

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

<https://wordpress.com/pages/alphamstoneandlamarshparishcouncil.wordpress.com>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th. February 2025 at 7pm in Lamarsh Village Hall

Present: Cllr M. Brewer (Chair), Cllr S. Nichols, Cllr S. Willis, Cllr S. Pitman, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

001/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier and Cllr B. Twinn

002/2025 Declarations of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary interest relating to items on the agenda Cllrs S. Willis & S. Pitman declared an interest in the National Grid item on the agenda.

003/2025 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th. December 2024 **All Agreed**

004/2025 Essex County Councillor Report. No report was given.

005/2025 District Councillor Report

Devolution – The Government published a White Paper on 16th December on devolution and local Government reorganisation in 2 tier areas (i.e. areas with county and district councils). Devolution would see powers in areas such as transport, skills, housing and economic growth given to local authorities. Local Government reorganisation would see the abolition of District and County Councils (in this case Colchester CC, Tendring DC and Braintree DC), which would be replaced by unitary authorities and a mayor. At an extraordinary Council meeting on Friday 10th January, Essex County Council decided to submit an expression of interest to the Government in the Devolution Priority Programme and to commit to a reorganisation of local Government in Essex. ECC also included a request to postpone the ECC elections due to take place this May until May 2026 with the new structure starting in 2027; resulting in Cllr D. Holland being the last District Councillor for these villages.

The Government has accepted Essex County Council onto Devolution Priority Program. In the light of this decision further cost and expenses will be incurred. He recommends that any consultation from the Government should be responded to by the A&LPC.

Planning/land allocation – The Government launched a consultation on 31st January on its strategic approach to managing land use in England, which runs to 25th April. As part of the Government's plan for change this explores the land use changes implied by commitments to restore nature, support food production, improve climate resilience and deliver new housing and infrastructure. He recommended that A&LPC look at the consultation.

Braintree District Council 2025/26 budget – The BDC budget for 2025-2026 is in the process of being finalised. It is scheduled to go before full council in late February, which is expected to increase a band D property by 11p per week or 2.96% or £5.72p p.a.

Waste/residential recycling – Legislative changes have come into force requiring Councils to collect more recyclable material at the kerbside. Essex County Council has also introduced a new waste strategy with a tiered approach aimed at increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. This strategy has been adopted by Braintree District Council. As a result of these changes, Braintree District Council has been conducting a review of our waste collection. There have been three areas of focus; aspiration to increase recycling (our current recycling rate has flat lined and compares poorly with other councils), impact on BDC Council finances and ease of use for residents. The review has looked at a number of options and has resulted in a preferred option. The most significant changes in the preferred option are that the grey bin will be collected every 3 weeks and the recycling sacks will be replaced by two bins, one for paper and card and one for other recycling including bottles which will be collected on an alternate 2-week cycle. A consultation on the proposal has now launched and ends on 2nd March. I would be grateful for your help in publicising this consultation. No decisions have been made and we are keen to hear the views of residents on the proposal. The consultation can be found on the main Council website www.braintree.gov.uk/wasteconsultation.

Medium term financial strategy (a 4-year period) – This was considered by the Scrutiny committee (of which Cllr D. Holland is a member) and the Cabinet at meeting in the beginning of December. The Council is facing a budget gap of £731k for 2025/26 and a cumulative gap over the 4-year period of just over £3m. This is subject to clarification on Government funding. The MTFS is made up of many items of expenditure and

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income. The Councillor Community Grants Scheme is proposed to continue for 25/26 and there will be no increase in charges for garden waste. The Council has already instigated a transformation programme to address the budget gap over the medium term based on 4 work streams; agile and flexible working, service reviews, asset management reviews and shared service and partnerships to look at reducing cost and increasing income.

006/2025 Public Forum A total of 15 minutes is allowed for all public participation.
No questions were asked

007/2025 National Grid – Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement
Cllr D. Holland gave a comprehensive review of the work being undertaken at the Butlers Wood substation – the first transformer is in place, all footings for other equipment have been completed, the base for the second transformer is completed, the rebar for the ceiling end compound is seemingly ready for pouring concrete. As for construction work within the parish, ALPC understands that landowners were sent Heads of Terms in late 2024, however, no formal contracts have been sent to landowners that the PC is aware of.

008/2025 Lamarsh Village Hall - To receive an update. No update was given.

