

Aldham Parish Council

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 7.30 P.M in the Village Hall, Aldham

- Present:** Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hall (Vice Chairman), Cllr Brenda Brown, Cllr Iain Wicks, Cllr Adam Scott, CBC Dennis Willetts, CBC Martin Leatherdale, ECC/CBC Lewis Barber, the Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw and 1 resident.
- 20/159 Welcome and apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Tory Cook & Cllr Andrew D'Angibau
- 20/160 Declaration of Members interests**
None
- 20/161 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)**
A resident reported that there was overgrown weeds, moss & tree branches overhanging along the walkways in Hardings Close. She explained that these used to be cleared by Colchester Borough Homes but had not been done in a long while. CBC Martin Leatherdale will contact Colchester Borough Homes on the resident's behalf. A resident reported that the drain outside the village hall that runs under New Road has been overflowing when it rains, this in turn creates an issue outside the church going onto Hardings Close where the water should flow underneath New Road. CBC Martin Leatherdale will look into this issue and report back to the Parish Council.
- 20/162 To approve the minutes of the last meeting (4th May 2021)**
The minutes of the meeting were approved with the following amendment added to show that Cllr Adam Scott was present at the meeting. Signed by the chairman.
Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall Seconded: Brenda Brown
- 20/163 Visitors Report (CBC Dennis Willetts/CBC Martin Leatherdale/ECC Lewis Barber)**
ECC Lewis Barber informed the meeting that Jon Simmons at Essex County Council had picked a number of possible locations for the speeding strips and that ECC Lewis Barber would send these to the chairman Jackie Daines to make sure the locations were suitable and that the Parish Council was happy with them.
ECC Lewis Barber reported that he was looking into collecting more information on the VAS signs for Aldham and suggested working with other parishes in the area. He suggested Fordham & Wormingford were looking to work together in relation to VAS signs. Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that we had been looking at working with White Colne before Covid had disrupted proceedings and would make contact with them once more.
CBC Martin Leatherdale introduced himself to the meeting and explained his working background and what he could do for the Parish Council.
Cllr Jackie Daines reported that the VAS in Ford Street was not working – ECC Lewis Barber informed the meeting that he would get someone to look at fixing it for us.
ECC Lewis Barber reported that Highways would be sending someone down to sort out bollards & clear weeds on the Ford Street Bridge. He informed the meeting that money would be put towards strengthening the bridge but would not make it wider. An option study on the bridge would be conducted to see what could be done with the bridge. ECC Lewis Barber would like our ideas on what could be done.

20/164 Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Grapevine editor asking for a donation to help with publishing costs. Cllr Jackie Daines proposed to give a donation of £400 from the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Jackie Daines

Seconded: Cllr Chris Hall

Agreed by all.

20/165 Finance

To approve payments in accordance with the Budget

Payments for June/July 2021

BHIB Insurance	£537.59
RoSPA Playground Inspection	£99.00
Landscape Services	£276.00
Millennium Playing Ground Rent	£300.00
SLCC Membership	£45.00
PC Salary	£457.99
Flowers for Church Memorial	£28.00
Donation Air Ambulance	£20.00
Landscape Services	£276.00
Mileage Expenses	£3.60
HMRC Tax/Paye	£114.40
Zoom Invoice	<u>£14.39</u>
Total for June	<u>£2,171.97</u>

PC Salary	£457.79
Mileage Expenses	£3.60
HMRC Tax/Paye	£114.60
Landscape Services	£276.00
Landscape Services	£276.00
Landscape Services	£120.00
CALC Subscription	£35.00
RCCE Membership	£52.80
Zoom Invoice	<u>£14.39</u>
Total for July	<u>£1,350.18</u>

It was proposed to approve the Parish Council 3 Year Budget Plan as outlined by the Parish Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr Chris Hall

Seconded: Cllr Jackie Daines

Agreed by all

20/166 Planning/Housing

166.1 Applications for discussion at meeting None

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

211386 – The Coopers, Ford Street, Aldham – Add south facing window to upper floor, external porch to former cellar doors becoming main entrance, existing door to be removed, cart lodge 3 vehicles: workshop

Comments: No Objection

211604 – Barn at, Aldham Hall Farm, Brook Road, Aldham – COU

Agricultural buildings to residential dwelling house

Comments: The Parish Council have concerns about the amount of development on this site and would object to this planning application under creeping development and that it is outside the village envelope.

166.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received since last meeting

211309 – Half a Loaf cottage, Rectory Road, Aldham – Summerhouse in rear garden of listed building: summerhouse is 17th Century timber & currently in storage. It is proposed to raise the summerhouse roof to take slates to match surrounding buildings.

