

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 08 MARCH 2022

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:30pm

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

County Cllr Jane Flemming (JF).

Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording

5 members of public

26.22 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Councillor Richard Britton was unable to attend

27.22 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR (REPRESENTING HAZELEIGH)

No nominations have been received and the Council remains without a full complement of Councillors.

28.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared pecuniary interests to planning items; Crematorium, detached ancillary building at Hall Farm and proposed solar farm being the landowner of the applications. AM declared a non-pecuniary interest to the same aforementioned applications having business associations with the landowner. SB declared a non-pecuniary interest in Highways item Fambridge Road being related to landowners subject to the potential footpath.

29.22 PUBLIC FORUM

A number of parishioners attended the meeting advising the Council of ongoing activities at the site adjacent to the A414. Reports have been received there are now multiple occupants on the site habiting 3 caravans. The site is now subject to an injunction preventing any further development activity and will shortly be determined. It is understood a planning application will shortly be made to the Planning Authority to which The Council will comment once the details have been received and examined.

A request of an update in respect to the ongoing proposed A414 pedestrian crossing was made to the Council with additional comments of extreme frustration advising that further attempted communications with Essex Highways are now being ignored. County Cllr Jane Flemming in attendance, advised she has made arrangements for Cabinet Member for Highways and Sustainable Transport Lee Scott to carry out a site visit in April in order to experience the situation himself, he will also be viewing the condition of the footway between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church also the subject of many parishioner complaints.

Comments were also raised over the recently submitted Planning Application for a Solar Farm in Hazeleigh between Hazeleigh Hall Wood and the old railway line. Concerns were raised about the potential noise of the numerous solar panels proposed and the detrimental effect on wildlife in the surrounding location. Although various noise survey's had been submitted by the applicant it was considered too technical for parishioners to understand and had been conducted when wind directions were heading away from local residential properties. It was also noted that it was disappointing no further direct contact had been made by the applicant with residents since the online meeting with the Parish Council.

30.22 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 08 February 2022 were agreed as a true record of events as proposed by AM seconded by SP and agreed by all present at that meeting.

31.22 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).* **AWAITING DECISION BY DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

22/00066 – 4 GOAT HOUSE LANE HAZELEIGH

Change to external materials. **AWAITING DECISION BY LPA**

21/01271 – THE COOPERS MONUMENT MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER

Restoration of Coopers Monument/Obelisk. **AWAITING DECISION BY DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

22/00069 – BURY FARM FAMBRIDGE ROAD HAZELEIGH

Proposed Car Port. **AWAITING DECISION BY LPA**

22/00074 – HALL FARM MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Detached ancillary oak framed annexe.* Cllrs do not perceive any detrimental effect to the street scene or surrounding environment and recommend GRANTING planning permission.

22/00261 – HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.* Some Cllrs thought the solar farm would be a beneficial addition to energy supplies in the area, particularly in the current energy crisis and raised no objections, other Cllrs considered the site to be an inappropriate location for such a large development raising concerns over noise pollution and the detrimental effect to surrounding wildlife habitats. Following an equality of votes Cllrs resolved to submit comments of concern to the Local Planning Authority. It was also noted that the public footpaths across the site would be enclosed each side by tall hedging and consideration is requested to be given for appropriate widths of the paths so that they do not become oversaturated and unusable.

BRADWELL B POWER STATION – (updates) No updates

32.22 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Jane Flemming circulated her March Report which included the following subjects: UKRAINE; CIRCUS AT THE LIBRARY!; ESSEX SUMMER OF CULTURE 2022; ESSEX YEAR OF READING; ESSEX RECORDS OFFICE PRESENTS: 100 YEARS IN THE LIFE OF A THAMES SAILING BARGE; ESSEX RECORDS OFFICE PRESENTS: GETTING STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME OFF THE GROUND; ESSEX RECORDS OFFICE PRESENTS: BALANCING THE CHALLENGES - MANGING HERITAGE LANDSCAPES ALONGSIDE CONTEMPORARY NEEDS; JOIN THE ESSEX RESIDENTS PANEL; ESSEX LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED; LOCAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT BOOST; JOIN THE FIRST EVER CLIMATE AWARENESS TRAIN TO NORTH FAMBRIDGE!; BUSINESSTIME IN ESSEX; ESSEX GREEN APPRENTICESHIPS GROW; SIGN UP FOR FREE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES; BACKING ESSEX BUSINESS; LANGFORD & ULTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN; HEYBRIDGE WEST BY ELECTION ; BUTT LANE MARKET CONSULTATION; ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT 7TH MARCH DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION; LAUNCH OF ONE MALDON DISTRICT.

It was noted that following the recent District Council by-election the new District Cllr serving Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh is Cllr Simon Morgan.

33.22 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. Nothing to report.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. District Cllr JF and Cabinet Member Lee Scott to survey in April. Steering Group to provide evidence of crossing difficulties.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry Nos. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) and 2705814 logged 01/03/2021) rotten verge reflector posts. Nothing to report.

Footway Defect A414 – Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. District Cllr JF and Cabinet Member Lee Scott to survey in April. Member of public offered to raise a working party to clear the path and JF will seek clarification from Essex Highways.

Lodge Road (junction with A414 Maldon Road) – earth deposits on verge (ref No. 2710764 logged 29/03/2021). Nothing to report.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh – members of the public contacted the Council seeking clarification of the status of the footpath off Lodge Road that runs behind Hazeleigh Churchyard. The Council understand proposed works by the landowner is to clear the path and ditches in order to mitigate the current flooding issues and to secure the entrance onto Lodge Road with a lockable gate to prevent sheep escaping.

34.22 LOCALITY FUND GRANT

AR and SB advised that a new projector and screen have been purchased and hopefully ready to use at next month's meeting.

35.22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts: AR advised account balances of: T1 Current Account £711.41; Instant Access Deposit Account £1,710.10 Total funds on deposit = £2,421.51

Authorisation of payments: the following payments were approved by all Cllrs as proposed by KM and seconded by SP:

Clerks salary nett	608.78
HMR&C	152.20
Clerks work from home allowances	56.00
Transfer of funds from current to deposit account	1000.00

AR advised there had only been one positive response from a potential new internal auditor to undertake the Councils 2021/22 Audit, namely Heelis & Lodge of Camsea Ash Suffolk, it was noted that neighbouring PC Woodham Walter will also be seeking their services. In the absence of any other offers Cllrs agreed to approach Heelis & Lodge to undertake their 2021/22 Internal Audit.

36.22 INFORMATION ONLY

Date of next Ordinary Council Meeting is 12/04/2022, this it to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:00pm.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 12 April 2022