



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2 nd . June 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Tony Gearey, Jean Jennings, Adam Scott, Roger Walker, CCC Dennis Willetts and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 6 members of the public. 104/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC/CCC Sara Naylor 105/2026 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 Local Plan 106/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5th. May 2026 All Agreed 107/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) A resident asked if some grass strimming can be undertaken behind the Church. Councillors advised them to contact the Church Warden. Ash tree in Green Lane is looking sad and may have disease? This is a Borough Homes problem. Grass verge outside Ballantine Cottages needs tidying up after the grass is cut. Can enquiries be made as to whether the "DART" transport can operate in Aldham? The walkways around Hardings Close are becoming impassable. This is a Borough Homes problem The hedge to the front of 10 Oaktree Cottages is blocking footway and needs cutting back further. 108/2026 Visitors Report (CCC Lewis Barber, CCC Dennis Willetts / ECC/CCC Sara Naylor) CCC Cllr D. Willetts informed the meeting following elections Sara Naylor is now a ECC Councillor. At the last CCC meeting no leader was elected and the Chief Executive has been placed in charge until a new Councillor is elected. Changes to the Local Plan may be happening. The new Bin Collection, which started on 1st. June '26, has caused problems with different collecting times. If residents place their postcode into the CCC website it will give out the relevant days of collections. 109/2026 National Grid– update Penny Lang circulated a report prior to the meeting. It read Illicit hedge-cutting We have received three sets of videos/photos from residents along the Bramford to Twinstead route which show that last week National Grid contractors were felling, have felled, or were attempting to fell, hedgerows and mature trees in the middle of nesting season. We have contacted NG for comment (copied widely, inc to PINS) and now await responses. We are concerned this just adds to the litany of NG failures, and need to be reassured that if N2Tgoes ahead, they would not be so cavalier on that project ... Accompanied Site Visits There was a full day of accompanied site visits yesterday. Little to report, but just so you know how it worked: They met at 8.30, mini bus each for Inspectors, NG, and a few registered Interested parties. No intercourse between the three buses. Visited about 6 heritage sites plus handful of other locations. About 10mins at each site, we did not learn much, but useful to know what it entails. [This is feedback from a Committee Member who went for the day.] PINS Questions 2 (released 22 May), plus submissions to Deadline 5, June 10th A further 120 questions (to answer by 10 June) from the Panel, mostly aimed at NG but also councils and other interested parties. (Interesting that there were so many more questions this time, while there were 70 posed at Q1) PylonsEastAnglia will submit three expert answers (plus the usual ESNP responses) to Deadline 4; to be submitted by Deadline 5, June 10th Virginia Brewer re: Heritage Landscape expert re: Aldham, Ford Street and Colne & Roman River Valleys	Cllr M. Lambert Cllr M. Lambert

It was also noted that NG is to carry out a consultation on how the £30m of Community Funds should be spent/allocated – details awaited. Inspectors have carried out an un-accompanied Site Inspection to Aldham recently either walking and driving the area, including Ford St, Green Lane, Brook Road, Rectory Road and Hines Close. A further request for an Accompanied Site Visit will be submitted. 110/2026 Gallows Green – update on <i>Crassula helmsii</i> management from Cllr B. Brown Cllr B. Brown looked at Gallows Green to see the water has reduce in depth. Review at July meeting 111/2026 Millennium Field – update on progress with new lease A comprehensive file on the original lease has been reviewed and Cllr M. Lambert to liaise with owners and request a draft lease be prepared. Check if EALC/NALC can provide legal advice to PC on lease 112/2026 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings All footpaths have been walked. The Aldham sign on Ford St requires a small repair. 113/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response 260756 - Frogs Hall Cottage Green Lane Aldham Colchester CO6 3PR Demolition of 2no agricultural barns and erection of 1 no. new self- build dwelling house Due to CCC planning deadline the following planning was sent to CCC from Aldham Parish Council under delegated powers: <i>Aldham Parish Council objects to this application as another example of the Class Q provisions to allow an appropriate use of redundant agricultural buildings in the countryside being abused to circumvent existing policies that restrict new dwellings in the countryside outside defined developments limits. The existing buildings were deemed suitable for conversion by the applicant and should be implemented as permitted under 250944. The Parish Council does not accept the assertions by the applicant's agent that 'it is not considered to be in the most effective or positive position for the natural surroundings' or that 'the existing barns do not enhance the landscape and have a potentially negative impact to the residential amenity of the neighbouring house'. These are not relevant planning considerations and should be rejected.