

Aldham Parish Council

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.30 P.M in the Village Hall, Aldham

- Present:** Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hall (Vice Chairman), Cllr Adam Scott, Cllr Brenda Brown, Cllr Ann Honeyball, Cllr Tory Cook, CBC Dennis Willetts, CBC Brian Jarvis. CBC Lewis Barber & The Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw and 1 resident.
- 20/80 Welcome and apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew D'Angibau.
- 20/81 Declaration of Members interests**
None
- 20/82 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**
None
- 20/83 To approve the minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the meeting dated 8th September 2020 were approved.
Minutes signed by the Chairman
Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall Seconded: Cllr Tory Cook **RESOLVED**
- 20/84 Visitors Report (Brian Jarvis/Dennis Willetts/Lewis Barber)**
CBC Brian Jarvis gave the meeting an update on progress at Hardings Close. Work started on the 14th September 2020 and the garages have now been removed completely. Foundation work has now been completed and work is now focusing on below ground work. It is expected that work will be completed by 29th March 2020. CBC Brian Jarvis reminded the Parish Council that funding through the locality budget had to be in by the end of January 2020.
CBC Dennis Willetts reported that budgeting for next year could be a big issue for Colchester Borough Council due to COVID and informed the meeting that things like the locality budget may be reduced to cover costs.
Cllr Tory Cook asked about parking in Ford Street in relation to a request from a resident who had suggested a number of alternative sites.
CBC Dennis Willetts informed the meeting that the allocation of sites should be left to the Parish Council to determine through the appropriate channels rather than just listing unsuitable sites.
CBC Lewis Barber informed the meeting about parking enforcements and a change in the law in relation to parking on pavements.
Cllr Jackie Daines explained the difficulty in walking along the pavement due to vehicles on the pavement, which became even more restricted when rubbish was left out for collection at the same time.
Cllr Lewis Barber explained that enforcing residents to move cars off pavements may create other issues and at present, very few complaints had been received, so it was best to leave things as they are at present unless it creates a bigger problem.
- 20/85 Clerk's Report**
Nothing to report

20/86

Finance

The following payments were approved in accordance with the Budget

The following payments were approved:

Parish Clerk Salary	£457.99
Mileage expenses	£3.60
HMRC	£114.40
British Legion Poppy Appeal	<u>£40.00</u>
Total	<u>£615.99</u>

20/87

Planning/Housing

87.1 Applications for discussion at meeting
None

87.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed under delegated authority since last meeting:
None

87.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting
201608 – Alpenhof, Tey Road, Aldham - Single storey rear and side extension
Comments: No Objection - the Parish Council would like to note that the flat roof is not aesthetically pleasing and would hope that consideration is given to neighbouring properties.
Decision: Approve Conditional

193146 – Mill Race Nursery, New Road, Aldham – Outline planning permission is sought for the construction of five dwellings.

Comments: Aldham Parish Council would have no objection to this planning application subject to planning law and the fact that this development would be outside the village envelope.

The Parish Council would like to make planners aware that this development would be situated next to a working farm, where large machinery would be in use and noise levels would be higher than normal for new residents early in the morning.

Aldham Parish Council would however, like the following conditions to be met:

- (1) A footpath is constructed from the development to the bottom of Ford Street**
- (2) That there is no further development on this site until 2030 at the earliest and that this does not set a precedent for any future applications outside the village envelope

The Parish Council would like to make planners aware that this development is in a village that has no regular bus service and has no facilities, such as shops to offer new residents to the village.

The Parish Council would also like clear guidance on the height of the new buildings and the materials used in the development.

** The proposed buildings are likely to be for family occupancy and may require children to walk down to Ford Street to catch a school bus. The existing road is on the brow of a hill and a sharp bend, with fast traffic and limited visibility making it dangerous for anyone to walk on.

