

Minutes of Aldham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.30 P.M in Aldham Village Hall, Small Room

Present: Cllr Jackie Daines (Chairman), Cllr Chris Hall, Cllr Ann Honeyball, Cllr John D'Angibau, & Cllrs Adam Scott. The Clerk, Mr G. Walkingshaw, CBC Brian Jarvis, CBC Lewis Barber & CBC Dennis Willetts and 43 residents including Anne Brown (Essex County Councillor). Clive Woodruff, Structures Manager and Gopalasingam Pirathapam, Principal Engineer

18/83 To accept Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr Clive Bainbridge & Cllr Barry Webber.

18/84 To receive and record Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest

None.

18/85 Matters raised by Residents

A discussion followed regarding the Roman River Bridge.

Clive Woodruff, Structures Manager and Gopalasingam Pirathapam, Principal Engineer representing Essex Highways attended the meeting to deal with any questions or concerns.

The chairman explained to the meeting that the Parish Council had not been informed of the work on the Roman River Bridge until it was brought to our attention by a resident's letter in late October. The Chairman expressed that this was unacceptable and that residents should have been consulted earlier.

Plans were put up on the wall showing the work needing to be completed; the maps were dated January 2018 & February 2018.

A resident asked why they had not been consulted until now, given the plans were completed in January/February 2018. Clive Woodruff responded by saying that in hindsight they should have consulted residents sooner, they couldn't come to us in January/February 2018 due to the confidential nature of contractors discussions.

Another resident enquired whether they would be able to get to Marks Tey on a mobility scooter? Gopalasingam Pirathapam informed the meeting that there would be pedestrian access at the site of the work to allow pedestrians through.

A resident informed the meeting that they went swimming in Marks Tey. Clive Woodruff explained that although the road would be closed from 19th November 2018 until the 21st December 2018, it would be open from the 22nd December 2018 to 2nd January 2019, before closing again until March 2019. The old bridge would not be down before xmas time and Essex Highways would remove brambles from the area to begin with.

A resident asked about the weight limit for the bridge – 3 tonnes – and asked whether this restriction would come off once the bridge had been built? He also asked whether we could have not suitable for HGV signs. Clive Woodruff said they would consider it and come back to the Parish Council with an answer to this. The Chairman, Jackie Daines said this should be a definite and not just for consideration as Aldham has had problems with HGV's in the past. Clive Woodruff suggested that residents lobby a member of parliament regarding the weight restriction being lifted.

CBC Brian Jarvis stated that when the bridge in Bakers Lane was repaired, signs had been added without any problem.

Gopalasingam Pirathapam informed the meeting that Essex Highways had been monitoring the bridge for some time and that the steel girders had gone beyond the stage of needing repairs and required replacing.

A resident asked how the decision was made in the first place, by whom and at what costing's? Essex County Councillor Anne Brown said to ask her for costing's and not the officers present. Clive Woodruff explained that the Essex Management Team prioritise works to be completed; the Roman River Bridge was a high priority and had agreed funding with members.

Cllr Adam Scott stated that the bridge had been left untouched for many years and that the new bridge could be beneficial.

Clive Woodruff mentioned to the meeting that the bridge over the railway line at Marks Tey is high priority as well. The work on this bridge would require closing the road for 3 weeks, however both bridges could not be closed at the same time due to the houses in between. The work would commence immediately after the Roman River Bridge completion.

A resident mentioned that speeding vehicles was an issue regarding safety and enquired whether Essex Highways would provide traffic calming measures? Clive Woodruff stated that we would need to lobby the county council for traffic calming measures.

A resident asked if any thought had gone into making the bridge single track, similar to the one in Ford Street? Gopalasingam Pirathapam informed the meeting that the structure in the middle of the bridge is badly damaged and the bridge requires replacement.

The Chairman Jackie Daines stated that there had been ongoing issues with the condition of the bridge stretching back 15/20 years.

A resident asked what the width of the new bridge would be? Gopalasingam Pirathapam stated that it would be a proper 2-lane bridge with a footpath once completed. Clive Woodruff stated it would be much wider than the old bridge and that it would be 7.5 metres wide. The resident asked about blind spots on the old bridge. Gopalasingam Pirathapam informed the resident that the large tree causing the blind spot would be removed.

A resident stated that the timing of this work was very poor, winter weather for people trying to get to Marks Tey station who might need to walk now.

