

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
MINUTES - TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2023

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:00pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady (Presiding), Graham Harle, Kim McDonald, Pauline McDonald, Stephen Pemberton, Andrew Macmorland, Richard Britton.

District Cllr Simon Morgan.

Andrew Ritchings (Clerk to the Parish Council taking minutes)

There were no members of the public in attendance

1.23 APA APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None received

2.23 APA MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 12 April 2022 were approved as a true record by all in attendance at the previous meeting.

3.23 APA PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have again experienced a year of change as we proceed into a new era with King Charles III.

The village of Woodham Mortimer has seen four significant planning approvals for a new Crematorium opposite St Margaret's Church, including a restoration program for the prominently situated monument and avenue of trees; a new housing development to replace the aging driving range and golf course and a new café/restaurant at the garden centre situated at the Royal Oak roundabout., work of which has already commenced.

As a Council our focus continues to be a pedestrian crossing over the A414 and reducing vehicular speed at sensitive points in our parishes, this combines with the Councils aims at access for all as we continue to seek regular maintenance of village pavements. The Council has recently spent time on public transport access and stop off points for school children with attention focused on increased visibility by instigating vegetation clearance around some obscured signage and I personally sincerely thank those residents who actively take the time to undertake these tasks. Some of our bus shelters are also in need foliage and litter clearance attention, the graffiti I regret is not by a known artist! We continue to work with Essex Highways in order to appoint a creditable contractor to achieve this.

The regular Friday Coffee Mornings at the Village Hall are a welcome addition to my diary, I look forward to the monthly gatherings and sincerely thank all those involved organising these popular social get-togethers whose hard work enable people from around the parishes to meet and enjoy a friendly chatty morning.

It's good to see members of the public attending our meetings to discuss village matters and planning applications, one of the largest gatherings recently has been parishioner interest in the 'Dragons Path' (Footpath 11 Hazeleigh) and land adjacent to the A414 Maldon Road.

Agenda's, Minutes, Councillors Reports and other information can be found on the Parish Councils website to help parishioners keep up with local news and village issues.

I conclude my annual report by thanking all the members of the Council for their hard work over the past year and on behalf of Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council I would like to thank Cllr

Andrew Macmorland for all his hard work and achievements as he chooses not to re-stand at this year's local elections, your guidance, experience and local knowledge will be missed and we all wish you well as you step away from Parish Council affairs.

4.23 APA VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Another reasonably successful year with fundraising doing well:- we applied for £1,200 of government grant for loss of earnings during the pandemic and received £10,000 as did most village halls. Our ever popular Burns Night raised £558 bearing in less people attended as we set a lower upper limit. The Jubilee Fete (shared with the Church) was a great success and the regular coffee mornings are proving very popular which are also shared with the Church and we are thankful to them for obtaining marquees, tear urn and a PR System which was made available to us. Obviously the cost of electricity has increased dramatically so we must still watch our pennies. Finally I wish to report we are still waiting for the gate to be installed with the bench to follow and hall bookings are going well with various clubs and parties making good use of the facility.

Presented by Kim MacDonald

5.23 APA FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There was no meeting of the Falkland Trust during the 2022/23 year as advised by Simon Brady.

6.23 APA PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Report presented by Andrew Macmorland.

St Margaret's Report for Church Year December 2022

Worship in our Church buildings returned to the familiar pattern of services and social events that we remember prior to March 2020. We have 2 services of Holy Communion in the month and 1 led by Alan Marjoram who is an authorised local preacher. Our thanks as always go to him and Ken Hay for continuing to travel out to us from Chelmsford to play the organ which enriches our services. On the 3rd Sunday we are unable to have a service of our own but we are able to join services at Woodham Walter or Purleigh.

Rev'd Julie has been very busy during the year taking on extra work as Training Incumbent to Rev Jordan Palmer who with his family now live at All Saints Rectory in Maldon. He is licenced to Maldon All Saints, Langford, Heybridge and Heybridge Basin. It sure is a task balancing work over 7 parishes!

Many from our congregation contribute to our services through welcoming, providing the readings and leading the prayers. Fellowship after the services continues to be accompanied by refreshments and the Church is readied for Sundays during the week by kind volunteers giving their time to clean, garden and arrange flowers. Special thanks to Stephen Pemberton who arranges for the grounds to be mowed throughout the season. If this wasn't kindly done it would greatly increase the costs for maintenance of the churchyard. Thanks too to Andrew Macmorland who maintains the Hazeleigh Churchyard in Lodge Road and also for the work and repairs at St Margaret's that he has completed throughout the year.

We cannot avoid the fact that the past year was marred noticeably by events in the world and the services reflected this. We were especially saddened by the death of the Church's Supreme Governor, Queen Elizabeth II. A service of remembrance was held and during the period of mourning, the Church was kept open and a book of remembrance made available. 6 months prior to that, the whole village had turned out to celebrate the Queen's platinum Jubilee on the village green. A special thank you to all those that helped on the day to make this a special and joyous occasion

The Teas by the Tombstones during the Summer was wonderful and so well attended. Many folks shopped for and prepared the teas, which this year were back to the help yourself format. This was all orchestrated once again by the Friends of St Margaret's who are always so willing to help us. Many thanks go to everyone who contributed to making that day such a success.

The monthly Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall continue to be well supported. This is a lovely time of conversation and togetherness. Well done and thank you to all those who make that happen.

Graham Mcavoy kindly oversaw our Quinquennial Inspection, and many thanks to him for continuing to ensure that the building and grounds are kept safe for visitors.

During December we were able to have our traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols. We were very pleased to have the All Saints Handbell ringers to entertain us whilst we enjoyed wine and mince pies after the service. We also welcomed the Woodham Mortimer Playgroup as they once again showcased their nativity.

So many in the church and the local community work quietly and humbly behind the scenes to ensure that St Margaret's remains open and available to everyone in the parish, we thank each and every one of those.

7.23 APA MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no members of public in attendance and therefore no parishioner matters were raised.

8.23 APA MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY

SB thanked all for attending and moved on to the Parish Council's ordinary monthly meeting.

..... (Chairman to the Parish Council) ??/04/2024

DRAFT