009/2025 Alphamstone Village Hall - To receive an update. No update was given.

010/2025 Bell Hill Layby and Bench – Cllr S. Willis
A resident emailed the Parish Council regarding rubbish that has been collected mainly on or around the bench at the view point on the southeasterly end of Bell Hill and on the property to the north of the road, reporting that a car wheel now had been fly-tipped. The resident said that he/she had written to the PC already about providing a bin (we currently have no bins in Lamarsh) and suggested that the PC would be mindful of a reply or action regarding this matter if they had this amount of regular rubbish dumped on their properties. Having also discussed this issue informally at the September PC meeting, Councillors agreed that there was not the budget to install a bin at the location or fund the cost of regularly emptying such a bin. Councillors agreed that some of the rubbish left at the site constitutes a clear public health and environmental issue that needs to be addressed and resolved. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with Cllr P. Schweir and to understand also who owns the piece of land in question and/or bench at the site. Councillors reminded residents that they can report fly tipping to Braintree District Council www.braintree.gov.uk/streets-transport-parking/report-fly-tipping - once the report is received, BDC will generally remove fly-tipped waste within 1 working day.

011/2025 Planning Application/s

24/02635/HH - Magnolia Barn Goulds Road Alphamstone Essex CO8 5HP
Conversion of part existing cartlodge, including associated alterations, to provide annexe accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling. **Application Granted 21st January 2025**

25/00127/HH - Bramleys Pebmarsh Road Alphamstone
Single storey rear extension and replacement porch
RESOLVED: This response was sent to BDC on 5th February 2025
Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council has no comment on this planning application

25/00033/NMA - Clovelly Henny Road Lamarsh Essex CO8 5EU
Non-Material Amendment to permission 22/02627/HH granted 27 October 2023 for a First floor extension, garage conversion, materials and fenestration changes, with double carport. Amendment would allow a lean-to added within sheltered area with relocated door and new window to side elevation. Balcony removed and glazing moved forward to front elevation. Window reduced in height to rear elevation. New flue to rear elevation. In respect to the above application, BDC write to inform A&LPC that they have received an application for a Non-Material Amendment to a previously approved application. Details of the application are displayed on the BDC's website. **Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application we don't seek your comments.**

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012/2025 Decisions made by BDC.

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013/2025 Finance

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2025

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31st. January 2025

2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2024/25

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for January & February 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

The RFO informed the meeting that the Parish Council is now on Internet Banking with NatWest Bank.

Councillors agreed the need for the Parish Council to have a "NatWest Bankline" account so that authorised payments require dual signatures - Cllr M. Brewer to apply for Bankline.

014/2025 Failure of March 2020 drainage works to cure flooding in Alphamstone Road, Lamarsh, Lamarsh Road. Alphamstone and bottom of Dark Lane, Lamarsh

Drainage works are currently being carried out on Alphamstone Road (3-13 February). Dark Lane gullies are scheduled to be cleaned/jetted on 25th. February 2025. Drainage at the bottom of Dark Lane needs addressing still. No date has been set by Essex Highways to undertake this works.

015/2025 County Broadband – Update on Agreement - Wayleave across Village Green

No further update has been received.

016/2025 Speed Limits on Road from Middleton Via Henny Street and Lamarsh to Bures Hamlet

In January 2024 an application was submitted to Essex Local Highways Panel (LHP). In November 2024, Cllr D. Holland requested an officer review it although had to immediate response. By end December 2024, email received from the LHP officer stating absolutely nothing has been done. Given the lack of activity, it is quite probable that this project will not be delivered before the disbandment of the LHP. The Parish Council requested that Cllr D. Holland ask for Speed surveys to be undertaken at three locations along the .5 mile stretch of road between Bures Hamlet and Middleton to verify the claims of excessive speeding along this narrow road; Lamarsh Hill, midway between Lamarsh Hall and Daws Hall on the Henny Road and on Orchard Ley (between Gatehouse Farm and Meadow View.

017/2025 Items for next agenda

The Clerk to book village hall for meeting dates

Grit bin by Daws Hall

Cllr S. Pitman proposed creating a map of landowners in the villages so that the PC was positioned to understand the make-up of the parish.

018/2025 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 10th. April 2025 7pm at Alphamstone Village Hall

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9pm.

Signed

MBrewer

Cllr Mark Brewer
Chair

10th. April 2025