Chairman Jackie Daines said that most people accept that the bridge needs replacing and are aware now of how long it will take. However, concerns are that the bridge could be delayed due to the time of the year and that repairs could end up being extended for longer periods of time. Clive Woodruff said that it is connected to the financial year, that it is an annual programme of works and has been in the programme since February 2018. Funding will continue until completion of work, contractors have penalty clauses in contract if work is incomplete or time is extended.

A resident stated that the scheme of work should be listed as maintenance rather than improvements. He suggested there should be a comprehensive scheme to make it safe and to reduce the speeds and amount of traffic. He said the new bridge would increase dangers not reduce them.

Essex County Councillor informed the meeting that people walking or cycling to Marks Tey station should send suggestions to the Local Highways Panels to let them know what we need. A form could be obtained from the internet.

A resident asked why this bridge would take four months compared to bridges on the motorway that are completed in a week? Clive Woodruff explained it was down to costing and the budget for motorways was different for the budget for the Roman River Bridge.

A resident stated that the meeting wouldn't make a scrap of difference to Essex Highways decisions since they planned to commence work on the 19th November 2018, he also asked if the plans and drawings could be put on the county website. Gopalasingam Pirathapam said that could be done.

Essex County Councillor Anne Brown said it was amiss of Essex Highways only letting us know about the bridge now. The Parish Council's should have been informed of these decisions before the final decision was made. Restrictions could be made by Marks Tey and Aldham to the Highways Panel.

Gopalasingam Pirathapam would e-mail the Parish Clerk for Aldham with e-mail address for questions and concerns. Other general enquiries could go through the Parish Clerk.

A resident asked whether the Essex Highways would inform residents about the Railway Bridge in Marks Tey, since they had failed to do so with the residents in Aldham?

Another resident stated that the total lack of consultation should see the scheme being deferred until a coherent strategy was put in place. Residents would prefer proper traffic management rather than new bridge.

A resident asked why this could not be done in summer and asked if we could veto this decision? Gopalasingam Pirathapam said the answer would be no because of the issue of safety being a concern for the bridge.

CBC Dennis Willetts said it would be nice to delay the work but that the bridge repairs are needed due to safety issue. What would happen if the bridge collapsed? The Local Highways Panel would consider environmental scheme and other footpaths but would require evidence to justify changes (e.g. how many people walk to the station, how many people cycle, etc.).

CBC Lewis Barber said one of the issues was the last minute notification with the signs being put up before any notification had begun. Speeding was another of the main issues and Essex Highways mechanism for consulting residents was disappointing.

A resident asked when the rail bridge is closed; will the car park be cut off? Gopalasingam Pirathapam stated that the car park would remain open. He was also consulting with Network Rail regularly, expressing the need for night-time work to avoid rail disruption.

A resident asked whether a formal complaint could be made to Essex Highways. The Parish Council will do this.

A resident left two questions for the Parish Council in relation to Dog Poo outside the village hall, which had now been collected and the drains in Green Lane & New Road – Anglian Water had been working on this issue this week, however, it is believed the problem is caused by the area being totally flat.

18/86 To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting.

The minutes of the meeting dated 4th September 2018 were approved.
Minutes signed by the Chairman

18/87 To receive visitors report from the Ward Councillors

CBC Brian Jarvis reported that Locality Budget could be used to buy a speed gun for Aldham. It would then belong to the Parish Council who would be required to maintain equipment, insure equipment and ensure it was working properly. The Parish Clerk was actioned to apply for funding to purchase a speed gun.

CBC Lewis Barber to consult with ECC Anne Brown in relation to speeding issues in Aldham. CBC Lewis Barber will put application into Local Highways Panel.

CBC Dennis Willetts reported that we could put down speed cables as had been done in Eight Ash Green and could be funded by the Parish Council at a cost of £220 for each road.

CBC Lewis Barber informed the meeting that two areas had been identified in Ford Street & Crossroads at Village Hall.

CBC Lewis Barber informed the meeting that the Waste Portfolio has put out leaflets on wheelie bins.

CBC Lewis Barber reported that street week would involve the police visiting areas to deal with smaller crime. Aldham Parish Council would look at setting up Neighbourhood Watch as this had proved successful in the past.

18/88 Clerk's Report Nothing to report.

