

Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Mark Brewer

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

Tel: 07810781509: Email: alphandlampc@gmail.com

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 3rd. September 2026 at 6.30pm in Alphamstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr M. Brewer (Chair), Cllr S. Nicholls, Cllr B. Twinn, Cllr S. Willis, ECC Cllr N. Robins and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There was also 2 members of the public present.

039/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from BDC Cllr D. Holland and Cllr S. Pitman

040/2026 Declarations of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllr S. Willis and Cllr B. Twinn declared an interest in the National Grid item

041/2026 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 15th. May 2026 **All Agreed**

042/2026 Essex County Council report – Cllr N. Robins

Cllr N. Robins stressed that due to the high number of Councils he has to administer but said that it is good to be here this evening.

- Pot Hole emergency was declared at ECC in May '26 and the number of crews has been increased to 12 from 6
- All major pot holes have been prioritised and are undergoing repairs.
- Can A&LPC submit 3 roads to be actioned for pot holes to be repaired?
- A target of 90 days to repair non-urgent pot holes. In the first 3 months of this year the repairs were 60% higher than previous years
- Surface re-dressing is being introduced for the future
- BDC has had the 2nd. Highest of repairs in the area
- Cuts have been made at ECC. £3m over 4 years in a carbon neutral way.
- Many statutory commitments are still being maintained. Unnecessary targets are being abolished
- Local Government reorganisation is under review but the Government will not respond until September '26. The cost for this re-organisation is escalating to a possible £200m for ECC
- Operation Vanguard in larger Towns in Essex to see if the crime rates fall within the 3-month trial.
- Fostering campaign launched in August '26. Allowing children to live in a more stable home rather than being placed in care. The cost to place a child in a care home could rise to over £1000's per week
- Locality Fund is open for any amount from £300 to £10,000
- Digi-Go service has not had the best reviews in getting picked up and dropped off.

Cllr N. Robins left the meeting

043/2026 District Councillor report – Cllr D. Holland.

Cllr D. Holland sent a report, prior to the meeting.

There are no new and locally relevant matters beyond those covered by BDC press releases that I feel I need to report to you at this time. Any matters relevant to your parishioners I have shared via social media to your community Facebook Group(s). This, in particular, relates to road closures resulting from infrastructure company activities, for which I endeavour to apprise residents of those I become aware of through various sources.

I am also grateful to our County Councillor, Nathan Robbins, who has progressed my request to ensure that collaboration between Essex and Suffolk at County Council Highways level is effective in dealing with potential concurrent road closures on both sides of the River Stour in the coming months

044/2026 Public Forum A total of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation

No questions were asked

045/2026 Daws Hall proposals

Cllr S. Willis informed the meeting that following the Parish Council's response to the latest Daws Hall Trust planning application that it will be sending a letter to Daws Hall Trust outlining its thoughts for potential traffic problems during and after construction.

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046/2026 The ongoing works for National grid and traffic issues

The works on Henny Road and into Lamarsh are conflicting due to road works happening at the same time. The road closed signs are still in place when the road is open

047/2026 Defibrillators – To discuss the replacement of the 2 defibrillators

The 2 defibrillators in both villages are coming to end of their life in about 2 years' time.

Community Heartbeat Trust are quoting up to £1584 for each defibrillator. Further investigation to be undertaken. The Clerk to approach ECC Cllr N. Robins and BDC Cllr D. Holland for £1500 towards 2 defibrillators in both villages. The Lifeline View at a cost of £1320.00p +VAT each.

048/2026 Part-time employment description for Street Cleaner

This item to be deferred to another meeting.

049/2026 Discussion about planning application responses

Should the Councillors' response be neutral or make a subjective response? Councillors agreed that its response would either be (i) an objection (with supporting reasons) or (ii) no comment. In certain circumstances where there is consensus among Councillors, there could be a response supporting the application; Councillors to look at each application on merit.

050/2026 Salt bin installation. The new salt bin (replacement) is soon being installed on Twinstead Road/Henny Road junction opposite Daws Hall

051/2026 Flood prevention along Lamarsh Road, Alphamstone – discussion with Burnt House and Dockings

In March or April '26 there was a tremendous amount of rain causing flooding along Lamarsh and Alphamstone Road. The Dockings and Burnt House culvert floods on a regular basis. Both culverts are the responsibility of the landowners. The landowners have agreed to clear the culverts. If these culverts are not cleared then ECC Highways may clear them and charge the landowner for their costs.

052/2026 Friends of Alphamstone Church – update from Cllr S. Nichols

Cllr S. Nichols circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting the AGM statement. This can be found at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/alpc/supporting-documents/2026/>

053/2026 Alphamstone Village Hall update No update was given

054/2026 Lamarsh Village Hall update

We came runner up in the best Essex village hall by RCCE. £100 award which was lovely, presented at their AGM with leader of ECC and BDC. We have applied for national grid grant for blinds and replacement of flat roof at front of hall to mitigate damp on ceiling. We are through to second round on consideration. We would like to apply for national grid grant for small extension at back of hall. This needs plans and possibly planning permission before we can apply in April next year.

055/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

26/01243/LBC - Boutells Farm Henny Road Lamarsh

Listed Building Consent for removal of cement render, repair of historic timber frame and infill, repair or like for-like replacement of timber windows, and reinstatement of breathable lime render with associated conservation works.

Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council has no objection to this planning application (sent 29th. June 2026)

26/01936/NMA - Longacres Bures Road Lamarsh Essex CO8 5EP

Non-Material Amendment to permission 23/02409/HH granted 14.12.2023 for: Single storey front extension, loft Conversion together with alterations to the roof form, fenestration and external finishes. Amendment would allow: Removal of the previously approved single-storey front extension & rear dormer, together with the replacement of the existing front door and installation of new windows to the front elevation of the dwelling.

Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application BDC don't seek your

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comments.

26/01934/HH & 26/01935/LBC - Newmans Farmhouse Alphamstone Road Lamarsh

Proposed single storey extensions to both ends of the existing garage to provide a glazed garden room, additional garage/garden store and open log store and internal alterations to create a workshop. Replacement of sections of existing low-level garden wall associated with the extensions and rebuilding of the existing roadside boundary wall.

RESOLVED: Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council will respond to BDC by 29th. September '26

056/2026 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2026

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. August 2026

2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2026/2027

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2026/2027

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for June, July, August and September 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

057/2026 Budget 2027/2028 – Councillors to put forward any items to be included in the 2027/2028 budget. Councillors were asked to provide the Clerk with any projects and costings for 2027-2028 year

058/2026 Items for next agenda

059/2026 Date of Next Meetings – 11th. December 2026 at Lamarsh Village Hall at 6.30pm

060/2026 Closure of the Meeting

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

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8pm.

Signed

Cllr Mark Brewer - Chair

11th. December 2026