

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING/ASSEMBLY
MINUTES - TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021**

Convened online via Zoom 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), 2 members of the public
County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh), District Cllr Karl Jarvis.
Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Parish Council taking minutes

1.21 APA APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andrew Macmorland was unable to attend due to work commitments.

2.21 APA MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 12 March 2019 were agreed as a true record of events as proposed by KM, seconded by SP and agreed by all Cllrs present at that meeting.

3.21 APA PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In March 2020 everything changed and we all had to learn a new normal. As a council we had to change our way of doing business and after a few practice runs we had our first meeting online with Teams in May. We decided to change to Zoom in June as it was more user-friendly and more widely used so it would be easier for everyone to join meetings. As our confidence and skills have grown we have gone onto hold planning and external meetings with other bodies using both Teams and Zoom. A positive outcome has been more of you attending our online meetings giving us the opportunity to learn more about your concerns about the issues which are affecting you. We have been able to explain our priorities and to share with you how we are working at achieving them.

One of our principal priorities is the speed of traffic on our roads:

- In Hazeleigh on the B1010 we asked for 30mph up to the Oak Corner roundabout, we got 40mph from the Purleigh border to Woodham Mortimer border.
- On the Southend road we asked for the 40mph to be extended to the roundabout and we got 50mph
- On the A414 we asked for 40mph to Rectory Lane we got 50mph.
- On the A414 we asked for an extension of the 30 mph on the Chelmsford road to Rectory Lane we got 50mph.

As we were given the option of these compromises or nothing we took it. It now means we can bring in the Rangers to conduct speed checks as we have been doing in Hazeleigh on the Fambridge road. We also now have the infrastructure for future changes in the speed limit in place.

Another priority which has met with limited success is getting a pedestrian crossing on the A414, after finally getting a site meeting in 2018 which left us disappointed to say the least we finally got a surgery with County officers and Councillor Bentley head of Highways this year which three of us attended. Certainly what has significantly contributed to this stage has been you as parishioners emailing Councillor Bentley, our MP and County and District councillors resulting in a review of the potential for a crossing on the A414. In establishing an action group Clare coordinated research from you and from there consistent pressure from you emailing is getting results. To email in

is right and proper and gives the basis for other future issues to be kept in the limelight until they are resolved. These are some of the items raised by the Council with Cllr Bentley:

- For out of school activities, holidays and weekends children as well as the adults in our village still have to cross the road. In light of a new government strategy just released to enable people to use buses we need a crossing to make that happen.
- The Ringway Jacobs A414 Route based Strategy in the section East of Danbury to A414/B1018 roundabout in it's specific issues identified "Poor access to bus stops" with a potential option for improvement being "inclusive fully accessible buses"
- It is agreed that your aim to keep free flowing traffic on the Priority 1 A414 County route, likewise it's in our interests for it be free flowing too. This is why our council has been consistent in expressing our opposition to new developments that do not have a viable transport infrastructure as this puts pressure on us which is unacceptable.
- We can emulate our neighbouring Parish of Danbury on their stretch of the A414 where you have approved 5 crossings in their 30 and 40 mph zones. It properly maintains a free flowing traffic movement on a priority 1 county route, a solution which could be copied here at our pinch point between Conduit/Bryant's Lane and the Oak Corner roundabout. The evidence of the success of the controlled crossings in Danbury meet your criteria of free flowing traffic on a priority 1 county route.
- We do have an island crossing which you installed on the 60mph Chelmsford road a priority 1 county route. It does not impede free flowing traffic therefore meets your criteria."
- We have also found it useful to include the ripple effect of housing developments in Maldon, Heybridge, Burnham, Danbury and South Woodham have on impacting the highways infrastructure.

The Essex county council owned storage area at the A414 end of Lodge road has had illegal potentially dangerous waste dumped in it. I'm pleased to say that finally after 3 years we succeeded in getting it removed and sealed to prevent further illegal activities. In Fambridge road Hazeleigh after 6 years we are seeing a chance of a footpath being installed. Also speed traps have been successful there. The solar farm public consultation in Hazeleigh went ahead after hearing the views residents at our meetings in the summer.

