ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd. September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall at Aldham	**Action**
Present: Cllrs Mike Lambert (Chair), Brenda Brown, Andrew D'Angibau, Tony Gearey, Jean Jennings, Adam Scott, Roger Walker, ECC Cllr L. Barber and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also present 13 members of the public. **115/2024 Apologies for absence** None received **116/2024 Declaration of Members interests** To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda. **None declared** **117/2024 To approve the minutes of the last meetings held on Tuesday 2nd. July 2024 All agreed** **118/2024 Public Open Forum (Maximum 15 minutes)** FP5 – The directional sign has been knocked down and it is overgrown. Cllr J. Jennings has already reported this problem. **119/2024 Visitors Report** (CCC Dennis Willetts / CCC Sara Naylor / ECC Lewis Barber) • New Bus Shelters in the village – ECC Cllr L. Barber The bus shelter issue suggestions should be put forward to CCC. Any shelter requirement let Cllr L. Barber know • ECC Locality Fund, CIF and Local Community Fund – ECC Cllr L. Barber All above funds are now open for applications. Any applications should be forwarded to Cllr L. Barber. An update on the local plan is due in October/November The Chair took the next items out of order from the agenda due to the issues raised in emails and on Grapevine FB page regarding traffic and highways matters. **120/2024 Speed Indicator Display Update and related matters.** It has taken a considerable time for the speed sign shared with Fordham and Wormingford to be in Aldham village. It has ECC approval for use in Ford Street and on Brook Road. The post in Brook Road is not large enough to take the sign (Cllr A d'Angibau to investigate). The Clerk circulated costing for a new SID for the village with scope for recording traffic speeds and volume. Cllr T. Gearey proposed setting up a Working Group (Cllrs Gearey, Jennings and Lambert) to look at all highway issues. Cllr M. Lambert seconded. **All Agreed.** Terms of reference for the Traffic & Highways WG to include: • whether more signage could be purchased to slow down vehicles? • Speed Gun: Can a Speedwatch team be resurrected? A number of volunteers are required to make this viable. Non-Councillors are very welcomed. Cllr T. Gearey to promote this team on Facebook. • FP/Cycle link to Marks Tey referred to in **Agenda item 133/2024**. **121/2024 Other Highway Issues** Cllr L Barber confirmed it is currently impossible to change speed limits, particularly changing 60mph speed limit to 40mph in rural areas as it contrary to current ECC policy. Changing from 30mph to 20mph is a little more possible. Cllr L Barber encouraged the PC to respond to the Draft Transport Strategy which provides opportunity to change this policy. Cllr M. Lambert to coordinate Councillors recommendations and to send the response before the next APC meeting in October	**Cllr A d'Angibau** **Cllr T. Gearey/Cllr M. Lambert** **Cllr M. Lambert**

It was noted that a number of posts are being put on the highway verges (Agenda Item 130). The Parish Council has no powers over these obstructions on the verge, which are in the jurisdiction of ECC Highways.
Cllr L. Barber to ask the ECC Highways verge officer to attend the area to advise on street furniture — **Cllr L. Barber**

A12 Update. Recent closures have caused some disruption but works are coming to an end. However, future A12 widening works will continue long into the future and the need for liaison with National Highways will be important.

Footpaths. Footpath 5 was impassible due to crop growth but is now fully open.
Works adjoining FP7 at Ashington Lodge were noted but FP open. Situation to be monitored

122/2024 Finance

a) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2024
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budgeted for 2024/25

c) To approve the payment of Accounts for August & September 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

d) Councillors to discuss joining RCCE at £36.75p +VAT
Cllr M. Lambert proposed joining RCCE. Cllr A. Scott seconded. **All Agreed**
The Clerk to send off the RCCE application form — **Clerk**

123/2024 Budget 2025/2026 - Councillors to discuss draft budget
Councillors noted the initial draft budget for 2025-2026 — **Clerk**

124/2024 APC Policies - Councillors to re-adopt the APC policies following working party meeting recommendations. Standing Orders: Code of Conduct: Financial Regulations: FOI: Complaints: Co-Option: Highly Infectious Disease: Statement of Internal Control: Reserves policy: Grant application: Internet Banking: Privacy Policy: Media and Communication policy: Data Protection policy
Cllr T. Gearey proposed adopting the above policies on-bloc. Cllr B. Brown seconded.
All Agreed. Cllr T. Gearey to place these policies onto the website — **Cllr T. Gearey**

