

Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Mark Brewer

Clerk: Kevin B. Money 7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN

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NEW WEBSITE: <https://e-voice.org.uk/alpc/>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th. December 2025 at 7pm in Alphamstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr M. Brewer (Chair), Cllr B. Twinn, Cllr S. Pitman, Cllr S. Willis, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was 5 members of the public present.

073/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr S. Nichols

074/2025 Declarations of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda
None Declared

075/2025 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4th. September 2025 **All Agreed**

076/2025 Essex County Council report – Cllr P. Schwier

ECC Cllr Peter Schwier noted in his email giving his apologies that the updates he provides via email should be noted.

077/2025 District Councillor report – Cllr D. Holland

Local Government Reorganisation – Essex is one of the first counties moving from all current levels of councils (District, City, Borough and County.) to three, four or five Unitary Councils to deliver all local government services. A Mayor for Greater Essex is scheduled for May 2028, having been postponed from May 2026. Authorities with high levels of debt will not be able to share that debt across Greater Essex. The proposed merger of Braintree District Council with Colchester City Council and Tendring Borough Council to form one Unitary Council could have implications for council taxes, given the higher costs for adult social care and SEND in Colchester, higher budget deficits and debt position. In May 2027 there will be elections for a “shadow unitary authority”, which will start work alongside the current councils, until April 1st. 2028, when the current councils will cease to exist and the new Unitary Authority will take over. The elected Mayor will have a seat (though not in the Commons) in Westminster. The next time public will vote will now be in 2028. All Essex and District Councillors will be going from 2028. Community Benefit funding will be made available from National Grid in early 2026, given the proximity to the Butlers Wood substation

078/2025 Public Forum A total of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation

Numerous residents spoke about supporting the planning application 25/02718/FUL.

079/2025 Salt bins need to be addressed also remove, repair, replace and fill

A&LPC proposing to replace the 3 bins which the Parish Council owns before loading existing salt into the bins. Cllr B. Twinn to remove the bin at Daws Hall. Cllr S. Pitman to supply the Clerk with picture and costing of a new bin. Cllr M. Brewer proposed purchasing 1 salt bin at this time. Cllr S. Pitman seconded. **All Agreed**
The Parish Council to log the defective ECC salt bins with ECC Highways.

080/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

25/02718/FUL - Moat Farm Moat Lane Alphamstone

Change of use of agricultural building to a self-build dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development

RESOLVED: Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council has no comment to make on this planning application

081/2025 County Broadband – Final Agreement - Wayleave Agreement across Village Green

Councillors discussed the draft agreement. Cllr S. Pitman raised 9 points of possible discussion, some of which have already been discussed and addressed.

Cllr M. Brewer proposed accepting the agreement in full. Cllr B. Twinn seconded. **All Agreed.**

Cllr M. Brewer, Cllr B. Twinn and the Clerk signed the document.

The Clerk to electronically send the response to Tamasin Curtis

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082/2025 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2025
Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 30th. November 2025

2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/2026
Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2025/2026

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for October, November and December 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

083/2025 2026-2027 Budget – Councillors to discuss draft budget proposals

Councillors discussed the 2026-2027 budget. Cllr M. Brewer proposed a budget of £5,533 which using BDC Tax base figure of £207.86 resulted in a Band D property figure of £26.62p; aAn increase of 71p per year or 2.74%. Cllr S. Willis seconded. **All Agreed**

The Chair and Clerk then signed the BDC Precept form which is to be returned to BDC by 30th. January 2026

084/2025 Items for next agenda

List of Community Projects: Village Church, Public house update

085/2025 Date of Next Meeting – 5th. February 2026 Alphamstone VH 6.30pm, 15th. May 2026 Lamarsh VH 6.30pm, 3rd. September 2026 Alphamstone VH, 11th. December 2026 Lamarsh VH 6.30pm

086/2025 Closure of the Meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9pm.

Signed

Cllr Mark Brewer - Chair

5th. February 2026