



ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 2 nd . December 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	Action
<p>Present: Cllrs M. Lambert (Chair), A. Scott (Vice-Chair), B. Brown, A. D'Angibau, T. Gearey, R. Walker and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also present 11 members of the public.</p> <p>202/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from CCC S. Naylor, CCC D. Willetts and Cllr J. Jennings</p> <p>203/2025 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 211/2025</p> <p>204/2025 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4th. November 2025 All Agreed</p> <p>205/2025 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes) a) David Thompson, as the new owner, made a brief address to the Parish Council and residents about his plans for Mill Race as it has generated a lot of interest locally. A mini rural industrial estate on an 8 acre site with local shops, hairdressers etc. is proposed, but interested in what residents like to see on the site. The Chair then opened up the session to Councillors and residents for any questions. There may be some houses and new units with additional floor space on the site. Agreed that the footpath along the river requires attention and could be made safer and more attractive. The Chair invited David Thompson to attend another Parish Council meeting once sample plans have been sought and before any planning application/s are submitted. A resident spoke about difficulty in submitting any objections to National Grid. There are about 3200 rejections submitted to NG so far.</p> <p>206/2025 Visitors Report (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) CCC Sara Naylor sent a report, prior to the meeting. It read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The consultation into the Draft Local Plan began last week (26th. November) and will conclude on 14th. January. I encourage residents to contact me directly with their views as well as submitting them directly to the council - my email address at Colchester is: sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk• It is important for residents to know that the Local Plan Committee members, who are councillors, refused to agree and approve the content of the proposed draft Local Plan at its meeting on 10th. November 2025. The committee instead acknowledged the draft Local Plan exists and agreed that it is right that the public now have their say. To be clear Lexden and Braiswick ward Councillors have not approved the draft Local Plan. We believe this is a very important point and is exceptional for this stage of reviewing a Local Plan.• I think that the proposed plan does not adequately address vital infrastructure needed and it is totally unreasonable of Government to require Colchester to build 20,800 new dwellings in the next 15 years, with the vast bulk being disproportionately earmarked for the villages that ring the city.• The consultation hub and ways of commenting are too complex in my view so here are some tips:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Colchester City Council web-page for the Local Plan public consultation https://www.colchester.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-review/○ To respond to the consultation, residents should scroll down to the set of three grey boxes, and click the middle box which will open a digital consultation portal.○ This is the link to a step-by-step guide to making a comment https://colchester.oc2.uk/instructions• Importantly, the deadline for responses to the consultation is 5pm on 14th. January 2026.• I would encourage residents to comment 1) generally about their view of the proposals and	

they may wish to comment on infrastructure such as hospital beds, road capacity, schools, sewage and loss of countryside/green space and, importantly, 2) how specific proposals for particular sites may affect their property and them directly and the community that they live in plus any other directly relevant impacts from specific proposals in the CCC area including impact on transport and road capacity, eg Halstead Road and lanes connecting through to Mark's Tey.

- I am available and would welcome invitations to come to any public meetings or events that the PC may be organising, where possible and considering other PCs will be conducting their own events and engagement opportunities.
- There are a range of consultation events provided by Colchester City Council. There are three in-person events info sessions at Colchester Town Hall:
 - Wednesday 10th. December – 4pm to 7pm
 - Saturday 13th. December – 10am to 2pm
 - Monday 15th. December – 10am to 2pm

207/2025 Local Government Reorganisation in Essex – Cllr M. Lambert

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-sea-and-thurrock/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-essex-southend-on-sea-and-thurrock>

Agreed that the Parish should express a view/preference and will consider at January meeting.

208/2025 National Grid– update from Cllr A. Scott

Good publicity at the Autumn Fayre, thanks to Penny Lang.

The Parish Council has submitted its representation. The planning inspectorate will be holding a preliminary meeting and publishing preliminary views. A link will be circulated after this meeting has taken place at end of December 2025 which will give access to the issues for further consideration.. Further written submissions can still be accepted by NG from those who registered by the deadline.

209/2025 Gallows Green Grant Application – update from Cllr M. Lambert & Cllr B. Brown

Further to successful meeting with Andrew Hull he has made contact with Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) who it is hoped will be undertaking an inspection in the near future to ascertain eligibility for funding.

210/2025 Footpath and PROW update – Cllr J. Jennings Nothing more reported

211/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

No applications have been submitted

- Local Plan Review - Consultation on Preferred Options

The City Council has now published its Preferred Options as part of the Local Plan Review which covers the period up to 2040. The Plan makes provision for 20,000 new homes during this period, including 11,000 new sites spread across both the urban areas and surrounding villages.

The six parishes west of the City will accommodate 3600 new homes broken down as follows:

Aldham 15: Chappel & Wakes Colne 235: Copford 300: Eight Ash Green 430

Gt Tey 125: Marks Tey 2500

This would more than double the number of existing homes in the six parishes, which at present total about 3300 homes.

The site for 250 new homes and shown as Eight Ash Green, north of Halstead Road and opposite Bullbanks Farm, is within Aldham Parish and is subject to an outline application, to which the Parish has made representations. Furthermore, more than half of the site at Marks Tey, north of the A120, for 1000 new homes, is also within the Parish of Aldham.

The Local Plan Committee twice refused to agree to the consultation proceeding due to a lack of detail about what infrastructure would be required to support this level of development, including the impact of not funding any improvements to the A12 and A120. This has now been the subject of further reports but there is still a shortfall in funding of over £800m and the traffic modelling requires a very significant 'modal shift' ie. at least 20% of current car journeys being under taken by bus, cycle or on foot to avoid significant congestion in and around the City.

The Preferred Options were agreed for consultation starting at the end of November with a closing date of 14th. January.

The proposed plans for Aldham, Eight Ash Green and Marks Tey are attached and the other plans are available on the link below:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=qIcb3D8zb5%2bX9r%2f8AFqO7ZDGA8x3G3WCaamOgygSQOt5cL%2bPDUzrA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d> and on the Parish Web site.

Agreed to consider draft representations at the January meeting

212/2025 Planning Decision/s affecting Aldham No planning decisions have been made

213/2025 Highways & Traffic Working Group

1) Speed Indicator Device – update from Cllr T. Gearey
Cllr T. Gearey the SID at Ford Street is working well but due to weather conditions he was not able to retrieve the data

2) SID device – upgrading to solar panel power – the Clerk
Agreed not to accept higher cost for solar conversion and to have the device returned without having the conversion and continue with rechargeable batteries

3) Love your Bus Grants – Cllr M. Lambert
Cllr M. Lambert attended an open day session with bus operators. Contact was made with the 2 operators to improve the early morning bus timetable. Konnect bus service agreed to look at supporting an application for a grant and suggested contacting Stanway PC.

214/2025 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2025
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2025
b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2025/2026
c) To approve the payment of Accounts for December 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements **All Agreed**

215/2025 2026-2027 Budget – Councillors to discuss the 2026-2027 budget
Councillors discussed the 2026-2027 budget

216/2025 To consider training opportunities available from EALC
All training courses have been circulated

217/2025 Information Exchange
CALC meeting tomorrow evening (03.12.25) which Cllr M. Lambert will attend
Cllr M. Lambert will attend Local Llan Briefing

218/2025 Items for next agenda: Local Government Reorganisation, Local Plan, Budget 26/27

219/2025 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 6th. January 2026 at 7.30pm

220/2025 To note 2026 meeting dates:
03.02: 03.03: 07.04: 05.05: 02.06: 07.07: 01.09: 06.10: 03.11: 01.12.26

221/2025 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

MLambert

Mike Lambert – Chair

6th. January 2026