</i> <i>It is important that the City Council maintains a consistency of approach to this type of application to avoid setting a precedent. The application should be refused for similar reasons to those set out in the decision notice for a new dwelling to replace a Class Q conversion at Oak House, New Road, Aldham (ref.no.252553).</i> 260657 – Earls Colne Road, Great Tey, Colchester Outline planning application for up to 150 no. residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, a new vehicular access and all other associated works. All Matters Reserved, except access. This application in the adjoining Parish of Gt Tey is subject to a report included with supporting documents. Cllr M. Lambert, prior to the meeting circulated a report to Councillors RESOLVED: Aldham Parish Council object to application 260657 for reasons of prematurity and an inadequate response to the clear infrastructure deficit created by speculative applications in the villages. The application is contrary to the existing Adopted Local Plan and the Adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Gt Tey. The Parish Council endorses the comprehensive reasons for refusal put forward by Gt Tey Parish Council and believes the adverse impact of allowing this and other applications, in advance of the Local Plan Review, outweighs the “tilted balance” in favour of the benefits of housing. The cumulative impact on local schools, roads and services is not being properly addressed by the current piecemeal approach. This application should be considered alongside applications 25/1310 and 26/0577 in considering the cumulative impact. The site is not currently a ‘sustainable location’ for the purposes of satisfying the NPPF, with poor access to most services and facilities, apart from a primary school which is already almost at capacity. This will be a car dependent development that will increase pressure on local roads through neighbouring villages to avoid congestion on the A120. The applicants’ claim that the site is accessible to local shops and services by foot or cycle are not credible and should be discounted. There is an inadequate bus service apart from a school service during term time. There is no realistic alternative to the car. The Parish Council would expect National Highways to be consulted on this application in order to allow proper assessment of the cumulative impact of this and other developments on the A120. Local Plan Review - Update from Cllr M. Lambert regarding discussions with neighbouring Parishes & City Council	Cllrs M. Lambert / B. Brown Cllr. M. Lambert Clerk
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No further meaningful contact from the City Council offers but await the implications of a change in control/leadership at CCC s106 Planning Obligations Wish List – Ongoing Review in connection with s106 for 26/1310 Foxes Corner. Councillors discussed this at the last meeting. A holding reply has been received by Cllr M. Lambert Request whether Church heating to provide 'Warm Space' would qualify for s106 funding. 114/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham 260311 – Grapes Rectory Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3RR New vehicle entrance with driveway parking and timber gate to existing dwelling house. Approve Conditional 115/2026 Highways & Transport Matters 1) SID – Cllr T. Gearey Cllr T. Gearey informed the meeting of the data he has retrieved and calculation of the 85 percentile to gauge whether any further speed reduction measures could be justified. Brook Road was 30.3 mph and was Ford Street 31 mph. It would appear on this basis that the SIDs are working and unlikely that ECC Highways would support further measures at this time. Brook Road sign has now been turned around. 2) Love your Bus Grant – update Cllr M. Lambert has received a purchase order form from ECC to be completed by the Clerk 116/2026 Finance a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. May 2026 Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. May 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 June 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. All Agreed 117/2026 2025/2026 Annual Return 1) To Receive the Internal Auditors report for 2025/2026 Councillors noted the Internal Auditors report for 2025/2026 2) To receive and sign the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2025/26 part 2 Cllr T. Gearey proposed to accept the Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2025/26 part 2. Cllr A. Scott seconded. All Agreed. The Chair and RFO then signed the form 3) To receive and sign the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 Cllr B. Brown proposed completing and signing Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26. Cllr J. Jennings seconded. All Agreed. The Chair and Clerk then signed the form 4) To receive and sign the Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26 Cllr R. Walker proposed to accept and sign Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26. Cllr A. D'Angibau seconded All Agreed. The Chair and RFO then signed the form 118/2026 Information Exchange New Road Highways repairs have been undertaken poorly 119/2026 Items for next agenda 120/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 7th. July 2026 at 7.30pm 121/2026 To note 2026 meeting dates: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26 122/2026 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 to exclude the public and press. Cllr A. Scott seconded. All Agreed Update on Legal advice on Planning matters 123/2026 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 <i>M. Lambert</i> 7th. July 2026 Mike Lambert – Chair	Cllr M. Lambert Clerk
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