

Aldham Parish Council

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2019 at 7.30 P.M in Aldham Village Hall, Small Room

Present: Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hall, Cllr Ann Honeyball, Cllr Andrew D'Angibau, Cllr Carol Itak & Cllr Brenda Brown & CBC Dennis Willetts.
The Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw and 10 residents.

19/91 Welcome and apologies for absence
Apologies were received from CBC Brian Jarvis, CBC Lewis Barber & Cllr Adam Scott.

19/92 Declaration of Members interests
Cllr Chris Hall declared an interest in 19/100.
Cllr Andrew D'Angibau declared an interest in 19/104.

19/93 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)
None

19/94 To approve the minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the meeting dated 3rd September 2019 were approved.
Minutes signed by the Chairman

19/95 Visitors Report (Dennis Willetts)
Nothing to report

19/96 Clerk's Report
None

19/97 Finance
To approve payments for signature in accordance with the Budget and to receive financial report as of today's date

The following payments were approved:

Parish Clerk Salary	£446.17
Mileage expenses	£3.60
Tax/Paye	£111.60
Landscape Services	£276.00
Royal British Legion	£40.00
Colchester Borough Council – Street Lights	£150.00
Colchester Borough Council – Street Lights	£12.98
Landscape Services	£276.00
Total	<u>£1040.35</u>

19/98 Planning/Housing

98.1 Applications for discussion at meeting
None

98.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting

192438 – The Old House, Aldham - Further to work consented by 190434:
1.Repair to breastsummer (South Gable) 2.Enlargement of approved

replacement window front. North end 3. Repair to post on North East corner
4. Trimming of cement render away from corner posts on North wall
5. Replacement (Listed Building)

Comments: As we, and CBC, have previously granted planning permission for other works to be carried out here, I see no reason why this latest planning application should not be given our approval. Obviously, these additional works have come to light during the previously agreed improvements etc.

98.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting

191919 – Hall Cottage, Brook Road, Aldham – Application for removal of condition 3 from planning permission ENE/LEX/128/53 – agricultural restriction.

Comments: No Objections

Decision: Approved without conditions

192100 – Honeysuckle Cottage, Halstead Road, Aldham – Outline application for proposed two bedroom detached bungalow (Resubmission of 182534)

Decision: Refuse

19/99 Village Interpretation Board

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the interpretation board was in the process of being completed by Impact Signs.

19/100 Hardings Close

The Chairman, Jackie Daines & Cllr Chris Hall met with Colchester Borough Council. CBC Dennis Willetts was in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman had asked a question about asbestos and been told that it would be disposed of 100% safely.

A question on parking had been asked and it was explained that 2 parking spaces would be available for each of the new houses – Colchester Borough Council had also visited the site on a Friday to check for any parking issues that might occur.

The planning application will be presented to the planning committee in December 2019. The Chairman, Jackie Daines and a local resident will attend the meeting on behalf of residents.

19/101 Marks Tey Bridge/North Lane Signage/Roman River Bridge

The Marks Tey Railway Bridge will close on the 13th January 2020 for 121 days. The Parish Clerk was actioned to obtain a copy of the plans for the work being completed to be shown at a meeting later in the month.

19/102 Community Speed Watch

A suggestion from one of the community speed watch teams was for all members of the speed watch team to get together and discuss a rota type system for the village. The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact Mary Whilley (Community Speed Watch Team) to look at moving the speed watch location at Ford Street in light of the accident that occurred last Sunday evening.

19/103 Training/Events

103.1 Reports on attended events
None

103.2 Nominations for new events
None

19/104

Pumpkin Patch

Emily & Guy French from Foxes Farm (Pumpkin Patch) read out a statement to the meeting.

They explained that Essex had received twice the average monthly rainfall in October and this was out with their control.

The Closure of the road at Wood Lane, Eight Ash Green had created an issue for traffic, as well as the temporary lights at Ford Street.

The Pumpkin Patch will look to amend traffic management of the event next year and contact Highways in advance in relation to the roads.

They have “tried” a ticketing system in Basildon this year, which they are hoping to introduce in Aldham next year. This system was introduced as a direct result of the issues at Aldham and should reduce the number of vehicles turning up at the same time over a short period.

A resident informed the meeting that New Road was blocked coming from Marks Tey and suggested that it would have been nice to have been alerted by someone outside who could have directed people to go around the outside of the village.

The Chairman mentioned that complaints had suggested that people had been walking in and out of traffic and that this might have an effect on residents safety – Guy French informed the meeting that there was no foot traffic or parking of customers vehicles within the village contrary to reports from members of the public. He further informed the meeting that a nominal charge of £1.00 per car was used for parking at the event.

