

Aldham Parish Council

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham

- Present** Cllr Mike Lambert (Chairman), Cllr Adam Scott (Vice Chairman), Cllr Brenda Brown, CCC Dennis Willetts and 10 members of the public.
- 23/78 To accept Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies received from Cllr Andrew d'Angibau, CCC Sara Naylor, ECC Lewis Barber
- 23/79 Declarations of Interest**
None
- 23/80 Parish Clerk**
The Chairman announced the Council had accepted the resignation of the Parish Clerk, Grahame Walkingshaw on 9th January 2024 with immediate effect. It was reported that because a handover has not been possible some matters on the Agenda would be deferred until the next meeting in February.
- 23/81 Toxic Behaviour in the Workplace**
Cllr Adam Scott explained a Webinar on Toxic Behaviour in the workplace, how to recognise it and how to deal with it. It was noted that in the Council's recent experience such issues have taken many hours to deal with but now the Council can focus on rebuilding their relationship with the Village and APC will continue to work towards the Civility and Respect Pledge
- 23/82 Playing Field**
Henry Holmes, (HH) owner of the present playing field gave a short presentation outlining proposals for the field. He explained potential options for building but also retaining a play area with the intention of developing a more detailed plan. HH confirmed the planting along Brook Road will not be affected by any plans. Further ideas and options will be put to the whole village within the next 6-12 months. The Council noted the presentation and welcomed the intention to carry out further consultation. The Council also requested the playing field remain available to the village whilst future plans are discussed. HH to consider and respond to the Parish Council.
- 23/83 Public Open Forum**
A resident raised the matter of maintenance around Hardings Close, pointing out that the Council Tenants all pay a weekly sum towards this but no work is done. Dennis Willetts explained that all monies go to Colchester Borough Homes who decide how it is used but they have acknowledged the situation. The Chairman noted this matter had been raised before and undertook to follow up.
A resident reported on the issue of parking in Hardings Close and the possibility of dedicated residents parking areas. Dennis Willetts explained why there are many cars in Social Housing areas.
A resident noted that the hedge along Tey Road is encroaching and needs trimming.

- 24/83 To approve the minutes of the last meeting**
The Chairman commented on action taken on various items. Co-option of new Councillors deferred to the February meeting. No minutes available for the October 3rd 2023 meeting but there was a presentation at that meeting of how the APC work and this would be put on the website when we have access to it.
Proposed: Cllr Adam Scott Seconded: Cllr Brenda Brown
Agreed by All
- 24/84 Visitor's Report (CCC Dennis Willetts)**
Locality Budget. Aldham Village Hall have applied for funds towards a new porch at the Village Hall. Aldham Grapevine have also applied for funds.
A12/A120. A report from the meeting with National Highways arranged by Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and Cllr Barber and attended by local City and Parish Councillors has now been put on the Aldham Grapevine FB page.
- 24/85 Clerks's Report**
Payscale and Parish Clerk Salary noted
- 23/86 Finance**
No access to necessary paperwork was available.
The Parish Council were unable to consider Budget figures.
Item deferred
- Date of Internal Audit on 17th April 2024 noted
Internal Audit. To approve 3 payments in January to the outgoing Clerk for salary, PAYE and expenses to date of leaving amounting to £746.20
Proposed: Mike Lambert Seconded: Adam Scott
All agreed
- 23/87 Planning/Housing**
- 23/87.1** No new Planning Applications to report.
- 23/87.2** None
- 23/87.3** The Chairman circulated Draft Planning Committee Terms of Reference for discussion. These had been prepared with the intention of clarifying when the Planning Committee should meet and the procedure for responding to minor and householder applications without the need for a meeting. The Terms of Reference would be considered for decision at the next meeting.
- 23/87.4** Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Willetts explained the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan in terms of the control it potentially gave but the PC felt the village was too small to justify the work and expense but agreed to keep the matter under review.
- 23/88 CALC Representative (Colchester Association of Local Councils)**
Chairman Mike Lambert agreed to stand as new CALC representative.
Proposed: Cllr Adam Scott Seconded: Cllr Brenda Brown
All agreed
- 23/89 Ground Maintenance Contract**
Deferred – no information available
- 23/90 Precept 2024/25**
Deferred - no information available

23/98

Information Exchange/Items for next Agenda

Norwich to Tilbury Pylons - The Parish Council had joined a webinar with Colchester City Councils new National Significant Infrastructure Projects lead who outline the likely time line for a Statement of Community consultation paper due shortly ahead of the main statutory consultation on National Grids proposals that is expected in April 2024. This consultation will be key and is likely to last for 10 weeks.

23/99

To confirm date and time of next meetings

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Mike Lambert

Chairman

Date: 6th February 2024