

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall following the Annual Parish Assembly which commenced at 7:00pm

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB presiding), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Peter Harland (PH). County Cllr Jane Fleming (JF). Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

42.26 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Graham Harle was unable to attend due to holiday. District Cllr Simon Morgan sent apologies for being unable to attend.

43.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

44.26 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

45.26 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 10 March 2026 and Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 23 March 2026 were approved by as a true record of events as proposed by SP and seconded by KM.

46.26 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

No interest had been received to fill the vacancy, and Cllrs will continue to encourage any suitable candidates to apply.

47.26 PLANNING

24/00262/VARM – HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *Variation of condition 27 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)) on approved planning application 22/00261/FUL (The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.) Variation seeks: - Inclusion of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan as an approved document. LPA Deadline 03/07/2024 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

24/01014/OUTM – LAND SOUTH OF MALDON ROAD DANBURY – *Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 72 dwellings with associated infrastructure. LPA Deadline 18/04/2025 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

25/00160/FULM – LAND SOUTH OF WYKE HILL AND LIMBROOK WAY MALDON – *Construction of 90 dwellings (Use Class C3), open landscape, landscaping, vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage and other associated works. LPA Deadline 22/05/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

25/00277/OUT – LAND ADJACENT TO LITTLE OWLS POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Outline application with all matters reserved for demolition of twin stable blocks and replacement with two single storey holiday lets (2 bedroom) to replicate square footage of previous buildings and configured/designed to appear as low level farm buildings in a yard. LPA Deadline 20/05/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

25/00612/FUL – LAND ADJACENT TO RICKERBY FAMBRIDGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Erection of 1no. self build dwelling. LPA Deadline 02/09/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

25/00728/FUL - CAFE AND OFFICES AT CLAREMONT GARDEN CENTRE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER - Proposed new exit only access from Claremont Garden Centre and Tin Roof Cafe onto Chelmsford Road Location **LPA Deadline 08/10/2025 - TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/01022/FULM - LAND EAST OF BRIDGE WICK LANE DENGIE - The construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of an onshore wind electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure, comprising up to 15 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), onsite substation, access tracks, underground cabling, temporary construction compounds, temporary concrete batching plant, and landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement. **LPA Deadline 17/02/2026. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00959/VAR - LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMEBROOK WAY Maldon - Variation of condition 1 on approved planning permission 18/00531/RES (Approval of reserved matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) for Phase 1 of the Eastern Parcel of the wider Land South of Wycke Hill and Limebrook Way site (LPA Application Ref. FUL/MAL/18/00071), comprising the construction of 200 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated works.) to relocate 21 proposed trees. **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00492/PACUAR - LAND NORTH EAST OF WOODHAM MORTIMER LODGE LODGE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Prior approval application for change of use of an agricultural building to one dwellinghouse (Use Class C3). Appeal Ref: 6002783 **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

25/01091/HOUSE - CHEADLE 37 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER - Single-storey side and rear extension with pitched roof and rooflights; Extension of roof form to rear roof slope; new porch and two bay windows to front elevation; alterations to fenestration; removal of chimney; demolition of existing outbuildings and replacement outbuilding to rear garden. **LPA Deadline 19/03/2026. APPROVED**

25/00997/FUL LAND ADJACENT TO OAK CORNER COTTAGE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Erection of a new self-build dwelling and associated works Location. **LPA Deadline 18/03/2026. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

26/00081/HOUSE – NORTH VIEW BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER MALDON – single storey rear extension with roof lights, single storey side porch extension, front infill extension. **APPROVED**

26/00134/PADOT - AGRICULTURAL BUILDING AT LITTLE GRANGE FARM MARLPITS ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a flexible use within General Industrial (Class B2). **LPA Deadline 03/04/2026. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

26/00027/FUL GRENO HOUSE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Construct replacement dwelling with ancillary pool building and garage, with associated landscaping. **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00578/OUTM – LAND WEST OF THE CEMETERY LONDON ROAD MALDON - Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of up to 275 residential units including affordable housing, land for a children's nursery (Class E), 1.8ha of land for an extension to Maldon Cemetery, drainage works, landscaping, vehicular access to the A414, pedestrian/cycle access to Spital Avenue and London Road, and associated infrastructure. works. **LPA Deadline 25/09/2025 Appeal Ref: 6004910 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

