



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 th . July 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 and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also present 2 members of the public. 124/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr Sara Naylor 125/2026 Declaration of Members interests To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr Andrew D'Angibau declared an interest in planning application 261002 126/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd. June 2026 All Agreed 127/2026 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) A resident asked why some s106 money is being split between Aldham and Eight Ash Green 4 swing seats from the playing field are stored in a residents shed. Can these swings be either sold or disposed? It was decided to sell the swings on eBay The seat on the green by the village hall needs cleaning and refurbishing. 128/2026 Visitors Report (ECC/CCC Sara Naylor / CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Lewis Barber) ECC Cllr Sara Naylor gave a report prior to the meeting 129/2026 National Grid– update on progress with DCO Examination Penny Lang informed the meeting that N2T PINS Hearings 23-25 June 2026 Open Floor Hearing 4, Compulsory Acquisitions 3, Issue Specific Hearings ISH 3, ISH 4 Aldham & Colne/Roman River valleys Copy of an excellent letter from Sir Bernard Jenkin to the Inspectorate was sent to APC Clerk for agreement & information on 2 July Inspectors asked NG questions about the area, and are hoping to revisit, probably on foot. They queried the fact that three independent landscape reports (including the one commissioned by Pylons East Anglia and Aldham PC) all concluded that the pylons had “high potential for widespread and significant harm”, so why did NG deny this was the case? They asked about why there was a need for one particular pylon (TB55) to be so near to Hines Close. NG will produce a written answer to Action Point 6 from ISH4. Pylons E.A. argue that while the Colne Valley is not a National Landscape, it shares many of the characteristics required by Natural England for that status (see draft APC submission to Deadline 6, July 7th) 30 June Action Points from ISH4 published on the website. <i>If you want to listen to the recordings about Colne Valley:</i> <i>Agenda 5: Landscape section takes up most of Recording 1 of ISH4, and some of Recording 2. Colne Valley starts at about 33mins into Recording 2 of ISH4, and goes on for some time.</i> ISH 2 Action 27, ExQ LV 1.28 and Masterplans. Colne Valley <i>Masterplans to be provided at the next deadline, with an agreed position in terms of compensation measures for residual effects on the specified landscapes by deadline 5 (Wednesday 10 June)</i> Doc 8.4.12.2 NG Response to ISH2 Action Pt 27 Masterplans Appx. E, Fordham, Ford Street & Aldham The Applicant has not provided Masterplans, but limited sketch maps; and certainly no “agreed position in terms of compensation measures”. Suggestions are inadequate or incorrect. (see draft APC submission at Deadline 6 for full details) Neither Parish Councils nor local landowners have been consulted. These maps are vague and appear to be very superficial desktop surveys (see maps at 8.4.12.2. Appendix E)	Cllr R. Walker

There are only two veteran trees shown on the Aldham Constraint Map, but they appear to be in the wrong place. There should be two at the bend in Tey Road.
Habitat connectivity is a long-standing policy of the Woodland Trust with regard to corridors between Chalkney Wood (Earls Colne), Hoe Wood Aldham, Fiddlers Wood and Fordham Hall Estate.

General

Timely reminder from James Cartlidge MP about the unproved need for, and imposition of, pre-determined pylons and failure to consult on alternatives.

Panel were not happy that NG has, as yet, No Heads of Terms Agreements with UKPN, and are unlikely to have them before the end of the DCO. The first Design Agreement between them did not take place until Nov 2025.

(Many other Heads of Terms agreements, with councils, Highways, Water companies, Lower Thames Crossing, businesses, landowners and other Interested Parties are far from settled).

An utterly straight-faced member of NG staff stunned the Panel when replying that a necessary Design Review Workshop would not take place until October ...

Panel requested "substantive replies" from NG, with all info in one place, and excluding endless Document references and/or hyperlinks.

Long discussions took place about Councils' requests for shorter construction working hours, and noise, plus questions in Action Points from ISH4.

