

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES - TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2022

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

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady (SB, Chairman), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Richard Britton (RB), Andrew Macmorland (AM) County Councillor Jane Flemming (JF), District Cllr Simon Morgan (SM) Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Parish Council taking minutes
There were no members of the public in attendance.

1.22 APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

2.22 APM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 13 April 2021 were agreed as a true record of events by all Cllrs present at that meeting as proposed by SP and seconded by KM.

3.22 APM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We reverted back to meeting in the village hall this year after our very successful online experience.

Kim Broadhurst left our Council this year, he organised the relevant people and groups to establish the footpath adjacent to the Fambridge Road. He was the lead on setting up the speed limit signs/gating and the Community Protection Team attendances with their Trucam speed checks along the Fambridge Road route in the eastern part of the parish. The Council thank him very much for his endeavours and achievements as a Parish Councillor and wish him well in the future.

In May Penny Channer stood down as our County Councillor, she has been an active and dedicated councillor and we respectfully thank her very much for all that she has done for our parishes and the advice and guidance she has given to our Council.

We welcome Jane Flemming as our new County Councillor. Karl Jarvis stood down as our District Councillor and we welcome Simon Morgan as our new District Councillor.

This year, among the planning consultations received from Maldon District Council included a crematorium proposal which was advised to local parishioners by way of a leaflet drop and two half day public consultations. A subsequent application followed proposing to restore the monument opposite Woodham Mortimer Church which currently resides on MDC's at risk register.

There is an ongoing issue with land adjacent to the A414 which our other District Councillor Mark Durham continues to liaise with residents and relevant parties to resolve.

The ongoing protracted discussions associated with pedestrian crossing the A414 suffered a setback due to Essex Highways' departmental and officer reorganisation. However the Parish Council continue to support the Resident Steering Group and encourage you all to

write to the local Member of Parliament, County and District Councillors and Essex Highways to keep the pressure on for action.

We continue to welcome parishioners to Parish Council meetings when there are matters of concern and other important items to discuss as it has always been. Those not able to attend in person are able to view latest information on the Councillors website and Councillors are always willing to receive email correspondence.

4.22 APM VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

It was unfortunate that the Burns Nights was again unable to take place due to Covid. The Village Hall has received various grants and is gathering funds for further maintenance improvements. The Friday coffee mornings are proving very popular with many parishioners enjoying refreshments and social conversation. - Presented by Kim Macdonald

5.22 APM FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

As reported in 2021 the next biannual Falklands Trust meeting will be in June of this year. The trustees are very pleased that Stephen Pemberton is now a representative of the Trust on behalf of the Parish Council – Presented by Simon Brady

6.22 APM PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

St Margaret's Report for Church Year December 2020 to December 2021 – this year's report was provided by Reverend Julie Willmot.

2021 dawned following a very different Christmas with the challenge of Sunday Worship on Zoom and the absence of the special seasonal services that we know and love.

Worship in our church buildings returned after Easter although the absence of refreshments and that time of fellowship were sorely missed. Initially we followed a pattern of Holy Communion fortnightly until September, when we welcomed Alan Marjoram our Authorised Local Preacher back to lead our first service in the month once again and our thanks go to him for this. Sadly, it was not possible to facilitate a lay led service on the third Sunday in the month, but members of St Margaret's have enjoyed worshipping alongside our friends at All Saints, Purleigh or St Michael's, Woodham Walter on these Sundays.

Once we returned to worshipping in our church buildings, the safety of our congregation was an important objective and we continued to protect one another through continuing to wear face coverings as the restrictions eased around us. My thanks go to Sheila and Elspeth our Churchwardens who have continued to work so hard to ensure that the church building adhered to all the ever-changing government guidelines and my thanks also to everyone visiting St Margaret's, for their understanding and tolerance, singing hymns with a face covering is never easy.

The return of 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 wrapped individually and served to the tables. This was all orchestrated once again by the Fiends 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.

September saw Mick and Sharon Cox together with friends from the village hosting the monthly Coffee Moring in the Village Hall. This is so well attended and appreciated. Well done and thank you to all those who make that happen.

Repair work to St Margaret's Church took place largely through the huge financial generosity of so many folks from the parish. Our thanks go to them for helping to ensure that the building and grounds are kept safe for visitors. Thank you to all those who keep our building clean and our grounds well-tended.

As December drew nearer, after much consideration once again the traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols could not take place, but wine and mince pies were enjoyed in the 'fresh air' whilst we sang Carols outside surrounded by candles.

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.

Finally, I think we have the best display of daffodils on the A414 to Maldon. - Presented by Andrew Macmorland

7.22 APM MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no further village matters raised.

8.22 APM MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY

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

..... *Simon Brady*(Chairman to the Parish Council) 11 April 2023