26/00191/PACUAR LAND NORTH EAST OF WOODHAM MORTIMER LODGE LODGE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Prior approval application for change of use of an agricultural Barn

and Building Operations to one dwellinghouse (Use Class C3). This is a further application to the application presently waiting to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate (25/00492 listed above). The application is materially different as it converts only part of the barn, limits the dwelling to below 150 sqm to comply with Class Q requirements, retains agricultural use on site, and includes additional evidence on agriculture and ecology that was not available when the previous application was refused. Cllrs have no further comments than previously submitted to application 25/00492 and consider that the proposals appear to meet the permitted development criteria.

26/00121/HOUSE – MERRY TREES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey side infill extension between dwelling and garage.* Cllrs consider the modest single storey infill extension is well designed, proportionate to the existing dwelling, and causes no undue harm to neighbour amenity or the rural character of the area, therefore meeting the National Planning Policy Framework requirements and recommending GRANTING the application.

48.26 ROYAL OAK QUARRY - *Review of public access restoration plans.* Correspondence with the quarry operators has indicated it was understood there would not be any public open space just a return of the existing public rights of way, if the introduction of public open space had been considered it is expected to have been written into a Section 106 obligation. This is not how SB and PM remember discussions although it is conceded there is no s106 evidencing those discussions. County Cllr JF to contact the Essex County Council officer overseeing the site when the extended extractions were approved.

49.26 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

JF advised central government has chosen to proceed with consultation on a proposed five unitary authority servicing Greater Essex, the preferred model recommended by Essex County Council of three unitary authorities was not chosen. Councillor Flemming reminded all in attendance to respond to the Essex Highways Safer Speeds Strategy. Details about and how to comment on the strategy can be found online at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-safer-speeds-strategy>. Councillor Flemming also advised she had been approached by a Hazeleigh resident concerned with traffic speeds along the Fambridge Road and whether the Parish Council would consider employing the TRUCAM service provided by the Community Safety Team. The item will be added to the Parish Council May agenda for discussion. AR to contact MDC Community Safety Team for additional information.

50.26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Final Quarter Finance Report January-March 2026

The final quarter to end March 2026 account summary raised no matters of concern and was approved by all Cllrs as proposed by PH and seconded by SP. Non authorising Cllr KM had been unable to verify bank statements due to email accessibility issues.

AR advised he will be carrying out preparations for the Internal Audit so that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return can be submitted to the External Auditor. The external auditors have advised the Council it has been selected for an intermediate review for the 2025/26 reporting year.

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£4,125.69
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£174.67
Unity Trust Community Benefit Account	£5,283.52
Unity Trust Community Benefit 95-Day Account	£80,044.49
Total funds on deposit	£89,628.37
Lloyds Debit Card	ZERO

Authorisation of payments

Npower non-metred electricity April 2026-March 2027	£684.48
NALC/EALC affiliation fee	£334.53
Transfer of funds	£500.00

It was noted the NALC/EALC affiliation fee was significantly higher than the previous year, this is likely to be due to the increase in electorate by the new houses constructed on the outskirts of Hazeleigh and Woodham Mortimer forming part of the South Maldon Garden Suburb development. JF advised there will likely be boundary changes so that the new houses can be subsumed into the boundary of Maldon Town. Discussions ensued regarding the value of EALC affiliation which provides access to indemnified legal advice, HR and staffing support, guidance on FOIs and data protection, standards, governance compliance support and whose advice is recognised by auditors and monitoring officers. The Organisation also acts as a national lobbying body to the general benefit of Parish Councils as well as providing discounted Cllr training courses. Given the advantages of membership Cllrs proposed to continue affiliation, however AR will contact EALC seeking a detailed reason for the increased fee and when (if) boundaries are changed whether a refund would be applicable

Transactions since the previous meeting

Andrew Ritchings Clerks quarterly salary	-£822.48
Andrew Ritchings Clerks work from home allowance	-£52.00
HMR&C Andrew Ritchings PAYE tax	-£205.80
MS365 monthly subscription fee	-£35.57
Lloyds Debit card fee	-£3.00
Bank service charge	-£7.00
Npower non-metred street lighting energy charges	-£684.48

51.26 VILLAGE HALL FUNDING – request for Parish Council grant to assist with works projects. SB had circulated a list of Village Hall maintenance projects needed to be funded which Cllrs will study for discussion at the next meeting.

