

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 08 APRIL 2025

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall
following the Annual Parish Assembly at approximately 8:00pm.

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady(SB) presiding, Kim McDonald(KM), Pauline McDonald(PM) Lorraine Cobb(LC), County Cllr Jane Fleming(JF), District Cllrs Mark Durham (MD) & Simon Morgan (SM), Andrew Ritchings(AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.
4 members of the public were in attendance.

41.25 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Stephen Pemberton was unable to attend due to anniversary celebrations and Parish Cllr Graham Harle sent apologies due to business commitments

42.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

43.25 PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public attended the meeting wishing to raise concerns over activities associated with Planning Applications at Land on the south side of Maldon Road to redevelop the site for Gypsy and Traveller use. Concerns raised included environmental and pollution issues, planning breaches and anti-social late night disturbances and fly tipping. The site has been decimated contrary to conditions applied by the Planning Inspectorate and ongoing activities are completely unacceptable. It seems unfair that enforcement at this site has not been actioned compared to other site applications that conform strictly to planning rules.

SM advised he is arranging a meeting between all interested parties at the cost of MDC and Planning Officers have advised they have ongoing investigations over various planning breaches and whether the previously approved application can now be feasibly implemented. It was concluded that at present it appears there are no permissions for development on the site due to the breaches associated with the original application and the second application still being considered by the LPA.

A member of the public advised there is to be a residents meeting and request the Parish Council write a letter to the LPA demanding a complete cessation of any further activity at the site. SB advised he will attend the meeting and listen to all views, the item would then be added to next month's Agenda for the full Council to resolve any actions to be taken.

A request was made for Parish Council funds to pay for a new battery and pads for the Village Defibrillator attached to the external wall of The Hurdlemakers Arms. AR advised Cllrs had already approved funds for a new battery in October 2024 and an invoice will be forwarded to the Clerk in due course.

44.25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 11 March 2025 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by LC and seconded by KM.

45.25 CASUAL VACANCY

As there had been no requests for the Council to initiate an election Cllrs were able to Co-Opt a new Cllr onto the Council, Mr Peter Harland (PH) who had expressed an interest was invited to join the Council and duly co-opted as a Cllr to represent Hazeleigh replacing the vacant position left by Mr Richard Britton.

46.25 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**

24/00844 – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Reserved matters application for the approval of all matters on approved planning application 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing) **LPA Deadline 14/02/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00869/FUL - LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Demolish three existing buildings, redevelop the site for Gypsy and Traveller Use comprising the siting of a total of four mobile homes (including the retention of two existing mobile homes allowed on appeal under application ref. 22/00344/FUL), use of existing hay store building for storage together with associated facilities and landscaping. **LPA Deadline 12/03/2025 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**

25/00081 – 1 SPRING COTTAGES CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Single Storey side extension. **LPA Deadline 25/03/2025. APPROVED BY LPA**

25/00105/LDE - KEESTON CHELMSFORD ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - Claim for lawful development certificate for existing use of dwelling without complying with agricultural occupancy restriction as stated at condition 2, MAL/647/79. **LPA Deadline 09/04/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00019/PACUAR – LAND ADJACENT LODDARTS LODGE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Prior approval for conversion of agricultural barn to one dwellinghouse and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **LPA Deadline 09/04/2025 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00084/HOUSE – MILTON GRANGE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Removal of existing garage roof with replacement roof to create first floor home office with balcony to rear. New garage door and stairs to side. **LPA Deadline 09/04/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00772/FULM – LAND ADJACENT 30 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Construction of 4No. three bedroom detached dwellings and 2No. four bedroom detached dwellings with associated garages and carports. New vehicular accesses to each property. **LPA Deadline 12/12/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

25/00160/FULM – LAND SOUTH OF WYKE HILL AND LIMEBROOK 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.** Whilst Cllrs are not against the development of further housing at this location they raised serious concerns over the lack of appropriate infrastructure considerations such as schooling, medical services and the surrounding road network. Until an amendment application is submitted addressing these concerns the Council recommending REFUSING the application.

