

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 08 DECEMBER 2020
Commenced at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady, Chairman (SB), Andrew Macmorland (AM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Kim Broadhurst (KB) Richard Britton (RB).

District Cllr Karl Jarvis (KJ), County Cllrs Mark Durham (MD) and Penny Channer (PCh)
3 members of the public joined the meeting.

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

131.20 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None

132.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to Planning Item Land adjacent to The Rise, that being a resident of Bryants Lane. SB also declared a non-pecuniary interest to land potentially affected by the proposed footpath adjacent to Fambridge Road as the land is owned by non-immediate family. AM also declared a non-pecuniary interest on Land adjacent to The Rise.

133.20 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of public in attendance advised the Council they had drafted a letter outlining the difficulties suffered by their family attempting frequent crossings of the A414 Maldon Road near to the Oak Corner bus stop. The letter is intended to be delivered to residents within the vicinity in order to encourage support to seek a resolution to the situation. The Parish Council fully support the efforts of the parishioner and invite anyone wishing to express their views to write to their District and County Cllrs and Member of Parliament. Concern was also raised with vehicles travelling at speed along sections of the B1010 between Oak Corner and Hazleigh, however given the recent profile of attempted restrictions and a suitable crossing aid on the A414 the parishioner considered it would be preferable to take forward once a resolution for the aforementioned issue is found. Details of Planning item 20/01111 Oaklea Burnham Road were discussed by the applicant and Cllrs.

134.20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary Council Meetings 10 November 2020 and minutes of Extraordinary (Planning) Meeting 17 November 2020 were approved as a true record of events by all Cllrs at that meeting as proposed by KM and seconded by SP.

135.20 PLANNING

20/00333 KINVARA MANOR LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Proposed altered vehicular access and replacement garage. **APPEAL NOTICE** (APP/X1545/D/20/3254866).*

APPEAL DISMISSED by Planning inspectorate.

COUNTY BROADBAND – nothing to report.

20/01021/FUL – LAND REAR OF HILL BARN RECTORY LANE WOODHAM

MORTIMER – *Proposed conversion of existing equestrian/storage buildings to form offices (Use Class B1) alongside access, parking, landscaping and other associated development. **UNDECIDED BY LPA***

20/00994/FUL – LITTLE GRANGE FARM MARLPITS ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER –

*Full planning application for the proposed change of use from Agricultural to Dwellinghouse (C3) and associated operational development of the Apple store and Essex barn at Little Grange Farm. **UNDECIDED BY LPA***

20/01106/FUL – OAK CORNER COTTAGE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER
– *Erection of a 2-bed dwelling.* **UNDECIDED BY LPA**

20/01103&4/HOUSE – ELMS BARN LODGE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Erection of single storey garaging for vehicle storage.* **UNDECIDED BY LPA**

20/01135/HOUSE – MILTON GRANGE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Reconfiguration of entrance hall, external windows and doors, with elevations to be clad and rendered. Alterations of the internal layout and conversion of loftspace.* Cllrs did not perceive there to be any detrimental effect on the street scene or environmental impact and recommended GRANTING the application.

20/01183/FUL – LAND ADJACENT TO THE RISE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Change of use of existing domestic field to private recreational equestrian use and the construction of a stable block located in the North East corner of the site.* Cllrs considered the application to be similar to that applied in 2019 (19/00874) and refer to their previous comments in minutes 23/10/2019, that being no objections are raised but would like to see conditions imposed for appropriate screening from the highway, provision made for the disposal of horse waste and consideration be given to the entrance width so that vehicles with attached horse boxes do not conflict with other road users.

20/01111/HOUSE – OAKLEA BURNAHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Alterations to raise the roof, dormer roof alterations to front and rear, single storey side extension, single storey rear extension with balcony.* Having recommended refusal for the previous two applications at Oaklea Cllrs considered the latest application of reduced height had addressed previous refusal reasons, the design presented a more aesthetically suited development for the location in keeping with other nearby properties and recommend GRANTING permission.

136.20 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

KJ reported that MDC accounts year ending 31/03/2020 have now been agreed and the Council is still looking at budgets. There are no updates to the Bradwell Power Station proposals or High Street Trading. The District Council continues to monitor the current costs of keeping leisure centres open. KJ advised he had 'called in' 3x Planning Applications recently reviewed by the Parish Council – those being Land rear of Hill Barn, Little Grange Farm and Oak Corner Cottage. The concern raised by the Parish Council in respect to an appropriate location of yellow site notices was noted and the notices at Land rear of Hill Barn have been relocated for better public viewing.

MD advised that MDC no longer have a five year housing land supply which may have an effect on Planning Authority decisions when appraising applications and it was reported that the pandemic has had an impact on decision schedules for many applications. The Local Government reform debate has again been raised and continues to provide some uncertainty for future authority structures. Parish Cllrs asked if the practice of Local Planning Authority direct consultation with nearby property owners in respect to applications has been discontinued and were advised the practice was not a statutory requirement contrary to yellow notices which are mandatory. Parish Cllrs also raised concern and disappointment that the Local Highways Panel schemes for Maldon District has the lowest budget across the County having a detrimental effect on many requested schemes. County Council continue to review initiatives for helping local businesses. There is also concern at the rise in COVID-19 infection levels particularly as Basildon now has the worse infections in the country and Essex is heading for Tier 3 restrictions, however the feeling is this is the beginning of the end in the battle against the pandemic.

