



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council Annual meeting held on Tuesday 5 th . May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Tony Gearey, Jean Jennings, Adam Scott, Roger Walker and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 3 members of the public.</p> <p>079/2026 Election of Chair for the 2026/2027 year Cllr R. Walker proposed Cllr M. Lambert to act as Chair for the 2026-2027 year. Cllr A. Scott seconded. All Agreed. Cllr M. Lambert then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form</p> <p>080/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from CCC Sara Naylor, CCC Dennis Willetts and Cllr A. d'Angibau,</p> <p>081/2026 Election of Vice-Chair for the 2026/2027 year Cllr M. Lambert proposed Cllr A. Scott as vice-chair for 2026-2027. Cllr R. Walker seconded. All Agreed.</p> <p>082/2026 Election of Appointments and sub-committee for 2026-2027 Sub Committees for 2026/2027 are: Planning Sub Committee: Adam Scott/Roger Walker/Mike Lambert/Brenda Brown Playing Field Sub Committee: Jean Jennings Village Hall Representative: Brenda Brown Gallows Green Representative: Andrew d'Angibau Infrastructure (A120/Pylons) Representative: Adam Scott Grapevine Representative: Tony Gearey Personnel Sub Committee: Mike Lambert/Brenda Brown/Adam Scott</p> <p>083/2026 To re-adopt all Council policies and consider the need for any further policies to be included/reviewed Documents can be found at https://www.aldhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/governance-documents Bio-Diversity: IT Policy: General Data Protection Policy: Privacy Policy: Media and Communications Policy: Freedom of Information Policy: Dignity at Work: Discipline: Grievance: Performance Management: Whistleblowing Performance Improvement: Equal Opportunities Policy: Good Councillors Guide England: Code of Conduct: Standing Orders: Co-Option Policy: Complaints Procedure: High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy: Financial Regulations: Internet Banking Policy: Statement of Internal Control Policy: Reserves Policy: Risk Assessment Financial Legal: Public Land Building Assets: Grant Application Form: Planning Committee Terms of Reference: Policy on hedge trimming and tree works Cllr T. Gearey proposed to re-adopt the policies above. Cllr B. Brown seconded. All Agreed</p> <p>084/2026 The Council to pass a formal resolution to adopt the General Power Competence and this resolution must be reaffirmed at each subsequent relevant annual meeting Cllr M. Lambert proposed to adopt the General Powers of Competence for Aldham Parish Council. Cllr J. Jennings seconded. All Agreed</p> <p>085/2026 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr A. Scott declared an interest in item 092/2026</p> <p>086/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meetings held on Tuesday 7th. April 2026 All Agreed</p>	

087/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)

Penny Lang spoke about the latest pylons DCO planning hearings held week of 27th. April
See item 089/2026

088/2026 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber)

No reports were submitted

089/2026 National Grid– update on Examination of DCO application from Cllr M. Lambert/Cllr A. Scott

Summary/notes from Penny Lang latest pylons DCO hearings held week of 27th. April. Aldham specifically highlighted in Day 2 Recording 4, at 1h.06 mins in, followed soon after by Caroline Homewood and the excellent Heritage report, see below *

Inspectors chased National Grid for justification for not giving same weight to pylons route location in Aldham/Fordham Colne/Roman River Valleys, as was given to the Waveney Valley (albeit changes eventually dismissed). Even after three attempts, NG utterly failed to give adequate explanation, and will respond in writing to PINS. Some quite mixed responses from NG:

- *Tricky area, but same methods, different topography & decisions*
- *Some parts: High potential for widespread adverse impacts (not?)*
- *There are alternatives, but they come with other sets of effects*
- *Lattice pylons disappear into the distance, visibility at 1 1/2 km, and some at 2km.*
- *Vegetation helps mitigate the impact effects.*
- Inspector asked again for how NG considered the differences directly.
- *Much waffle, then NG agreed to respond in full in writing (**Dead Line 4 – 12th May**)*

The Inspectors are planning unaccompanied site visits on 27 May, including to some badly-hit heritage sites. Chase up APC request to visit Aldham. PINS are very aware of heritage/conservation area/archaeology in Fordham, Colne Valley and Roman River Valley, and unfavourable topography for pylons.

CCC (James Ryan) followed on, & agreed that we needed clarity, it seemed that NG had skirted round the issue. Not done anything particular with regard to the area]

NG continues to be under pressure, and is being exposed on all manner of subjects.

Some of our favourite National Grid quotes this week:

- *"National Grid should be congratulated for such a precautionary approach"* (Their barrister said this - very hard to keep a straight face)
- *"Lattice pylons disappear at a distance"* (Their landscape expert)
- NG are using their *"credible, professional, judgement"* (which we are supposed to be able to trust)
- *"There is no risk to life from pilots crashing planes into power lines (when near aerodromes) because if the aerodromes cannot operate safely, they will close down"*. Arrogant, as usual.
- *"Where practicable"* (The Inspectors listed several other "get-out" words: *"if/when/possibly/perhaps/could do"*; and requested more firm decisions in the form of *"wills"* at the next deadlines.

***Our heritage consultant (Virginia Brewer, Head of Heritage at Bidwells)** spoke on ESNP behalf, and had the whole room paying attention. It seems NG have done very little of the heritage surveying in the correct manner). Several heritage assets, houses/estates/farms still being bullied by NG.

Landowners are being asked to sign contracts, whilst agreeing not to object to this DCO or any other planning application by National Grid. This is wholly unreasonable while many still struggling to get relevant facts, maps, surveys and responses from NG. NFU was online, being robust.

