

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 2023

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB Presiding), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Richard Britton (RB), Lorraine Cobb (LC).

Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings

3 members of public

101.23 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Stephen Pemberton was unable to attend due to agricultural duties. District Cllr Simon Morgan was committed to another meeting. As the meeting was an extraordinary one with a reduced agenda Country Cllr Jane Flemming will attend in September and sent her apologies.

102.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

103.23 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of public in attendance raised concerns about the amount of straw and hay being deposited on the road and verges, during periods of wet weather the straw turns to slush and causes drainage blockages. It also causes a nuisance to residents with additional dust deposits coating vehicles and properties.

A hazardous highway issue was also raised involving the location of the Hazeleigh village gateway structure in front of the 40mph speed limit sign which is causing sighting vehicle difficulties exiting certain properties, sighting difficulties are worsened when foliage growth occurs around the gateway furniture. Cllrs commented that although they supported resident requests for the introduction of a speed limit at the time of its implementation, the gateway furniture was not requested by the Parish Council and further enquiries will be made to understand the risk assessment undertaken by the Highway Authority and what actions can be taken to mitigate the situation.

Cllrs advised residents to report the issues on the Essex Highways website and Clerk will contact the County Cllr for further help and advice.

Other members of public were in attendance to express their concerns about a planning application to cut back a protected tree, the amount of cutting is considered too severe and though it is recognised some trimming is beneficial overcutting is likely to have a detrimental and damaging effect to the health of the tree concerned.

104.23 PREVIOUS MINUTES.

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 11 July 2023 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by KM seconded by RB and approved by all Cllrs.

105.23 PLANNING

22/00344 – LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Change of use of land for 2 Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising the siting of 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan per pitch, alongside the formation of per meable hardstanding.* APPEAL NO.

APP/X1545/W/22/33080465. Appeal hearing was heard at MDC offices on 21/06/2023 **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

23/00674WTPO – MANDALAY POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – T1 – Copper Beech (T2 on TPO 7/14) Crown lift by 4m. Lateral reduction 1.5. T2 – Copper Beech (T1 On TPO 7/14) – Lateral reduction by 1m. LPA Deadline 05/09/2023.

Having considered previous refused and approved applications involving cutting of the tree Cllrs recognise periodic trimming of the protected tree is required but consider a crown lift of 4m too severe resulting in a detrimental amenity and potentially causing long term damage and health to the tree, Cllrs recommend REFUSAL of planning permission. Cllrs also comment that any trimming should be carried out under the guidance and inspection of a Maldon District Council arboriculturalist.

23/00556/RESM – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Reserved matters following outline approval 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing.) LPA Deadline

04/10/2023. Cllrs consider the proposed properties to be of rather unattractive design and character which would be out of keeping within the rural village area and existing surrounding properties, particularly as some are listed buildings. Given the number of potential accommodation units in conjunction with changes to living conditions, concern is raised that the single highway access is unsuitable and consideration should be given to an additional access that would alleviate traffic movements to and from a single location connecting to the main B1010 Burnham Road. The Council would like to see the properties utilise current energy efficient design features in order to reduce their environmental impact. Cllrs support Natural England and Ecology Place Services requests for further ecological assessments to be undertaken and for police consultations in consideration to crime prevention design. For the aforementioned reasons The Council recommend REFUSAL of the application.

23/00738/LDE – THE FARM OFFICE RESIDENCY TYNDALES FARM SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Claim for lawful development certificate for the retention of an existing dwellinghouse. LPA Deadline 27/09/2023. Cllrs have no comments to make in respect to evidence of the lawful development.

106.23 SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS

No further response has been received in respect to the community benefit agreement.

107.23 LOCALITY FUND

SB has made an application to County Cllr Flemming for; hi-vis jackets, gloves litter pickers and litter bins. The Council understand a separate application for items will be made by the Village Hall Committee.

108.23 BUS SERVICES

SB advised he would contact the Dengie Hundred Bus User Group to advise them the Parish Council do not support the withdrawal of the D1/D2 service via Post Office Road. SB reported that most village bus stops now have new signs and timetables, eventually all will be equipped with timetables.

109.23 VILLAGE BUS STOPS/SHELTERS

AR is waiting for contractor quotations for foliage clearance. The Council's insurance provider has advised that graffiti removal would be covered by the Council insurance schedule, AR to research the claim process. LC suggested that it would be beneficial if the Parish Council could transfer its bus shelter assets and liabilities to the County Council, AR to make further enquiries. SB advised that having reported extensive rubbish accumulation around the Chelmsford Road bus stop/shelter this has now been cleared, thanks go to MDC appointed clearance operatives.

110.23 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1st Quarter (April-June) Review of business activity. Bank account statements were scrutinised by non-authorising Cllr KM and the April to June financial summary statement had been circulated to all Cllrs. No matters of concern were raised.

Balance of Accounts:

Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£543.93
Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£7,369.14

Authorisation of payments:

None	
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The above-mentioned 1st Quarter Accounting Statement and balance of accounts as proposed by RB and seconded by KM were agreed by all Cllrs present.

111.23 INFORMATION ONLY

Date of next scheduled Ordinary Meeting 12/09/2023

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 12/09/2023