Decision: Refuse

201736 – The Former Queens Head, Ford Street, Aldham – New windows and internal alterations

201740 – The Former Queens Head, Ford Street, Aldham – New windows and internal alterations (listed building)

Comments: No Objections

Decision: Refuse

20/88

Speeding in Aldham

The Questionnaire for Ford Street had now been completed and the results sent to CBC Lewis Barber. He would send a copy of the results to CBC Brian Jarvis, CBC Dennis Willetts & ECC Anne Hughes.

The Clerk informed the meeting that 16 responses had been received and collated. CBC Dennis Willetts explained the main issue is speeding cars coming down the hill and into built up area. The mini-roundabout suggestion could have issues with “line of sight” in relation to vehicles coming down the hill, which could make it more dangerous. He stated that it was a more complex situation than normal traffic solutions.

Cllr Tory Cook asked if the traffic lights could be changed to stop cars at the Bridge, Ford Street (coming in from White Colne direction), even when nothing was coming the other way at night times, since cars regularly fly through the lights knowing that they will remain green and keep going at high speeds through village.

The Parish Clerk was actioned to look into this.

Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that Community Speed Watch had been suspended due to COVID (lockdown). She informed the meeting that 4 people had volunteered to do Community Speed Watch as a result of the questionnaire.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Community Speed Watch is unlikely to resume until January 2021 at the earliest.

ONGOING

20/89

Millennium Playing Field & Playground 2020

Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that the owner of the land would not renew the current lease on the Millennium Playing Field, which expires on the 27th June 2023. This would mean the Parish Council would need to look at other sites as a playground.

Cllr Adam Scott stated that the Parish Council would need to look at the need for a playing field, to look at the size of a new playing field and should write to landowners offering to rent at commercial rate for farmland. He suggested that any new lease should be longer in duration of years to ensure that it would be more secure.

Cllr Jackie Daines asked Cllr Adam Scott if he could supply a list of the landowners to the Parish Clerk, Cllr Adam Scott stated he would do so.

Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that the new playing field, did not need to be as big as the current playing field.

Cllr Adam Scott suggested that 2 smaller sites maybe an option.

Cllr Adam Scott asked if it was possible for a list of land owned by the Parish Council to be circulated to the Parish Councillors. The Parish Clerk was actioned to send the list to the Parish Councillors.

Cllr Jackie Daines concluded by saying that it was important to establish what use is made of the Playing Field at present.

ONGOING

20/90

Pumpkin Patch

Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that the ticketing & booking system for the Pumpkin Patch had been very successful this year and there had been no complaints in relation to the event. The Clerk was actioned to contact local residents in Green Lane to see how they thought the event had gone this year. Cllr Jackie Daines actioned the Parish Clerk to thank the Pumpkin Patch owners on behalf of the Parish Council for all their hard work and efforts.

ONGOING

20/91

Flooding (Ford Street)

Cllr Jackie Daines had met with residents in relation to flooding on Ford Street. Colchester Workhorse had been asked to look at the ditches behind Ford Street and quote for work to clear the ditches. The quote was for £850 for 2 days work to clear the ditches and remove overhanging branches. This would allow Flood Waters to access the river and alleviate the problem.

Cllr Adam Scott stated that the best course of action would be settlement with the landowners rather clearing the ditches. He stated that if we cleared one ditch, then other residents would expect the same. He suggested that residents might look at funding the clearance themselves.

Cllr Jackie Daines stated that Ford Street had flooded again today (03/11/20) due to the heavy rain in the morning. She further reported that she might need to meet with the landowners once more after lockdown to discuss this further. **ONGOING**

20/92

Training/Events

92.1 Reports on attended events
None

92.2 Nominations for new events
None

20/93

Information Exchange/Items for next agenda

Cllr Adam Scott asked for overhanging trees/verges to be added to the next agenda. Cllr Ann Honeyball mentioned flooding outside her house on New Road and asked that a letter be send to landowners opposite to clear ditches and alleviate the problem. Cllr Jackie Daines suggested gifts to local residents for work on potholes and clearing of litter through out the year. Cllr Adam Scott suggesting a further gift for work on Footpaths as well. Agreed by all.

20/94

To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....