

WOODHAM MORTIMER with HAZELEIGH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES - TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018

Convened at WOODHAM MORTIMER & Hazleigh VILLAGE HALL
Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer at 7:30pm

In attendance

All 7 members of the Parish Council were in attendance including Simon Brady Chairman of the Parish Council presiding over the meeting. There were no other parishioners in attendance. Andrew Ritchings Clerk to the Parish Council was in attendance recording proceedings.

1.18 APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received

2.18 APM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting dated 11 April 2017 were agreed as a true record of discussions as proposed by Pauline McDonald and seconded by Stephen Pemberton

3.18 APM CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Looking back over the previous year it seems there have been the same recurring issues, some examples of which are ongoing discussions regarding the A414 with its inherent problems of increasing traffic volumes and excessive vehicle speeds, culminating in hazardous pedestrian crossing conditions along with difficulties for vehicles accessing to and from the road; high levels of speeding prosecutions along the Fambridge Road; ongoing discussions seeking the installation of a safe footway along the same stretch of road and the protracted 5 year closure of Rectory Lane due to the bridge/culvert condition. The Council continues its efforts seeking speed limits reflecting those in other local roads of similar characteristics which seems illogical why the same criteria cannot be applied along the A414 through Woodham Mortimer. The main road through Danbury has a number of zebra crossings yet parishioners in our own parish struggle to cross with their young children and dogs.

The focus of the Parish Council is always to seek to resolve all issues affecting the Parish and though frustrating at times, I feel (all be it slowly), we manage to achieve some results, such as resolving a few running water issues and influencing the County Council decision to cease large buses using the unsuitable Lodge Road route. We also continue to work with Danbury and Woodham Walter Councils on issues that jointly affect the Parishes. Engagement with the County Council and quarry operators regarding the Royal Oak Quarry continues to provide beneficial communications. Of particular recent frustration has been having to justify the reinstatement of a missing road sign when a plethora of others appear without consultation. And even when after many months of continual pressure missing signs are approved in relevant works programmes we feel the need to question the high estimated costs.

It saddens me to hear the discontinuation of the Falkland Green mobile library stop leaving only one in Woodham Mortimer and one in Hazeleigh, libraries make a difference for people especially those who are on their own. I recently had the opportunity of attending a forum at Maldon Library on the subject where I had the chance put forward comments and engage with other library users.

I was very proud to represent the Council at St Margarets Church in order to present the Remembrance Day wreath and met the new very friendly vicar.

Some progress appears to be occurring at Fambridge Road after one of our Councillors met with the County Councillor and Essex Highways representatives in order to review speeding traffic reduction measures which has led to a planned gateway treatment intended for implementation in future works programming. In the meantime our Councillors are reviewing the feasibility of taking advantage of the recently introduced TruCam system where specially trained officers are deployed with the latest hi tech speed measuring equipment also having the ability to issue speeding prosecutions. Councillors also continue to monitor discussions between the Planning Authority and developers making sure the request of a new footway be implemented along Fambridge Road for the safety of pedestrians, particularly in view of the many new houses having been and in the process of construction on the borders with Maldon. The new developments in Maldon are now starting to have an effect on us, one minor respite when the A414 was closed for a few nights is now seeing the effects of the new houses with its knock on affect.

Other than highways issues the next largest workload for the Council involves planning matters which has recently seen significant changes imposed on the Council with the removal of the Parish Trigger and the discontinuation of paper copy application details. Like many other Maldon District Parish Councils the changes are unwelcome and along with many other parishes we have raised points of concern with the CEO of MDC.

Although at times we have differences of opinion with the County and District Councils we make sure to maintain close links and good dialogue especially with the District and County Councillors who provide invaluable advice and support.

There has been a noticeable increase of parishioner attendance at monthly meetings over the past few months and we hope it continues, parishioners are very welcome to attend all or part of the meetings as it's always valuable to hear local views be they positive or negative. If you are not able to attend, minutes of meetings and other information is available on the Parish Council website along with County Councillor reports (www.wmortimerhazeleigh-pc.gov.uk)

I would like to send out a huge thanks to those residents who persistently clear litter in their own and other streets irrespective of weather conditions, it's a little known thankless task. It was also great to see so many people clearing snow along various village lanes and tracks during the cold winter period with many 4x4 owners going to the aid of stranded vehicles.

Finally, thanks must go to the Councillors giving their time serving the Council with their continued interest in seeking to improve the lives of people on our villages and to the Clerk who administers the Council's activities.

4.18 APM VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There had been no Annual Burns Night at the hall this year as many regular attendees were not able to attend, the Committee therefore decided to cancel the event for 2018 and expected the celebrations to return next year. The Committee are reviewing an alternative fund raising event expected to be held during the summer months.

Repairs undertaken during the year included the major re-roofing of the building

5.18 APM FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The Trust meet on a bi-annual basis, the previous meeting being in 2016, therefore there were no activities to report as the next meeting will occur sometime in 2018

6.18 APM PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Report from St Margaret's Church Committee – The three vicars Rev Canon Stephen Carter, Rev Penny Sayer and the Rev Julie Willmot are doing a fantastic job keeping regular services at 11:15 each Sunday.

The 'Team' at St Margaret's help to run and keep the church going. There are 2 church wardens who, with the team, are keeping the church not only in its religious aspects but also as a social hub.

The Parochial Council would like to thank Stephen Pemberton for the fantastic job he has done organising the cutting of the church yard that has never looked so good! It encourages us all to have working parties to further tidy up and clean grave stones etc. Our heartfelt thanks go out to him.

7.18 APM MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

No village matters were raised for discussion

8.18 APM MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:00pm.

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 09 April 2019

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman of the Parish Council)

12 March 2019