125/2024 Response to National Grid Statutory Consultation – Cllr A. Scott
The response has been sent to National Grid and no further action is necessary at this time

126/2024 Planning Applications. No planning applications have been received

127/2024 Planning Decisions affecting Aldham
Councillors noted the planning decisions made by CCC below
Reference No. 241275 - Ashington Lodge New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3QT
Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed
The decision made is: **Prior Approval Required (Refused)**
To view the details of the decision on our website, please click on the link below:
View Planning Application

Reference No. 241291 - Somerson House, New Road Aldham Colchester CO6 3PN
Demolition of existing dilapidated outbuildings
The decision made is: **Approve Conditional**
To view the details of the decision on CCC website, please click on the link below:
View Planning Application

a) Planning Appeal
Planning Inspectorate APP/A1530/W/23/3336150: Old Bourchiers Hall New Road CO6 3QU.
The appeal is dismissed

128/2024 Unauthorised development at Ashington Lodge – update from Cllr M. Lambert
Cllr M. Lambert read out the Enforcement Officer's response that planning permission was required but action in abeyance pending submission of a retrospective application. **Noted**

127/2024 Draft Recycling & Waste Strategy consultation launch
This consultation has closed on 19th. August 2024

CCC preferences is to introduce wheelie bins but the capital expenditure is vast. Local residents feel that this is not a good idea. A decision will be made in the future	
128/2024 Update on meeting with CBH – Cllr M. Lambert A number of issues have been raised about grounds maintenance. Cllr M. Lambert met with CBH and a number of further issues were taken back by CBH. Further works on the drainage ditched on New Road will be investigated thoroughly. The area has been tidied up sporadically but still leaves a lot to be desired. Some progress has been made.	
129/2024 Review of the Survey results and in particular our response to the four main issues of housing, Millennium Playing Field, Gallows Green and FP/cycleway link to Marks Tey. The housing and millennium playing field are linked and what is CCC options looking at. APC is waiting for any response from CCC planners The Survey was discussed and it was agreed that a response will be published online outlining the Parish Councils position and also to thank all this who took the time and effort to respond to the survey	
130/2024 Obstructions on highway verges - raised on Facebook - See item 121/2024	
131/2024 Hedge on playing field – update from the Clerk A quotation has been received for £250 and Councillors agreed not proceed but Cllr d'Angibau undertook to cut back when time permits	**Cllr. A d'Angibau**
132/2024 A12 Meeting – update from Cllr M. Lambert - See item 121/2024	
133/2024 Speed Sign in Ford Street – update on pole position from The Clerk • Clerk to update for moving Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Aldham • Update on having a SID in Brook Road See item 120/2024	
134/2024 Footpath issue raised on FB – Cllr T. Gearey See item 121/2024	
135/2024 Gallows Green update from Cllr M. Lambert See item 129/2024 An understanding of better use on a management plan. Open pond to get more lighting. Essex Wildlife Trust was going to attend the village to see how a management plan could be introduced. Re-wilding works well if set up properly. Contact Woodland Trust and chase EWT	**Cllr A Scott/Cllr B Brown**
136/2024 To consider training opportunities available from EALC All training courses have been circulated to Councillors	
137/2024 Information Exchange Boundary Review. Will Aldham be affected with CCC Councillors. Cllr L. Barber thought there would be no change.	
138/2024 Items for next agenda 2025-2026 budget: Speed Indicator Device (SID) Working Group report on Speeding/Highways issues in the village	
139/2024 To confirm date and time of next meetings. Tuesday 1st. October 2024 at 7.30pm. The rest of 2024 meeting dates are 5th. November & 3rd. December 2024	
140/2024 Councillors to discuss and agree on 2025 meeting dates 07.01.25: 04.02.25: 04.03.25: 01.04.25: 06.05.25: 03.06.25: 01.07.25: 02.09.25: 07.10.25: 04.11.25: 02.12.25	
141/2024 Closure of the Meeting - To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.10pm and thanked everyone for attending	
Signed *MLambert* 1st. October 2024 **Mike Lambert – Chair**	