The Pumpkin Patch had been closed the Wednesday prior to this due to the weather and they had experienced no issues the weekend before.

The Pumpkin Patch will go away and plan for next year’s event taking into consideration all the issues that they experienced this year. The event had been highlighted on national TV and this may have resulted in a higher turnout than expected.

A resident suggested that the negative comments on the Aldham facebook page were unfair. The administrator of the site explained that these were the views of local residents and that the exchanges were looked at to ensure the content was suitable and not abusive.

CBC Dennis Willetts explained that on the same day, Anglian Water workers at Wood Lane, Eight Ash Green had received an unfair amount of abuse from vehicles due to the road closure their.

The Chairman, Jackie Daines congratulated Emily & Guy on their entrepreneurial skills and stated that it was to their credit that they closed the Pumpkin Patch earlier than they had planned.

Emily & Guy French said that they would be happy to write an article for the Grapevine edition to explain what had happened this year to local residents.

19/105

VE Day 75th Anniversary

Nothing further to discuss at present.

19/106

Music Festival 2020

The Chairman, Jackie Daines asked for councillor’s views on the idea of a music festival in Aldham in August 2020.

It was decided that a music festival would be too difficult to host due to the lack of experience and the amount of time needed to organise such an event.

The Chairman informed the meeting that she would like the Parish Council to host an event for the whole village to enjoy. It had been three years since the village fete event took place. Claire Gearey, editor of the Grapevine, was asked if she could put an article into the next edition asking for suggestions from residents in relation to what kind of event could be hosted.

- 19/107 Community Bus – Christmas Special**
It was proposed that the Parish Council subsidise an extra shopping trip for elderly residents of the village in the run up to Christmas. (2nd week of December)
Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall
Seconded: Cllr Ann Honeyball
Agreed by all
Anne Fulcher will collect names for the trip; it would require a minimum of 8 people for the trip to take place. Cut off point for names are 30th November 2019.
- 19/108 Parish Council Website**
The Parish Council has received a list of website providers from the EALC who may be able to set up a website on behalf of the Parish Council.
The Chairman, Jackie Daines volunteered to contact the 15 companies on the list to obtain the best deal for the Parish Council.
- 19/109 Bridge at Ford Street/Fordham**
The bridge requires strimming/cutting back and a quote from Landscape Services for £250 plus VAT had previously been agreed. Fordham Parish Council has now agreed to fund 50% of the cost and Aldham Parish Council to fund the other 50%.
A resident has reported an increase in pollution in Ford Street, CBC Dennis Willetts suggested contacting CBC Lewis Barber to arrange for equipment to monitor the pollution.
The Parish Clerk has been actioned to organise a meeting between English Heritage & Highways in relation to repairs of the bridge. The Parish Clerk previously contacted both organisations but neither was prepared to repair the bridge.
- 19/110 Precept**
The Parish Clerk advised the Parish Council that the internal audit had identified that the Precept had not risen in the last three years but expenditure had risen. It was proposed to increase the precept from £12,000 to £14,000, a rise of 18% to bring the Parish Council back in line with spending costs. The increase would be approximately 18p per household for a band D property.
Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall
Seconded: Cllr Carol Itak
Agreed by all
- 19/111 Christmas Gifts**
It was proposed that gifts be given to the residents who regularly check for potholes and for clearing bins in the village.
Proposed: Cllr Ann Honeyball
Seconded: Cllr Chris Hall
Agreed by all
- 19/112 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda**
A resident asked about the traffic measurements along Green Lane and what was there purpose. CBC Dennis Willetts explained it was tied in with looking at the junction at the church & village hall.
Cllr Brenda Brown wanted to thank whoever was responsible for getting the large pothole filled in so quickly in Green Lane.
Cllr Brenda Brown provided photographic evidence of the issues with HGV vehicles coming down North Lane & New Road – the Parish Clerk was actioned to contact Highways again to ask for “unsuitable for HGV” signs to be made available.

The traffic from Marks Tey roundabout is a growing concern for the Parish Council in light of the death of a resident from Marks Tey outside the Railway Station. The issue of parked cars along that road was discussed as creating a hazard to residents. CBC Dennis Willetts asked that the Parish Council give support to a new car park opposite (right) of the station and pass this support on to the Planning Department. The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact the planning department.

Chairman, Jackie Daines will replace the war memorial flowers in the churchyard.

Chairman, Jackie Daines asked all councillors to copy her into any e-mail's that are sent to the Parish Clerk.

Chairman, Jackie Daines informed the meeting of a resident that is setting up a food collection for homeless people. They would like to use the village hall storeroom as a holding point for the food hampers over a two-week period. The Chairman will speak with the Village Hall Chairman to agree this.

19/113

To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.23 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....