47.25 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Cllr Mark Durham provided an update in respect to Government Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation, there is to be a mayoral election in May 2026 and although final details are still to be confirmed it is likely a new structure of 3 or 4 local authorities will be in place by April 2028 whereby the dissolved new authorities will take charge. Cllrs were advised to keep up to date with the changes as they could affect powers and duties of Parish Councils with consequences to their budgets.

JF attended an Integrated Care Boards for Suffolk and Norfolk budget who have been advised cuts to NHS budgets are to be reduced by 50% which means there needs to be a major reorganisation, although at present this does not affect Essex this is an indication of how NHS cuts may affect the County.

48.25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Final Quarter Report January-March - Cllrs reviewed the 4th and final quarter of financial activities January to March 2025 which raised no matters of concern, the end of year balance is close to expected year end budget forecasts. Bank statements for months January-March were also scrutinised and considered accurate.

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£4,205.64
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£280.19
Total funds on deposit	£4,485.83

AR researched online sites and approached local computer experts Silicon Alley for a new laptop quotation to replace the current device purchased in 2012. Quotes were comparable and Cllrs resolved to procure the new equipment from a local business who had offered 2 devices with different IT specs. Cllrs decided the higher spec version at an additional £100 would provide better long term provision.

Authorisation of payments

Npower non metered Street Lighting 2025-26	£666.72
EALC & NALC Affiliation fee 2025-26	£251.26
Laptop computer	£630.00
Transfer of funds from Savings to Current Account	£2,000.00

Transactions since the previous meeting

PAYE Clerk Salary Nett	-£194.00
HMR&C Clerk PAYE tax	-£776.20
Work from home allowance 13 weeks	-£52.00
Lloyds Debit Card charge	-£3.00
Unity Trust Account charges	-£6.00
Bank account Interest	+£32.48

Final quarter financial review and authorisation of above payments were approved by all Cllrs present as proposed by KM and seconded by PH.

49.25 COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAZELEIGH SOLAR FARM

AR has been advised the legal agreement will shortly be counter signed by the solar farm developers.

50.25 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path) – gate restriction and return to previous character. No updates

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. – VAS Installation.

Following the completed speed survey Essex Highways concluded the amount of vehicles exceeding the limit didn't meet the threshold to warrant a County Council funded VAS. However as the VAS will be funded by a member of the public the Parish Council need to apply for a license to situate the sign at an appropriate location. The forms are available on the Essex Highways website which AR will locate and download.

A414 Chelmsford Road – *hedge encroachment between Zara Restaurant and gravel pit* (EH ref: 2942385). No activity

A414 Maldon Road – *verge condition central island crossing point church side of Crematorium.* Cllrs have been advised there is dispute between developers and Essex Highways in respect to the specification of the access to the crossing on the Church side and until it is resolved the crossing remains closed.

Conduit Lane – *Mobility vehicle/wheelchair access to bus stop.* It appears that the design of the new road layout to accommodate the new central island at Conduit Lane omitted ramp pavement access to the bus stop and JF will be making further enquiries.

The following highway issues were included on the Maldon Local Highways Panel list which is now under review and no schemes are proceeding until the review has been completed.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Tom Tit Lane and Ransell 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.*

51.25 BUS SHELTERS - Graffiti removal updates.

A new quotation received from Aquajet Power Ltd to clear the remaining graffiti was approved by Cllrs and AR will advise contractor accordingly and seek a prospective works date so that Cllrs can plan the work party to paint the shelters after graffiti removal.

52.25 INFORMATION ONLY

As much of the new housing provision included in the South Maldon Garden Suburb development has now been completed AR provided an update to the increased electorate which has affected Hazeleigh: –

As of July 2023 Woodham Mortimer = 420 Hazeleigh = 82

As of Apr 2025 Woodham Mortimer = 436 Hazeleigh = 187

Next scheduled meeting is the Parish Council Annual Meeting 13/05/2025.

..... *Simon Brady* (Chairman to the Council) 13/05/2025