

Aldham Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday, 2nd April 2019
at 7.00pm in Aldham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hall, Cllr Ann Honeyball, Cllr Adam Scott, & Cllr John D'Angibau.
The Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw, CBC Brian Jarvis & CBC Dennis Willetts and 12 residents.

Apologies: CBC Lewis Barber, Cllr Barry Webber & Cllr Clive Bainbridge

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 2018

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a true record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall Seconded: Cllr Ann Honeyball

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

I start off my report with lots of good news.

For the second year running Aldham Parish Council has decided not to increase the precept we receive from Colchester Borough Council, thereby having maintained it at the same level now for what will be the third year.

Generally speaking we have had quite a busy year with lots of planning applications coming through. A sign that a lot of us are choosing to improve or extend where we are currently living rather than looking to move.

We were instrumental in ensuring that the Charity bus, which runs through our village and Fordham and Eight Ash Green, has been kept in operation, by way of us making a donation to the running costs. This service has proved vital to those of us who may not be able to get to Sainsbury's under our own steam; so long may it keep going.

Jan Stobart very successfully completed the audit of our accounts last year, and we will ask her to do the same again next year. Our clerk, Grahame, must be thanked for keeping our books in good order, which helps when they are presented to Jan.

At the beginning of the year we put out tenders for the grounds maintenance around the village, and having received three quotations, we have accepted the tender put in by John Glover of Landscape Services. We used John's company last year and were very pleased with the service he gave, and as his quote was very competitive, we decided to award him our contract for the coming season.

Earlier on this year Chris Hall and John D'Angibau re-barked the swing areas on the playing field, which has made a great improvement. Each year we have a Health & Safety inspection carried out by Colchester Borough Council, and each year we pass with only a few minor matters needing attention.

With the help of the locality budget, which is managed by our three ward councillors, we have been able to purchase a speed gun for use around the village. As yet the 4 of us who have volunteered to carry out speed checks, are still awaiting training, but it is now

imminent, so expect to see us either in Ford Street, or on the crossroads here, once the Roman River Bridge is open.

Moving on to the burning question of the Roman River Bridge, I am sure most of you know that the completion of this project is not running about 3 weeks behind schedule. We are told this is due, in no small part to extenuating circumstances – i.e. revising certain methods of construction.

We as a Parish Council have complained at the lack of communication between ourselves and the contractors and Kevin Bentley, who is Head of Highways at Essex County Council, but our complaints fall on deaf ears. It would seem, from a recent meeting I had with the County Councillor, Ann Brown, that she too is equally uninformed despite strong protestations about the whole matter.

Credit must go to Claire, our Grapevine Editor, who seems to have her finger on the button and manages to glean information out of the powers that be, so keep your eye on the Grapevine Village page.

On the 11th November last year the whole nation celebrated the centenary of the Great War and we, in Aldham were no exception.

We had booked a group called Tyler Kemp to come along and entertain us and what a night it turned out to be. We laid on a fantastic buffet, the hall was decorated up to the nines, and the three-piece group made up of three family members entertained us for 3 solid hours. We had asked for music and songs from the WW1 era, and they didn't disappoint. Those of us in attendance were having such a good time, that they carried on playing 15 minutes longer than they had been booked for, so all in all an amazing evening.

And now I get to the "B" word – no not Brexit – Bangers!!

Tracy Macklin owner of the giggly Pig Company was our guest speaker last year, and entertained us with tales of her life ending up with us being able to taste her very tasty bangers and bacon.

This year we have been fortunate in inviting Steve Scruton along to be our guest speaker, and we will be looking forward to hearing him shortly.

All that remains for me to say is my usual thank you's.

Many people around the village help us throughout the year, and we may not always show our appreciation, but you are our unsung heroes and we do rely on your help and support to keep various aspects of the village up and running. To name just a few, our thanks go to Brenda and John Brown (our resident Wombles), Peter Vestey (our eyes on the ground) and Sharon Tidey who keeps our playing field rubbish free.

Finally my thanks must go to my fellow Parish councillors. Sadly, we are going to lose three of our stalwarts this coming May when we, as a whole council, are up for re-election.

John D'Angibau and Clive Bainbridge (our Vice-Chairman) who have both served on this council for many years, and Barry Webber who has also put in a number of years service.

