

Aldham Parish Council

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham

Present Cllr Mike Lambert (Chairman), Cllr Adam Scott (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Andrew d'Angibau, Cllr Brenda Brown, CCC Sara Naylor and 8 members of the public

24/001 To accept apologies for absence:
 ECC Lewis Barber, CCC Dennis Willetts

24/002 Declaration of Interest- None declared

24/003 Public Open Forum

A resident noted that the road sign for Brook Road near the Village Hall needed repair.

24/004 To approve minutes of the last meeting

No comments.

Proposed: Cllr Adam Scott Seconded: Cllr Brenda Brown Agreed by all

24/005 Co-option

Roger Walker gave a short presentation to explain why he would like to join the Parish Council and was then unanimously voted by secret ballot to be co-opted.

The Chairman noted that the co-option of Yvonne Rann will be considered at the March meeting, meaning there will still be at least one vacancy and it was agreed to ask the Grapevine to advertise this in the forthcoming magazine with a deadline of the end of March for applications. These will then be considered at the April APC meeting.

24/006 Appointment of Parish Clerk

The Chairman thanked the temporary Clerk/RFO (Responsible Finance Officer), Kevin Money, for preparing the Budget and submitting the Precept details to CCC.

Cllr Adam Scott is to draft a job description for the advertisement for a permanent Parish Clerk/RFO

24/007 Visitor's Report (CCC Sara Naylor)

Pylons. The National Grid Statutory Consultation is likely to take place in April. James Ryan, lead Senior Planner is expected to visit the area before April to familiarise himself with local concerns. Sara Naylor urged everyone to continue to communicate via email to Bernard Jenkin their concerns about the National Grid proposals and in particular to highlight things that are important to them personally that would be adversely affected by the pylons.

Locality Grant. This provides CCC Councillors with a 2K budget to help with small projects in their area. In Aldham some of this money has been allocated to Aldham Church repairs, Social Sisters group for publicity, Aldham Messy Church, the Village Bar to advertise their events and a new fridge for the Village Hall.

Postal Service. Sara Naylor asked people to continue to report ongoing problems.

Roads. CCC will continue to push for remedial action concerning the damage to local roads and National Highways have agreed to consider a plan with ECC to deter 'rat runs' connected with the A12 works. A further meeting will be held at the end of February

24/008 Finance

Salary payment to Kevin Money for preparing Budget/Precept agreed and signed off.

The Chairman confirmed that the APC budget will provide a reserve as indicated.

24/009 Planning

None have been notified. The Chairman has advised the Planning Office of the temporary email for Aldham Parish Council.

24/010 Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee

It was proposed that the amended draft clarifying when the Planning Committee would meet and the procedure for responding to Planning applications, should be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr Adam Scott Seconded: Cllr Andrew d'Angibau
All agreed

24/011 Millenium Playing Field

Henry Holmes, the owner, has agreed to extend the Parish Council's lease/licence of the Playing Field until such time as the family have finalised any alternative.

24/012 Website

It was agreed that there is an urgent need to update/renew the Website. A Working Group was set up to achieve this consisting of Cllr Andrew d'Angibau, Cllr Brenda Brown, Cllr Roger Walker and Tony Geary (resident). Its terms to be to make recommendations to the Parish Council at the March, if possible, or April Meeting on means of establishing a new website, ongoing maintenance and updating and provision of separate email address for the Clerk and all Councillors

Proposed: Mike Lambert (Chairman) Seconded: Cllr Adam Scott All agreed

24/013 Donation

It was agreed to provide a donation of £400 to the Aldham Grapevine Magazine

Proposed: Mike Lambert (Chairman) Seconded: Cllr Andrew d'Angibau All agreed

24/014 Training

The Chairman to circulate the various EALC Training programmes that are available to new and existing Councillors. It was noted that a Bursary of 75% towards the costs is also available to Aldham as a small Parish.

24/015 Information Exchange

Pylons. Cllr Andrew d'Angibau noted the difficulties in communicating with Fischer German and National Grid. CCC Sara Naylor agreed to follow it up.

Tey Road. County Broadband are investigating the flooding problem.

Speeding. PC Martin Baumber, Essex Police Rural Engagement Team had contacted the Council. A recent speed check in Brook Road near the Village hall showed a maximum speed of 35mph from a count of 100 vehicles. This was undertaken in mid afternoon. The Parish Council have advised that the problem is both volume and speeding during the morning and evening 'rush hour' between Marks Tey and the A1124.

The Grapevine have been asked to advertise for volunteers to man the Speed Gun so that further checks can be made.

Brook Road flooding. ECC Lewis Barber has been advised that flooding is still a problem due to blocked gulleys. A Highways 'Gulley Sucker' has been seen recently in the Village and some gulleys have been cleared but not Brook Road.

24/016 To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm