

WOODHAM MORTIMER with HAZELEIGH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING/ASSEMBLY MINUTES - TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019

Convened at WOODHAM MORTIMER & HAZELEIGH VILLAGE HALL
Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer at 7:00pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady (SB, Chairman), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim Broadhurst (KB), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Richard Britton (RB), Andrew Macmorland (AM).

4 members of the public

Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Parish Council taking minutes

1.19 APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Councillor Penny Channer and District Cllr Henry Bass were unable to attend due to other engagements.

2.19 APM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 10 April 2018 as proposed by KM and seconded by SP were agreed as a true record of events by Cllrs in attendance at that meeting and duly signed by SB

3.19 APM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council Simon Brady presented the following report:
Our main focus in the last year has been on our roads in Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh. The Council want parity and equality with our neighbouring Parishes/Councils of Danbury, Maldon, Purleigh, Bicknacre and Woodham Walter. That's why we produced our highway objectives, they have speed limits of 30 & 40 mph why can't we? Our villages are cut in half by busy roads, high traffic volume and speeding vehicles. We find it difficult to get onto the main roads and our villagers find it hard to cross to the other side when they want to walk, jog, cycle, catch the bus, see friends or walk the dog. It doesn't seem unreasonable to want the same as our neighbours does it? We had a site meeting in July with ECC Highways where we discussed our objectives with them, the outcome of which was a great disappointment. However with perseverance and the advice, guidance and work from County Councillor Penny Channer we are making progress. The pedestrian crossings proposals are with the Local Highways Panel, the proposed extension of the speed limits in now in negotiation with ECC Highways, it's still work in progress.

In Hazeleigh Lodge Road, we now have our gates with speed limit installed, we have Community Protection Team officers carrying out speed checks on offending vehicles on days and times that we control and the Fambridge Road footpath is still being considered via the Local Highways Panel. In Lodge Road the waste dumped on ECC's land in June at the entrance of the storage site is finally being dealt with by them. Drainage works in Lodge Road are ongoing.

We have highlighted to ECC Highways our concerns re noise pollution levels from the A414 and will continue to pursue this.

We may be getting some movement regarding all our pavements which have sadly been allowed to fall into disrepair by ECC Highways.

We will continue with speed checks to deter offenders.

I would like to thank those residents for their tireless help and work produced in order to progress technical matters associated with the highway proposals.

I would also like to thank the dedicated litter pickers who go out come rain or shine to clear paths, roads and verges in both villages. And finally I thank my fellow councillors for their time and effort given to the Council and to the Clerk for his administration services.

4.19 APM VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The following report of village hall activities was presented by Cllr Kim Macdonald: We continue to cover costs with hiring the hall. This year Burns Night returned and as usual sold out fairly quickly, making a profit of around £600. However extra costs of guttering, a new water heater etc. soon got rid of that. A quiz night later this year is proposed. We are however in a decent financial position.

5.19 APM FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The trust did not meet in 2018. However a meeting is planned for 2019.

6.19 APM PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The following report of church activities was presented by Cllr Andrew Macmorland: We have continued this year under the able hands of Reverend Canon Stephen Carter and Reverend Julie Willmot from All Saints who help the 2 church Wardens and Church Council to keep the church able to deliver a service in the beautiful building at 11:15 each Sunday.

We are looking forward to the future with the hope of a larger congregation maybe fed by the new houses being built our side of Maldon.

With this in mind we are very pleased to see that the plans for the car park have been passed. This will make it much safer to come to church and hope will be further encouragement to visit the church.

Many thanks to Stephen Pemberton who continued to cut the grass for us for free last year and kept the outside looking marvellous.

7.19 APM MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

KB wishes to comment that he has serious concerns with the services of Essex Highways, the same highway issues have been on the Council's agenda for many months, emails are often unanswered which is completely unacceptable and many defect repairs are not completed to an acceptable standard and at considerable expense to the tax payer, depicting the service to be frustrating, unacceptable and a disgrace to the people of Essex. Thanks should be given however to District and County Cllrs for their endeavours and continued support in addressing village highway issues. SB posed the consideration for Cllrs whether a formal letter of complaint should be sent to the head of Essex Highways which would be debated at the ordinary Council Meeting in April.

8.19 APM MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY

SB thanked all for attending meeting closed at 19:30.

.....(Chairman to the Parish Council)

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