I wish to thank very much all the people who quietly go about picking up litter, it's very noticeable where you have worked so hard. Fly tipping is on the increase you can report this to MDC who will organise pickup, I have reported tv/computer screens to a canoe.

At the Dengie 100 meetings I attend the police asked that crime is reported as it then gives a true record of cases which enables proper staffing to meet demand. On the same lines I have been asked by ECC to report online potholes, damaged road signs, road sign lights not working and road markings which warn of hazards and are now worn and a risk for the motorists.

Covid has had a dramatic impact on all of us changing our lives and altering the way we do things. Sadly we have lost family and friends due to Covid and I wish to extend our councils deepest condolences to all of you who have lost loved ones. Lockdown has been very difficult for us and for some particularly so and I most sincerely wish to thank those of you who have been there for them by getting shopping checking on them and just being there.

A subject I feel strongly on is Mental health and well-being and we discussed in our January meeting what we can do to help and now we have a separate link via ECC on our parish website.

We have been walking, jogging, doggie walking and cycling a lot and it's good for our health and gets us out. I'm sure we know a lot more people than we did before, but it's also good for the health of the people who live on their own who see you, who can talk to you, and pat or talk to your dog because you could be their only contact for the rest of that day.

Sometimes you may wonder what you have accomplished in a year, but in spite of everything that's gone on I believe we have accomplished more, learnt more and are a stronger more experienced council able to move in a new way forward.

4.21 APA VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

To receive a report on the past 2 years activities from the Village Hall Representative. Burns Night 600 plus, water heater replaced.

5.21 APA FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Due to Covid-19 and the resulting restrictions on face to face meetings it was agreed by all to have a meeting by email and phone in the first week of June 2020. As chairman Sholto ably coordinated this. We were sorry that Bernard Death stepped down and thanked him for his advice and guidance which has been paramount to The Trust's continued success. We warmly welcomed Mick Cox to The Trust and are pleased that he has joined us. A donation was proposed and unanimously accepted. The next meeting will be in June 2022.

6.21 APA PARISH COUNCIL CHURCH LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

AR read out the Church Liaison Representative report on behalf of Andrew Macmorland:

The Church of St Margaret's at Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh is not alone in having had a difficult couple of years. Congregations have not always been able to meet in the Church and when they could it was under strange circumstances with restricted numbers, masks and a cleaning regime that meant extra work for everyone. We were so fortunate however to have the Rev Julie Willmot, Priest in Charge (installed 01/10/2019 and also serving St Michael's at Woodham Walter and All Saint's at Purleigh) who has been instrumental in keeping the community of the Church together in zoom services when required and telephones calls to the vulnerable amongst all the other pastoral duties that is her job which are so much more problematic in these difficult times.

The Rectory has now been sold and as the driveway was always allowed to be used for parking; a car park has been provided from a portion of the original garden for 13 cars.

The churchyards at St Margaret's and Hazeleigh have been kept clear and tidy by willing volunteers. Special thanks go as always to Stephen Pemberton for the regular grass cuts at St Margaret's and to Andrew Macmorland for clearing the hedge line at Hazeleigh.

7.21 APA MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussions about crossing endured, SB urged parishioners to maintain pressure. Cllrs feel 50mph is still too fast, another accident near Bryants Lane, school child had a near miss. Clare asked if another traffic survey could be undertaken, SB advised Essex Highways Speed Management Review will be completed by the summer. PCh advised there are currently County elections so there could be a different cabinet in place. Cllrs gave praise and thanks to Clare for her efforts in progressing issues associated with the A414.

KB raised concerns in respect to pot holes in Fambridge Raod, vehicles have received damage and punctures, motor cyclist

Add pot holes in Fambridge Road to Agenda.

Discussion about conducting a petition about problems on A414 ECC website provides information how to start a petition.

8.21 APA MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY.

Chairman of the Parish Council Simon Brady thanked everyone for attending, presenting their various reports and raising important village issues for discussion and in closing the meeting offered sincere and heartfelt condolences on behalf of all councillors and officers of Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council to Her Majesty The Queen and her family on the sad news of the passing of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, we join with all the people in our parishes in mourning his loss. An online book of condolences is available on The Royal Family website at www.royal.uk as well as one Essex County Council has opened on its own website at www.essex.gov.uk

.....(Clerk to the Parish Council)
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