52.26 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path) – gate restriction and return to previous character. Nothing to report.

Member Led Priority Scheme - A414 Road Markings – JF confirmed she has applied for road marking maintenance work to be carried out and is waiting to hear if accepted. It was noted highway signage has fallen down in the A414 layby and JF will add this to the application.

Local Highways Panel Schemes. The following projects remain on the list of schemes though they are not expected to be delivered due to the forthcoming closure of all LHP Schemes.

- **Footway Defect A414** – Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Bryants Lane and Runsell Green Danbury (LHP Scheme No. 36).
- **A414 30mph Speed limit** – between Oak Corner and Post Office Road.
- **A414 40mph Speed limit** – between Post Office Road and Limebrook Farm.
- **Conduit Lane** – Mobility vehicle/wheelchair access to bus stop

53.26 MAINTENANCE OF BUS SHELTER BRICKWORK – Nothing to report.

54.26 IT POLICY – AR advised he has drafted an Information Technology Policy document as required by new regulations noted in the Small Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) Practitioners' Guide 2026/27. The 2026/27 Practitioners' Guide introduces/strengthens Annual Governance Statement by Assertion 10 – Digital and data compliance, the assertion dictates the

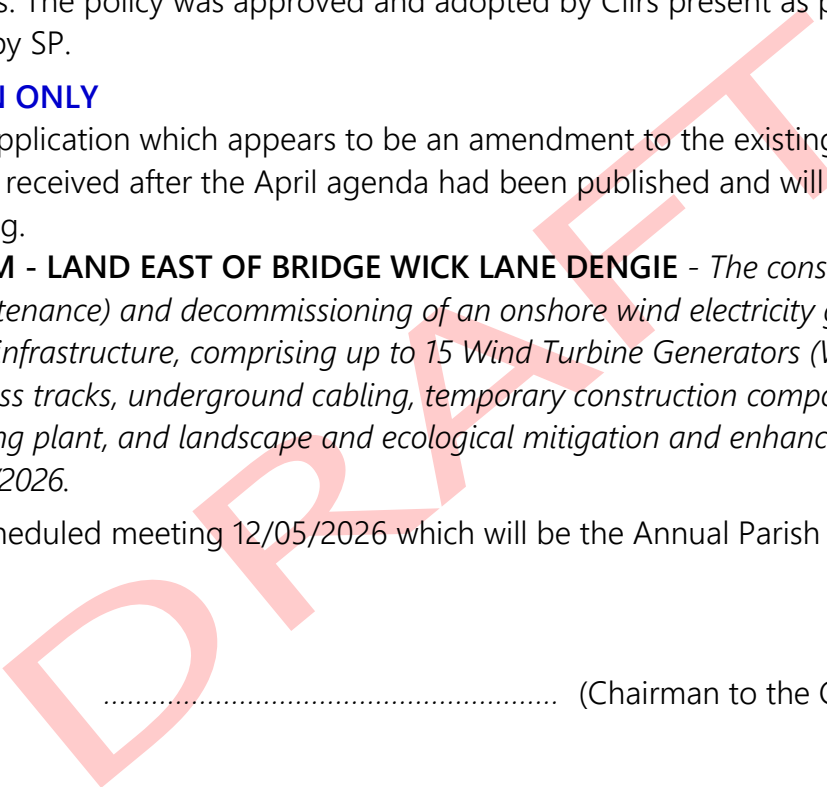
Council must have arrangements for effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices. The policy was approved and adopted by Cllrs present as proposed by PH and seconded by SP.

55.26 INFORMATION ONLY

The following application which appears to be an amendment to the existing undetermined application was received after the April agenda had been published and will be discussed at the next meeting.

25/01022/FULM - LAND EAST OF BRIDGE WICK LANE DENGIE - *The construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of an onshore wind electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure, comprising up to 15 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), onsite substation, access tracks, underground cabling, temporary construction compounds, temporary concrete batching plant, and landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement. LPA Deadline 17/02/2026.*

Date of next scheduled meeting 12/05/2026 which will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm



..... (Chairman to the Council) 12/05/2026