constantly monitored. Whilst the issue persists then no grants will be made available. No further action until pond dries out more.

**067/2026 Millennium Field** – to consider future options in light of update from owners  
A further meeting has been held with the owners who may consider a long 15-year lease, with a possible option to sell, but the owners are not willing yet to sell the land to the Parish Council. Any lease costs of the lease to be borne by the Parish Council. **AGREED** that discussions should continue on this basis.

**068/2026 Footpath and PROW update** – Cllr J. Jennings  
Where FP5 & 7 cross the bridge has been replaced and is solid

**069/2026 Grass cutting contract 2026-2027** – to consider renewing contract  
Landscape Services propose increase of 5% from £253+VAT per cut to £265  
Cllr M. Lambert proposed accepting this revised grass cutting quotation. Cllr J. Jennings seconded.  
**All Agreed**

**070/2026 Planning** – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

**260433** - Crapes Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR  
Demolition of later additions Grade II Listed Building. Single storey extension. Renovation to cottage including reinstatement of timber weatherboarding to cottage, re-rendering rear section of building, replacement timber windows and doors and minor internal alterations. New proposed cartlodge style garden store  
**RESOLVED:** Aldham Parish Council has no objection this planning application subject to a condition that the driveway should be of a porous material

**260432** - Crapes Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR  
Demolition of later additions Grade II Listed Building. Single storey extension. Renovation to cottage including reinstatement of timber weatherboarding to cottage, re-rendering rear section of building, replacement timber windows and doors and minor internal alterations. New proposed cartlodge style garden store  
**RESOLVED:** Aldham Parish Council has no objection this planning application

**Local Plan Review** – Update (see Chairman’s Report to Annual Parish Meeting)  
Update from Cllr M. Lambert regarding discussions with neighbouring Parishes & City Council  
City Council now have to find sites for an additional 1300 new homes, and proposing additional 300+ in the Seven Parishes, including Gt Tey, Copford and Eight Ash Green. Braintree DC Have consulted on proposals for 6000 new homes at Kelvedon/Feering and 2800 on east side of Halstead with a bypass for A131. Hoping the dialogue with the City will continue over next two months and before the next version of the Plan is published in the summer

**Planning Appeal**  
A new Planning appeal has been Lodged with CCC  
**Proposal:** 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)  
**Application No:** 252553: **DTLR Appeal Ref:** 6005813: **Appeal Start Date:** 12/03/2026  
**Location:** New Road, Aldham: **Appeal Against:** Refusal of planning permission  
Further details can be found at [View Planning Application](#)

**s106 Planning Obligations Wish List** - Review of current Wish List  
Cllr M. Lambert has contacted the planners on the Foxes Corner application regarding the s106 monies for Community Facilities and Open Space/Play, which could be substantial but will need to be shared with Eight Ash Green. Cllr M. Lambert to arrange meeting with officers to include Eight Ash Green and report back.

**071/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham**  
**Application No.**251310 250 new homes, Foxes Corner, Halstead Road – permission granted subject to s106 agreement by Planning Committee

**To be reviewed in June**

Cllrs M. Lambert and J. Jennings to go back to Owners

**Cllr M. Lambert**

Councillors discussed, in depth, the merits of pursuing a Judicial Review of the Council's decision to approve the application. **AGREED** the Chair should seek indication of costs for an initial KC opinion and discuss with Eight Ash Green and other parishes the scope for sharing this cost. The agreement was to take the next step into the viability on finances.

**Cllr M. Lambert**

**072/2026 Highways & Transport Matters**

1) SID – No update on data was given

2) Love your Bus Grant – update

The grant funding has been successful and the Grant Agreement will be received in early April '26.

**073/2026 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2026

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026 & 2026/2027

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026 & 2026/2027

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

Budget to be updated to reflect the further payment of £2500 to ESNP Campaign this year from Reserves

**Clerk**

**074/2026 Information Exchange**

**075/2026 Items for next agenda**

**076/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>. May 2026 at 7.30pm which is the AGM of the Council**

**077/2026 To note 2026 meeting dates: 02.06: 07.07: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26**

**078/2026 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business**

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.50pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*MLambert*

5<sup>th</sup>. May 2026

**Mike Lambert – Chair**