A report of County Council activity has been circulated by PCh which included the following topics: Latest Covid data for Essex on 3rd December 2020; Essex has been granted £7,358,700, the highest allocation of any county in England, to further develop safer, greener and healthier travel and transport locally; News Release - Vision Zero: No more deaths on Essex roads ; Essex Climate Action Commission Publishes Interim Report; £26m from Government Getting Building Fund confirmed for Essex; E-scooter trials to start

in Essex; County Council confirms funding for businesses affected by COVID restrictions; Happy third birthday to the Essex Lottery!; Essex County Council is wrapping a protective blanket around the most vulnerable this winter, providing warmth, food, emergency grants and support to residents hit by the pandemic; Essex residents encouraged to sign-up to renewable energy and save with the Essex Energy Switch; Solar energy to give Essex a brighter future; Transformational Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package to encourage safer, greener and healthier travel in Chelmsford.

PCh disconnected from the meeting at this point.

137.20 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Fambridge Road (Limebrook Way RAB to Royal Oak PH) - Detailed design of footpath (LMAL142006 £7,000) (originally requested 22/04/2014) and **(LMAL162099) - Walkable verge/footway**. No activity to report.

A414 Maldon Road Oak Corner to Post Office Road – Detailed design and legal elements of a speed reduction to 50mph (LMAL182016 £6,500), from Wycke Hill to the junction with B1010 Burnham Road. Chairman awaiting requested results of consultation in time for Essex Highways meeting.

Southend Road and B1010 Burnham Road – Speed limit reduction (LMAL182028 allocated budget £12,500). The recent consultation received no objections and is now awaiting implementation dates to be advised from the instructing engineer.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Cllrs and parishioner representatives are to attend an online surgery with County Cllr Kevin Bentley in order to seek mitigation measures for safe crossing of the A414 at an appropriate location between Oak Corner roundabout and Post Office Road.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry No. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) rotten verge reflector posts. No activity to report.

Footway Repair Programme – Parish Council's request to clear the length of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church (PC response to Member request for schemes May 2019). Cllrs agreed as this item has now finally been confirmed not to meet the programme criteria it will be removed from future agendas. However the issue of overgrown pavements still exists and it is now intended to report the defects on the Essex Highways website. AR and a member of public volunteered to walk the route in order to note exact location details and take photographs.

Lodge Road – following a monitoring period the continuous running water now appears to have been resolved by adjacent ditch clearance.

Bryants Lane – Cllrs have received reports that an increased number of large HGV's have been making deliveries in Bryants Lane. It was agreed to monitor the situation especially when movement restrictions are reduced post pandemic.

138.20 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

There were no matters to report.

139.20 LOCALITY FUND

AR advised information was awaiting receipt in order to complete the application form for funding of the new defibrillator battery. It was decided that funding towards the new Village Hall sewage system would not be progressed as there was not yet enough details available to meet the application criteria. Instead it was considered the Village Hall would benefit from the installation of broadband in order to provide WiFi connection to hirers and KM and PM would seek approval from Village Hall Committee and provide further details.

140.20 CLERKS EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW

Clerk and Cllrs advised they were not concerned if public remained in attendance whilst discussing Clerks salary. As per the NALC Salary Award Agreement SB proposed an increase to level 12 of the SPC at the new rate of £11.53 per hour, all Cllrs in agreement and everyone agreed the current 22hrs per month was an appropriate amount of time to administer Council activities and would remain unchanged. New Clerk Salary to be £3,043.92/yr commencing from April 2021.

141.20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

141.20.1 Balance of Accounts – AR reported T1 Current Account funds of £531.47; Instant access Account funds of £2,772.89. Total funds on deposit £3,304.36

141.20.2 Budget proposals and precept demand for year 2021/22 – after lengthy deliberation Cllrs considered and agreed the funds required to conduct Council business for financial year 2021/22. Apart from the usual yearly costs further consideration was given to: The Auditor report for accounts 2019/20 suggesting Council reserves at about one third of annual budget spend is rather low, and having been advised by MDC during the year that although the Council acts as a single Council any election costs are applied as 2 separate parishes. Costs for the 2015/16 election demanded by the District Council amounted to £590, should the possibility arise of elections for both parishes costs could potentially rise in excess of £1,000. Consideration was also given to the potential replacement of the Council's 8 year old laptop computer, increase in Clerk salary as per the National Association of Local Council's pay scale agreement, potential contributions towards the village defibrillator maintenance costs and street lighting replacement parts. Given the aforementioned items proposals of an increase of £1,000 and £500 were suggested and Cllrs agreed on an increase of £750, therefore the Precept Demand for financial year 2021/22 will be £5,537.

141.20.3 Authorisation of payments – A payment was authorised for Clerk emoluments of £580.80 Nett, £145.20 PAYE and a home working allowance of £52. In order to cover the aforementioned and pending payments a transfer of £1,000 from the Instant Access Accounts to the Current Account was authorised.

The above Precept Demand and payment authorisation as proposed by KB and seconded by SP was agreed by all Cllrs.

142.20 INFORMATION ONLY

SB advised he intended to participate in the next Bradwell Power Station Focus Group meeting.

Date of next Ordinary monthly meeting 12/01/2021 at 19:30 via Zoom

.....*Andrew Ritchings*..... (Clerk to the Council) 12 January 2021