Comments: No Objection

Decision: Approve Conditional

20/167

Speeding in Aldham

ECC Lewis Barber explained about the ATC (Automatic Traffic Counters) and their locations around Aldham. Cllr Iain Wicks reported that drivers were still going too fast through Brook Road and many driving on the wrong side of the road making it very dangerous for everybody concerned. Cllr Jackie Daines would look at the proposed ATC sites and report back to ECC Lewis Barber.

20/168

Playground Inspection 2021 & Playground Swings

The Playground Inspection identified issues with the timber at the foot of the playground swings that deemed them to be a very high risk. The Parish Council agreed to remove the playground swings at its May meeting; Colchester Workhorse has now carried this out. The swings will be held in storage for new location for playground.

20/169

Millennium Playing Field & Playground 2020

The Millennium Playing Field Rent (£300) for 2020/2021 has been paid.

20/170

Flooding

The working party will meet on Tuesday 13th July 2021 and report back to the September PC Meeting. Cllr Jackie Daines requested that the Flooding Working Party be held in advance of the PC meetings from now on – so that they could give report at the PC Meeting. Agreed by all.

20/171

Village Event

Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that a provisional date of Saturday 11th September 2021 was suggested for holding a village event.

A resident suggested holding the event at the village hall and this was agreed by all.

Cllr Chris Hall will book the date in the village hall diary.

It was proposed that the event would be jointly held by the Parish Council & the Village Hall Committee between 3.00 p.m. & 7.00 p.m. and would involve a BBQ & a local resident playing their guitar as part of a social gathering. The event would be free to all residents and a budget of £300 was agreed by all to cover the cost of the event.

20/172

Village Hall Event

The Tyler Kemp Band has been booked for a village event in the village hall on Saturday 11th December 2021. The event will be free to all residents.

Agreed by all.

- 20/173 Queens Platinum Anniversary Celebrations**
A provisional date of Saturday 4th June 2022 has been agreed for the Queens 70th Anniversary. Events around the country are planned from the Thursday 2nd July 2022 to Monday 6th July 2022
Cllr Iain Wicks suggested looking at other bands than Tyler Kemp.
A resident suggested a band called Durango that did country and western type music. The resident informed the meeting that she could look into costing's for the band and would report back to the Parish clerk with prices.
- 20/174 Adoption of BT Phone Box**
The Parish Council have now formally adopted the telephone box in New Road, Aldham and plan to install shelving to use for a book exchange and seed exchanges during the spring/summer months. The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact a handy man willing to fit the shelving in the telephone box.
- 20/175 The Co-option Policy**
It was proposed to approve the new co-option policy
Proposed: Cllr Adam Scott Seconded: Cllr Chris Hall
Agreed by all
- 20/176 Training/Events**
176.1 Reports on attended events
None

176.2 Nominations for new events
None
- 20/177 Working from Home Policy 2021**
The Chairman Jackie Daines conducted a zoom review of the working conditions of the Parish Clerk in January 2021. It was proposed that the Parish Council approve the review and adopt the updated working from Home Policy 2021.
Proposed: Cllr Jackie Daines Seconded: Cllr Adam Scott
Agreed by all.
- 20/178 Wheelchair Hire**
Cllr Jackie Daines informed the meeting that she had heard of a scheme in a nearby village (Great Tey) that held a wheelchair that residents could hire and use when necessary. The wheelchair could be stored at the village hall; this would be put to the village hall committee at their next meeting.
Cllr Iain Wicks suggested putting an advert in the next grapevine and church newsletter as well as on facebook to see if anyone had a wheelchair that they would happily donate to the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk was actioned to provide an advert for use.
Proposed: Cllr Jackie Daines Seconded: Cllr Chris Hall
Agreed by all
- 20/179 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda**
Cllr Brenda Brown informed the meeting that the pavement on Ford Street Hill had still not been repaired. The Parish clerk was actioned to chase this up.
Cllr Iain Wicks reported that the footpath opposite rectory road needed to be cleared of vegetation – the Parish Clerk was actioned to have this done.
Cllr Iain Wicks suggested that it would be a good idea to put the Cif Grant Application out to the whole community. The Parish Clerk was actioned to do this.

Cllr Iain Wicks reported that he thought the Parish council needed to improve its communication with the residents of the village to engage with the community more and to get ideas from the residents themselves. He suggested using social media platforms such as facebook to do so. Cllr Iain Wicks volunteered to be the council representative in putting this information out into the community.

Cllr Jackie Daines reported that the memory book of photo's to show the effects of Covid would require further discussion and asked for it to be discussed at the September meeting.

Cllr Jackie Daines asked councillors to look at the window art competition over the next few days and let the chairman know which entries should be considered as potential winners of the competition.

20/180

To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....