

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 08 OCTOBER 2024

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

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB) presiding, Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Graham Harle (GH). Stephen Pemberton (SP), Lorraine Cobb (LC), Richard Britton (RB), County Councillor Jane Fleming (JF). Andrew Ritchings Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.
7 members of the public in attendance.

109.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllr Simon Morgan was unable to attend due to attendance at an extraordinary Maldon District Council meeting.

110.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a pecuniary interest in item 115.24 being the freehold landowner.

111.24 PUBLIC FORUM

Some members of the public attended the meeting raising disappointment at the clearance of foliage along Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (AKA The Dragons Path), it had been hoped that vegetation at the sides of the path would be allowed to accumulate again so that wildlife previously seen along the path could return and enjoy the flora. Questions were raised about the removal of the current locked field gate and replace with bollards that would prevent vehicle access which is considered unlawful on the public footpath as no landowner has yet been identified.

Other members of the public were in attendance to report on the latest crematorium development and to report on the working party that convened in order to review the potential installation of a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (see respective report in below Highways item 116.24).

112.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 10 September 2024 were approved as a true record of events, proposed by KM, seconded by GH, agreed by all Cllrs present at that meeting.

113.24 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

24/00575/PACUAR – LAND NORTH EAST OF WOODHAM MORTIMER LODGE LODGE ROAD – Prior approval application for a proposed change of use of existing former agricultural building to 1 no. residential dwelling (Class C3). REFUSED BY THE LPA

24/00618/HOUSE – THE RISE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Demolition of outbuilding and replace with single storey outbuilding consisting of pool room, steam room, changing facilities and store. LPA Deadline 03/10/2024 APPROVED BY THE LPA

114.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

County Cllr Jane Fleming advised that Maldon District Council have submitted a robust report against the National Planning Policy consultation indicating they cannot see where any

additional development other than already identified can be located within the Maldon District particularly without any infrastructure strategy and they would be unable to meet an increase in additional housing targets.

115.24 **SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH**

GH advised the questions and instruction brief required for AR to forward to the Council's appointed legal executives to review the Community Benefit Fund Agreement. SB to finalise security information in order to create a new separate bank account with existing provider to administer the Community Benefit funds.

Footpath 3 Hazeleigh. Further reports of walking difficulties along the public footpath between the new solar panels have been received by the Parish Council, the path has been rutted and uneven for some time now despite numerous requests seeking the path be re-instated fit for purpose. The PC will again contact the solar farm operators and the local Public Rights of Way Officer requesting immediate action before a path user sustains a serious injury.

116.24 **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road, LHP Scheme No. 6.* No activity to report.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. LHP Scheme No. 36.* No activity to report.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path) – *gate restriction and return to previous character.*

Further to discussions in the Public Open Forum Cllrs considered a further approach to adjacent landowners in an attempt to resolve continued parishioner discontent may prove beneficial.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. – *VAS Installation.* A working party formed of Parish Cllrs SB and GH and a nearby resident have reviewed and surveyed potential speed sign devices and siting locations. It would appear that additional considerations may be required in order to take the proposed VAS forward including the current 30mph limit sign locations, foliage clearance, potential 'dragons teeth' road markings, and police speed checks. The Working Group will meet again in November to discuss further.

Chimney Lane – *'Unsuitable for HGV' signage. LHP Scheme No. 22.*

A414 30mph Speed limit – *between Oak Corner and Post Office Road.*

A414 40mph Speed limit – *between Post Office Road and Limebrook Farm.*

Post Office Road – *visibility concerns, both ends of the carriageway.*

The four above-mentioned schemes are apparently appearing on the LHP list of schemes but AR is unable to find any information on the Local Highways Panel website so is unable to provide any updates.

117.24 **BUS SHELTERS** - *Graffiti removal updates.*

Further discussions with the graffiti removal contractor has concluded it is not known if anti-graffiti paint has been applied and a reduced offer to the estimated painting cost is considered negligible by Cllrs. It is resolved not to appoint the same contractor for painting work and to explore the option of 'blasting' the graffiti from the brickwork rather than apply paint which will significantly change the character of the shelters within their rural setting.

118.24 **BUST STOP BENCHES** – *Potential installation of bus stop seating furniture via County Cllr Locality Fund.* SB has identified a suitable bench but AR is experiencing difficulties appointing a respective contractor to install the bench, therefore at present installation costs are unknown. SB to contact local contractor.

119.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

2nd Quarter review of Accounts (July – September)

Bank Statements were checked and approved by non-signatory Cllr

Name.....

Signature.....

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£7,126.50
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£1,339.18
Total funds on deposit	£8,465.68

Authorisation of payments

Insurance renewal premium	£344.83
Remembrance Day poppy wreath donation	£20.00
Annual Street Lighting Maintenance Contract	£180.00
Village defibrillator pads	£116.40
Transfer funds from Savings to Current Account	N/A

Payments made since the previous meeting

Lloyds Debit Card charge	£3.00
Clerk quarterly salary	£776.20
Clerk work from home allowance	£52.00
HMR&C PAYE income tax	£194.00
Annual Domain Name registration fee	£78.00
Information Commissioners GDPR annual fee	£35.00
Quarterly bank charges	£18.00

Second quarter accounts review, balance of bank accounts and authorisation of payments were agreed by all Cllrs present as proposed by GH and seconded by SP.

AR informed Cllrs that existing banking provider has advised they will now be charging fees monthly rather than the current quarterly fee.

As the Council's insurance renewal is due in November Cllrs discussed if any additional assets should be added and none were identified.

120.24 INFORMATION ONLY

The following application was received from the LPA after the October Agenda had been published and Cllrs resolved to review and discuss at the next meeting of the Council.

24/00776/LDP - FAIRWATER 39 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificate for proposed first floor front extension above existing garage. Changes to fenestration of front elevation* **LPA Deadline 29/11/2024**

KM advised County Broadband will be connecting WiFi to the Village Hall on 31 October 2024.

Reports of various overhanging and encroaching foliage on village roads are causing visibility problems for vehicles exiting junctions. SB will advise AR locations and the properties concerned so that AR can write to owners asking for cutting back to be carried out.

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 12/11/2024

..... (Chairman to the Council) 12/11/2024