Much info sent late by NG to Statutory Consultees, making responses difficult.

During the week, we learned that NG had somehow neglected to tell East Anglia One wind farm (connecting into Bramford) about Norwich to Tilbury, and that they only found out in February this year about it. Not only is EAOne somewhat displeased, they also say that discussions with NG are not progressing well. Several other subjects discussed – samples of a few below:

Road/path closures – ExA say NG must provide more certainty going forward

PRoW – NG considering diversions/closure, but must also consider leisure pleasure, not only practicality

Cllr M
Lambert

NG had the cheek to say that if diversions were long, we'd enjoy that as walking is for pleasure ...
HGVs: first Abnormal load port-arrival is Q3, 2028. Police need 18mths notice for planning
NG needs to address actual cumulative effects to help public
NG requested for more/better Visualisation of actual pylon effects on surroundings
Historic England bit woolly, and partly agreeing with NG over Heritage settings

The National Nature Day of Action went well, and we owe thanks to Richard Negus for an interesting talk, and to all who supported the event. There was a lot of local/national press publicity.

Exciting media news. On 1 May Sky News were filming, including the start of the hearing, to set the scene. They were due to send a helicopter to fly some of the route. Due to be aired in next few days

The Council thanked Penny Land for her update and for her work in support of the ESNP Campaign, and also Caroline Homewood for her representations and recent appearance at the Hearings.

Cllr M. Lambert has submitted a request to NG for a site visit to Aldham to show the impact on the village and surrounding areas.

090/2026 Millennium Field – to consider future options in light of update from owners
Possibility of a new lease/purchase. Cllr M. Lambert has written to landowner but has had no response as yet.

Cllr M.
Lambert

091/2026 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings
A request has been asked for waymarkers on the footbridge. No news on the road sign at Rectory Road. Sign pointing to Mill Race is broken. Cllr J, Jennings to report these signs to Essex Highways

Cllr J.
Jennings

092/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

260356 - Rose Cottage Halstead Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3PP
2 story extension to side land adding 2 bedrooms on first floor (existing third bedroom will become bathroom) a living area snug and utility to grounds floor

Due CCC planning time constraints the following response was sent to CCC

Aldham Parish Council has no objections to this planning application

260550 - The Old House Ford Street Aldham Colchester CO6 3PH

Installation of an alarm bell on the east facing wall

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

260641 - Corvettes New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QZ

Proposed outdoor swimming pool and modification of existing terrace area.

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

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

260577 - Land North of A120 Coggeshall Road Marks Tey Colchester CO6 1LJ

Outline planning application for residential development of up to 134 homes and up to 350sqm (gross) of Class E floorspace, associated parking, landscaping, and infrastructure works with all matters reserved except for access.

Resolved: Aldham Parish Council object to this application on part of what is likely to be designated as Marks Tey Growth Area in the forthcoming Local Plan Review, part of which lies in the Parish of Aldham. Notwithstanding the current housing land supply position it is considered in this case the 'Tilted Balance' should not apply, because in the absence of a comprehensive master plan and infrastructure delivery plan, the application would be piecemeal, premature and prejudicial to the proper planning of this area. Furthermore, no development should be permitted that increases traffic flows on the A120 without a solution that deals with the current capacity issues on the A120 and at J25 of the A12, that results in severe congestion and contributes to air pollution to residential properties fronting and close to the A120 in Marks Tey.

Local Plan Review - Consultation on Preferred Options

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

No further Contact from the City Council since the meeting with the 7 other Parish Councils

s106 Planning Obligations Wish List - Review of current Wish List

Potential s106 monies will be coming in but in tranches over a number of years and only if specific projects can be identified.
Cllr M. Lambert will write to CCC expressing frustration at narrow remit for s106 monies from Foxes Corner but asked Councillors to come up with projects to allocate this future to, and will also contact Village Hall Committee.

Cllrs &
Cllr M.
Lambert

093/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham

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

Change of use to a Mixed-Use Venue, comprising exhibition/gallery. **Approve Conditional**

094/2026 Highways & Transport Matters

1) SID – Cllr T. Gearey. SID data for April '26 was circulated to Councillors and will be placed on the website. The SID sign in Brook Road needs changing direction at the end of May '26

Cllr M.
Lambert

2) Love your Bus Grant – update

Cllr M. Lambert circulated the Essex County Council Funding letter relating to the Love Your Bus 2 project. Cllr T. Gearey proposed accepting the contract. Cllr R. Walker seconded. **All Agreed**

Clerk &
Cllr M
Lambert

095/2026 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. April 2026

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

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

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

d) To appoint Ann Wood as Internal Auditor for 2026-2027 year

Cllr M. Lambert proposed appointing Ann Wood as internal auditor for 2026-2027. Cllr J. Jennings seconded. **All Agreed**

096/2026 Information Exchange

Can residents, walking along the pavement/roadway late at night, carry a light to warn oncoming motorists?

097/2026 Items for next agenda

098/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 2nd. June 2026 at 7.30pm

099/2026 To note 2026 meeting dates: 07.07: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26

100/2026 Exclusion of the press and public

Councillors to Resolve that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the following business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr M. Lambert proposed and Cllr A. Scott seconded to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting. **All Agreed**

101/2026 Council Matters

To receive a report from the Clerk and pass resolution where necessary on matters arising regarding Council contracts

102/2026 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

2nd. June 2026

Mike Lambert – Chair