



# ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Kevin B. Money 7 Roach Vale Ardleigh Essex CO4 3YN  
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| Minutes of Aldham Parish Council Annual meeting held on Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> . May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham  | Action  |
|---|---|
| <p>Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Tony Gearey, Roger Walker, CCC Cllr Sara Naylor, CCC Cllr D. Willetts and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also present 4 members of the public.</p> <p><b>073/2025 Welcome by the Chair</b></p> <p><b>074/2025 Apologies for Absence</b> were received from Cllr J. Jennings and Cllr A. Scott</p> <p><b>075/2025 Election of Chair for the 2025/2026 year</b><br/>Cllr Andrew D'Angibau proposed Cllr M. Lambert to act as Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr R. Walker seconded. <b>All Agreed.</b> Cllr M. Lambert then signed his declaration of Acceptance of Office</p> <p><b>076/2025 Election of Vice-Chair for the 2025/2026 year</b><br/>The Vice-Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form<br/>Cllr M. Lambert proposed Cllr A. Scott to act as Vice-Chair for 2025-2026 year. Cllr T. Gearey seconded. <b>All Agreed.</b></p> <p><b>077/2025 Election of Appointments and sub-committee</b><br/>Sub Committees for 2025-2026 year are below:<br/>Planning Sub Committee: Adam Scott, Roger Walker, Mike Lambert, Tony Gearey<br/>Playing Field Sub Committee: Jean Jennings<br/>Footpaths (PROW) Representative: Jean Jennings<br/>Village Hall Representative: Brenda Brown<br/>Gallows Green Working Group: Andrew D'Angibau, Brenda Brown, Mike Lambert, Adam Scott<br/>Infrastructure (A120/Pylons) Representative: Adam Scott<br/>Grapevine Representative: Tony Gearey<br/>Personnel Sub Committee: Mike Lambert, Brenda Brown, Adam Scott<br/>SID committee: Tony Gearey, Andrew D'Angibau</p> <p><b>078/2025 To re-adopt all Council policies and consider the need for any further policies to be included/reviewed</b><br/>Documents can be found at<br/><a href="https://www.aldhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/governance-documents">https://www.aldhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/governance-documents</a><br/>Cllr A. Scott informed the meeting via a note that there are a few policies that did not get reviewed and one or two that we do not have. So, for 2025 he proposed we do as we did last year and agree what needs to be worked on by a small group and then bring them back to the September meeting for full Council agreement. Cllr T. Gearey seconded. <b>All Agreed</b></p> <p><b>079/2025 Declaration of Members interests</b><br/>To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda <b>None Declared</b></p> <p><b>080/2025 To approve the minutes of the last meetings held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2025</b><br/><b>All Agreed</b></p> <p><b>081/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)</b><br/>Publicity on skip lorry attending Aldham on 17<sup>th</sup>. May. Can it be inserted into the Grapevine and into notice boards? A bus update was given by Anne Fulcher. There are no buses at 9.10am Monday to Friday. The first bus is 9.40am. Cllr M. Lambert to investigate from First Bus.<br/>Can the hedges in Tey Road be cut back? 3 landowners have been written to but no action as yet. Owner in Green Lane has trimmed the hedges by hand.<br/>A further letter to be sent to landowners. Another hedge in Brook Road requires attention.<br/>Pylons:</p> | <p></p> <p>Cllr Scott</p> <p>Clerk/A Scott/<br/>T Gearey</p> <p>M. Lambert</p> <p>Clerk</p> |

Penny Lang summarised article that will be in the Summer Grapevine. Latest consultation is prone to serious legal challenge. 400 people have responded to previous consultation, citing numerous reasons as to why the consultation is flawed.

A further report was commissioned by National Grid based on outdated data which they continue to pick and choose, depending on audience. CEO of National Grid is resigning later in the year. Reform UK are very anti-pylons, awaiting to see how this affects proposals in Lincolnshire. All Party Parliamentary Group is calling for evidence into pylons across the UK.

**082/2025 Visitors Report** (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber)

Cllr D. Willetts spoke about efforts to tempt a cinema operator into the Council's Northern Gateway scheme. CCC spending a lot of time regarding devolution and mayoral election. Colchester will be in with another 4 Councils. It is paramount that the Local Plan is agreed to protect local residents. However, the Local Plan Committee have deferred a decision to move forward until there is greater certainty over the infrastructure needed to support new growth and how we can catch up on the deficit from previous years

Cllr S. Naylor informed the meeting that a Local Plan meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm in the Old Library where the proposed housing and infrastructure issue will be discussed again. Anglian Water is opposed to a new housing scheme in West Bergholt as the Sewage Treatment Works cannot cope now, exemplifying the problem of inadequate infrastructure in the City

**083/2025 Speed Indicator Device** – update from Clerk

The new SID has been delivered and will be erected in Hines Close tomorrow and moving existing one to Ford Street.

