

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

MINUTES - TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:00pm

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB presiding), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP).

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

1.26 APA 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.

2.26 APA MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 08 April 2025 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by PM and seconded by KM.

3.26 APA PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Presented by Simon Brady - Change is coming in the local government structure. Two tiers of local government is going being amalgamated into one. Town and parish councils will remain. This is having an effect in how we as a council plan ahead. We've had to reevaluate how we adapt to deal with this future situation.

We now have a contractor to paint the bus shelters with the anti-graffiti paint we've purchased. Vegetation has been finally cleared between Tom Tit Lane and Bryant's Lane on the A414. Hedging has been cut back on Chelmsford Road by Zaras enabling better visibility at a particularly dangerous part. I would like to thank landowners and residents who cut the hedges and grass giving better visibility for road users.

Lorraine Cobb has stepped down as a councillor this year. I thank her what she has done for our community and I wish her well in the future.

Our council meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall. The hall and playing field are owned and run by a trust with run by a village hall committee. We as a parish council have to book the room and pay like everyone else. Alternatively you can go onto our website to see what's going on.

4.26 APA VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Presented by Parish Cllr Kim McDonald on behalf of Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Village Hall Committee - This year has been a hive of activity under the leadership of the committee with first of all re-decorating the inside, we have also replaced the old heaters with more modern appliances and re-placed the chairs. Outside of the hall we have improved the drainage/sewage system. We are also getting the three big trees in the front hedge surveyed for safety reasons. All this has been accomplished by diving into our savings and help from the Locality fund for which we must thank Jane Fleming.

There is still work to do - a job needing attention is the front lintel of the building which over the years has developed woodworm plus It is our intention to re-surface the car park and eventually re-surface the frontage. All these improvements will take time and money.

Hiring has been steady and the monthly Coffee mornings have continued to be a success which along with the Burns Night (which made a profit of £600 plus) all helping with the

upkeep of the Hall. We have also reviewed the hiring charges with small increases to fit the improvements made.

Financially we are still in good stead although our savings have taken a hit.

5.26 APA FALKLANDS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There was no meeting of the Trust during the year March 2025 to April 2026, however Parish Cllr Steven Pemberton reported Trustees have managed to find three people to whom donations from the trust would be beneficial. The proposed recipients all live in Hazleigh social housing, and retail vouchers will be donated so that much needed household items can be procured.

6.26 APA MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no further matters raised.

7.26 APA MEETING CLOSURE AND SUMMARY

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

..... (Chairman to the Parish Council) 13/04/2027