

**Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council**  
**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES - WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2022**  
**Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:00pm**

**In attendance:** Parish Councillors Simon Brady (Chairman SB), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM), Richard Britton (RB), Andrew Macmorland (AM).

Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

18 members of the public.

**12.22 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

County Cllr Jane Flemming was unable to attend due to Covid related restrictions.

**13.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

AM declared a non –pecuniary interest to the only planning item on the agenda.

**14.22 PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the public attended the meeting wishing to express their views and hear details associated with the recently submitted planning application to build a crematorium on a site adjacent to the A414 opposite Woodham Mortimer Church. Residents and parishioners were concerned the development would introduce a detrimental impact to traffic flow along the A414, believing the entry/exit connecting to the A414 would introduce a hazardous element onto the main route between Maldon and Danbury, there has already been several traffic accidents along this section of the A414. It is doubtful only 4/5 daily services will be held as noted in the planning details given other similar facilities are able to significantly exceed this amount, all of which will intensify traffic movements. There is a feeling that the development would introduce a built form likely to set precedence for further development potentially seeing adjacent land utilised for care homes, hospices etc. resulting in Woodham Mortimer becoming an urban part of Maldon losing its unique village character. The nature of the development would have a detrimental impact on the listed properties in close proximity to the proposal. Parishioners wish to see Maldon District Council conduct a feasibility study and formulate a strategy to fund such a proposal themselves, given the expected profitability such a service provides it could deliver a valuable facility as well as financial benefits for Maldon District Council Tax payers.

The overall feeling was that it is generally understood that the need for a crematorium in the area is required but the site in the rural village of Woodham Mortimer adjacent to a main A-road linking Maldon and Chelmsford is unsuitable and a site further into the Dengie area should be explored.

**15.22 PLANNING**

**21/01276/FUL - Land opposite St Margaret's Church Maldon Road Woodham Mortimer**  
*Erection of a crematorium with ceremony hall, memorial arboretum and associated use of land, restoration of Coopers Monument, vehicular access, parking, landscaping, pedestrian crossing and diversion of footpath (PROW 269\_17).*

Cllrs agree with many of the concerns raised in the public open forum and by majority decision resolved to recommend REFUSAL of the application. Although it is recognised such a facility is needed to serve the Dengie area the location at Woodham Mortimer adjacent to a main A road serving Maldon, Chelmsford and connecting areas would substantially increase

traffic movements along the already overloaded route. Many residents are already reporting difficulties accessing Maldon Road due to its heavy use and a further exit/entry particularly at times of mass transitions is likely to provide frustrating conditions increasing accident risk and therefore introducing a hazardous situation onto a section of the A414 where traffic is only limited to 50mph. The proposed development site is a green belt area outside of any development boundary also distinguishing the Village of Woodham Mortimer from the town of Maldon and it is considered development would impose a negative impact and urbanisation effect to the rural countryside likely to be followed by further in-fill development applications ultimately merging Woodham Mortimer with Maldon. It is considered the development would be contrary to National Planning Framework policies protecting green belt land and conserving and enhancing the natural environment, and also contrary to Maldon District Councils Local Development Plan Policies S8 and H4 (development boundaries and effective use of land).

The Council urges Maldon District Council to conduct their own feasibility study and outline a strategy to construct such a facility themselves in a more suitable location serving the Dengie area, thus delivering a valuable facility as well as financial benefits for Maldon District Council Tax payers.

**16.22 INFORMATION ONLY**

No matters raised.

.....*Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 08 February 2022