**084/2025 National Grid** –Dealt with under item 081/2025

**085/2025 Gallows Green Grant Application** – update from Cllr M. Lambert

Not a huge amount of progress, pending information from EWT. The grant application now being submitted in September for works in the autumn

**086/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**a) To consider response to Consultation on Proposed Housing Development on Land North of Halstead Road**

It was reported at the last meeting that the Parish Council had been notified that the promoters of land opposite Bullbanks Farm on Halstead Road, adjoining the current Bellway site, were about to carry out a consultation exercise on proposals to submit a planning application for up to 250 new homes. The consultation is being carried out by Pinnacle Planning on behalf of Richborough, who are land promoters rather than developers, acting on behalf of the landowner.

<https://www.richborough.co.uk/>

The site has been identified as a potential site for housing in the City Council's Local Plan Review and was due to be included in the Council's Consultation on its Preferred Options this month. However, the decision to go ahead with the consultation was deferred for up to 9 months because of the lack of certainty about what infrastructure would be required to support the level of housing being proposed across the City and rural areas. Although we have been advised this decision may be reconsidered on 7th May. Given the uncertainty surrounding the Local Plan Review, an early planning application on the site could be regarded as premature, as under the current Adopted Local Plan the site lies outside any area designated for new development.

Although shown by the Council as part of Eight Ash Green the site is wholly within Aldham Parish. The Consultation leaflet is attached and was sent to 900 properties but only about 10 days was allowed for comment and the website sought to restrict responses to a limited range of detailed on-site issues rather than the principle. We have asked which properties in Aldham Parish were consulted and also enquired as to what, if any, response has been made by Eight Ash Green PC. It is understood that to date there have been 29 responses to the consultation.

It is also understood that a Scoping Request has been submitted to the City Council seeking clarification on what information would need to be submitted with any formal planning application. This suggests an early application that would pre-empt progress with the Local Plan on the grounds that the City Council cannot meet the requirement for a 5 year housing land supply.

Cllr M. Lambert proposed that the Parish Council makes the following response to the current consultation:

M.  
Lambert

*'The site lies wholly within Aldham Parish and if developed would represent a doubling in the population of the village. The linear extension of Eight Ash Green would create an unbalanced form of development and result in the virtual merging of the two villages. If there is to be further development in Eight Ash Green then other sites closer to the centre of the village should be considered first. Furthermore, this site forms one of a number of potential housing sites proposed in the emerging Local Plan Review in the villages west of Colchester, which cumulatively would more than double the existing population over 15 years. A piecemeal approach to these sites will prevent proper assessment of what social and physical infrastructure is required to cope with the impact of development on this scale. For these reasons the consultation, and any application on this site prior to progress with the Local Plan Review, must be premature, and these considerations should outweigh any alleged shortfall in housing land supply'* Cllr A. D'Angibau seconded. **All Agreed**

Clerk

**250655** - Rose Cottage Halstead Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3PP  
Proposed side and rear extension with entrance porch. Resubmission of 230662.

**RESOLVED:** No objections to this planning application

**087/2025 Planning Decisions affecting Aldham**

**250272** - Church House Farm Rectory Road Aldham CO6 3RT  
Replacement Windows and Doors to Dwelling. **Refused**

**088/2025 Highways & Traffic Working Group**

• Update on LHP submission form  
Cllr M. Lambert has spoken to ECC Cllr L. Barber who has submitted it to ECC Officers and is taking this to the next LHP meeting as the April meeting was cancelled.

**089/2025 2024/2025 Annual Return**

1) To Receive the Internal Auditors report for 2024/2025  
Councillors noted the Internal Auditors report for 2024/2025  
2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2  
Cllr M. Lambert proposed accepting and signing the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/2025 part 2. Cllr B. Brown seconded. **All Agreed**  
The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/25 part 2  
3) To Receive and sign Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025  
Cllr M. Lambert proposed accepting and signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025. Cllr T. Gearey seconded. **All Agreed**  
The Chair and Clerk then signed Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement of AGAR 2024/2025  
4) To Receive and sign Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025  
Cllr M. Lambert proposed accepting and signing Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025 Cllr R. Walker seconded. **All Agreed**  
The Chair and RFO then signed Section 2 - Accounting Statement of AGAR 2024/2025

**090/2025 Finance**

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. April 2025  
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30<sup>th</sup>. April 2025  
b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/26  
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/26  
c) To approve the payment of Accounts for May 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

**091/2025 To consider training opportunities available from EALC**

**092/2025 Information Exchange**

Increase in signs at Mill Race – up to 10 unauthorised signs  
Wash Corner is looking a lot better and thanks to Lewis Barber for getting this project completed

**093/2025 Items for next agenda**

Cllr A. D'Angibau gave apologies for the June meeting

**094/2025 To confirm date and time of next meeting. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. June 2025 at 7.30pm**

**095/2025 Closure of the Meeting** - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.05pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

3<sup>rd</sup>. June 2025

**Mike Lambert – Chair**

Enforce  
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DRAFT