130/2026 Gallows Green – update on *Crassula helmsii* management

A task to look into this problem has been completed and further inspections will be required

131/2026 Millennium Field – to approve legal costs of £514 +VAT for new lease

Cllr M. Lambert proposed to spend £514 +VAT on the new Millenium Lease. Cllr T. Gearey seconded. **All Agreed**

132/2026 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings

Footpath 7-way marks to be installed, Report risks on Essex Way on River Colne behind Mill Race

133/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

260951 - Old Bouchiers Hall New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QT

Prior Notification under Class ZA of the GPDO for the demolition of the existing Class E building and erection of a dwellinghouse.

Due to planning time constraint, the following response was sent to CCC on 19.06.26

The Parish Council offers no comment on this application for prior approval. However, if the City Council deem the circumstances to comply with Class Z provisions the applicants should be advised that in the event a subsequent planning application is submitted to replace the permitted Class Z structure with a new dwelling it would be subject to Local Plan policies protecting the countryside from development

261002 - Wick Farm New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QY

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for general purpose agricultural building for grain storage.

Due to planning time constraint, the following response was sent to CCC on 17.06.26

Aldham Parish Council has no comment to make on the application

A resident has raised concerns over the way the Parish Council came to its decision. The clerk has responded to the resident.

a) **Local Plan Review** - Update from Cllr M. Lambert regarding discussions with neighbouring Parishes & City Council. (see note in Supporting Papers)

The Local Plan Committee met on 29th June to receive reports on progress with the Local Plan and sought approval for amended wording to some of the strategic policies that will be incorporated into the final version of the Plan (Reg.19) to be considered at the next meeting on 26th August. The Committee also considered a report setting out the implications of introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy, which would replace in part the s106 agreement process, and provide greater certainty.

City officers have met with Marks Tey Parish Council to discuss how they propose to take forward master planning for the proposed Marks Tey Growth Area. The City Council have appointed consultants who were originally employed by MTPC to carry out this work. However, the process, timescale and brief remains unclear at this point

Cllr Jean Jennings

b) **s106 Planning Obligations Wish List** – s106 for 26/1310 Foxes Corner, Halstead Road
Cllr M. Lambert has replied to the case officer at CCC asking if funding can be used for potential purchase of Millennium Playing Field and for future but unspecified improvements to the village hall.

c) **Application 251310 Halstead Road** - report back on Counsel's opinion – Cllr M. Lambert
Following the decision at last month's meeting Counsel's opinion has been sought on whether there were any legal grounds to challenge the City Council's decision to grant planning permission for 250 homes on the site. A Senior Barrister at Cornerstone Chambers has completed a comprehensive written opinion

To confirm for the record the Parish Council agreed a fee of £5000 +VAT for this opinion, funded jointly by Aldham (from General Reserves) and Eight Ash Green Parish

134/2026 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham

260641 - Corvettes New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QZ

Proposed outdoor swimming pool, modification of existing terrace area. **Approve with conditions**

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. **Application Refused**

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

Installation of an alarm bell on the east facing wall. **Approve conditional**

261002 - Wick Farm New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QY

Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for general purpose agricultural building for grain storage. **Prior Approval Required (Approved)**

135/2026 **Highways & Transport Matters**

1) SID – The speed sign has been turned around. The speed of oncoming traffic is about 28mph. The sign has now been turned off but it is still recording the speed of the traffic. This may give better data on its effectiveness.

2) Love your Bus contract with Transport Made Simple (Konnect) – to consider terms of a draft contract with Transport made Simple (Konnect Buses)

Cllr M. Lambert proposed that the Clerk signs the agreement, subject to querying whether the timetable could be altered to make the service half an hour later. Cllr B. Brown seconded. **All Agreed**

3) Salt Bag Partnership 2026/2027. Does APC wish to participate in this scheme for 2026-2027? Councillors decided not to participate in this year's salt bag scheme.

136/2026 Finance

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

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. June 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 July 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

137/2026 Information Exchange

The verge in front of the Alms Houses grass is looking poor. The Alms houses have now been strimmed. A meeting with Borough Homes to express concerns over the condition of the grass. Can the Clerk chase up the visit to Eight Ash Green village hall

138/2026 **Items for next agenda**

To give further consideration to potential s106 projects: To give further consideration to proposed traffic calming measures for consideration by ECC Highways

139/2026 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 1st. September 2026

To note 2026 meeting dates: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26

141/2026 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

M Lambert

1st. September 2026

Mike Lambert – Chair