

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL
held at Elmsett & Aldham Parish Hall on Tuesday 25th May 2021
immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: (see Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting)

1. Election of Chairman

Mr Ralph having indicated he was content to continue as Chairman, he was proposed for that position by Mr Crockatt, seconded by Mr Glazin. All were in favour. Mr Ralph then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

2. Other Appointments

Mr Ralph proposed Mr Beaver as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr Glazin. All were in favour.

3. Apologies for absence

(See Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting).

4. Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved unanimously.

5. Matters arising

There were none.

6. Time for Residents

No business arose from this item.

7. County Councillor's Report

(See Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting).

8. District Councillor's Report

(See Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting).

9. Finance and Governance

(a) The Chairman presented the internal audit report which had been signed off by Mrs Pat Bray, the internal auditor, and would be published on the council's website.

(b) The Annual Governance Statement was considered in detail and it was confirmed that the required standard was being adhered to. He proposed that the Statement be adopted, seconded by Mr Crockatt. All were in favour.

(c) The Accounting Statements for the period 2020/2021 were considered. The Chairman proposed that they be submitted to the external auditor, seconded by Mr Crockatt. All were in favour.

(d) The Chairman then proposed that the Certificate of Exemption, applicable to councils with an income of less than £25,000, should be sent to the external auditor. This was seconded by Mr Crockatt. All were in favour.

(e) The Chairman informed the meeting of the requirement that notice of conclusion of the audit should be posted on the council's notice board and website for a period of thirty days including the first ten working days of July. This notice would give the Clerk's contact details if anyone wished to examine the books of account. He proposed that the council should follow the suggestion of the external auditor that the period of posting should be 14th June to 21st July. All were in agreement.

(f) The Chairman proposed that a small ex gratia payment of £15.00 should be made to the external auditor, as in previous years. All were in favour. The Clerk was instructed to draw a cheque.

10. Planning

(a) Neighbourhood Plan – Review of proposal to implement NP update.

The Chairman reported that although the NP was in place, there was a need to anticipate what might be coming down from the updated Local Plan and also proposals from central government. This might require some alterations to the NP and the Chairman proposed that the council should instruct its planning consultant to review the NP and advise how the council should react to its effect on the NP, after ascertaining the likely fee and obtaining a grant to cover it. This was agreed unanimously.

(b) Proposed Boundary Commission changes.

The Chairman reported that the Commission had received a great deal of input about its proposals. The council's expressed view was that Aldham is a rural parish and did not want

to be part of a newly created council division which extended the “other” side of the A14 and A1071 and incorporated several clearly suburban settlements on the western outskirts of Ipswich.

(c) Application for Quiet Lane status for Cosford Road/ Holly Lane.

Mr Glazin reported that Phase 1 had been submitted and that Phase 2 was in progress. He was due to meet a Kersey parish councillor to consider extending the Quiet Lane status into Ivy Tree Lane. In due course there will be a need to put the relevant information on the council's website and in the newsletter.

(d) Flooding.

Although this item was not on the agenda, the Chairman expressed concern about surface water dispersal, because of the increased flooding of roads in the parish. He believed there was a need to escalate concerns more widely. A general discussion then followed, involving Mr Turner and his development plots facing Hadleigh Road, which Mr Crockatt reported had been subject to much flooding over the winter. Mr Turner undertook to work with the parish council to do what is required to resolve the problem, including meeting a drainage expert. Mr Crockatt reported that the County Council had made no comment on the issue, so he had escalated the matter with the chairman of the Babergh planning committee.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that there had been no correspondence other than the emailed items already circulated.

12. Footpaths

Mr Crockatt reported that the permitted access scheme had come to an end.

13. Any Other Business

Concerning possible future events, the Chairman asked whether there was any interest in having an Aldham social to introduce new people in the parish, especially now that the pandemic was coming to an end. This might be an informal drinks party, perhaps in the church. It might be possible to tie this in with a future drinks event when and if amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan were considered necessary. There was also the matter of how to celebrate next year's Platinum Jubilee.

14. Date of next meeting

This was agreed as 5th October 2021, though there may be the need for another meeting prior to that.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.