18/89 Finance

89.1 To approve payments for signature at today's meeting and to receive financial report as at today's date

Approved payments totalled £899.10.

Payments as follows:

PC Salary	£433.12
Mileage Expenses	£3.60
HMRC (Paye/Tax)	£108.40
Colchester Borough Council (Street Lights)	£11.39
Repairs to Village Notice Board	£42.59
Jane Kemp Music for WW1 Event	£300.00
	<u>£899.10</u>

18/90 Planning/Housing

90.1 Applications for discussion at meeting

182534 – Honeysuckle Cottage, Halstead Road, Aldham, CO6 3PP – Outline

Application – Proposed Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow

Comments: Is totally against the street scene, access onto main road (dangerous), no drop kerb – can't have access without this, PC against this – unanimous.

182576 – Clearview, Rectory Road, Aldham, CO6 3RR – Removal of static caravans and replacement with 1 detached dwelling

Comments: Lewis will look into this, if they remove statics – would we need to create another traveller site?? Have moved onto verge (creep) – doesn't belong to them.

Proposing chalet/bungalow – owner of land has been asking local people about this.

Outside village envelope – not large enough to sustain permanent building?? CBC should turn this down if outside village envelope.

PC object to this application.

Corvette (Ben Hughes) – just come in – variation of condition regarding stud farm

Comments: Jackie to speak with owner regarding this.

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

182161 – Motts Cottage, Rectory Road, Aldham, CO6 3RR – Planning and Listed Building Consent application for internal alterations, removal and replacement of modern staircase in Oak, replacement of existing softwood windows with oak windows with slim profile IGU's and the insertion of a window.

Comments: No Objections **Decision Made:** Approve Conditional

182348 – Kingsdown, Green Lane, Aldham, CO6 3PR – Proposed cart lodge and garage conversion.

Comments: Object on grounds of over development of site

90.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from since last meeting

None

18/91 Roman River Bridge

To discuss closure of bridge for 121 days

18/92 Interpretation Boards

A quote has been received from Skylight Signs to replace the interpretation boards. The cost to complete new artwork and replace the boards would be £5,661.60. The Parish Council considered this to be too high. Cllr Adam Scott will liaise with Claire Geary (Grapevine Editor) to see if local artists could complete the work as a village project.

18/93 Community Speed Watch

Discussed under 18/87 CBC Brian Jarvis report.

18/94 World War 1 Commemoration

The Chairman, Jackie Daines invited all residents attending the meeting to the event on Sunday 11th November from 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in the village hall. Volunteers will be needed at the end of the night to help with clearing everything away.

18/95 Christmas Gifts 2018

It was agreed that the Chairman would buy Christmas gifts for three residents who have the roles of dealing with pot holes, litter picking and refuse collection for the playground.
Agreed by all.

18/96 Meeting Dates 2019

The Parish Clerk presented the following dates for Parish Council meetings in 2019:
Tuesday 8th January 2019
Tuesday 5th March 2019
Tuesday 2nd April 2019
Tuesday 7th May 2019
Tuesday 2nd July 2019
Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Tuesday 5th November 2019
The dates were accepted and agreed by all.

18/97 Grapevine & Poppy Appeal

The Parish Council agreed to give a £400 donation to the Grapevine and £40 to the Royal British Legion.
Agreed by all.

18/98 Precept 2019

The Parish Council discussed whether to keep the precept as it was or to raise it in line with inflation (1.9%). The Parish Council decided to leave the precept as it is for the second year running.
Agreed by all.

18/99 Wreath for Remembrance Day

The wreath was given to Cllr John D'Angibau who will lay the wreath on behalf of Aldham Parish Council.

18/100 Training/Events

100.1 Reports on attended events

100.2 Nominations for new events

CBC Lewis Barber informed the meeting that he would approach planning and ask if a planning officer could come out and train councillors on planning.

Agreed by all.

18/101 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda

Cllr John D'Angibau has completed monthly inspection of playground. The hedge at the playground requires tidying up. The Parish Clerk was actioned to contact John Glover at Landscape Services to complete.

Chairman Jackie Daines had received a quote from Chris Wynn to strim all paths, quote for £400 was accepted by Parish Council. Agreed by all.

Cllr Chris Hall informed the meeting that Mrs Jean Jennings has volunteered her services as footpath officer.

18/102 To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date.....