

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 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).
District Cllr Karl Jarvis (KJ); County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh - joined during information only)
4 members of the public
Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings

91.20 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Cllr Kim Broadhurst had work commitments; Cllr Richard Britton was unable to attend due to technical IT problems.

92.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared an interest in planning item – proposed Solar Farm near Maldon

93.20 PUBLIC FORUM

The members of public in attendance raised concerns in respect to the proposed Solar Farm near Maldon, many local residents had not been contacted by the Applicants Low Carbon. Considerations were given to scale of the area to be developed, bio diversity, noise disturbance, impact on agriculture, highway access and effect on the Public Footpath through the proposed site. AR advised that Low Carbon have invited Cllrs to an online presentation on 15 September 2020 at 19:30 where details about the project would be provided and questions could be posed. Clerk would contact Low Carbon seeking clarification whether members of the public could attend and provide them with the joining details. It is understood that a similar proposal was approved in the parish of Thaxted and AR would contact Thaxted PC for further information.

A member of the public attended the meeting wishing to advise Cllrs of a proposed development for a property on land adjacent to Oak Corner Cottage near the Oak Corner roundabout. The intention is to downsize providing a more manageable habitable environment and an application would soon be made to the Planning Authority. SB gave thanks for the pre Application notice and advised that the Council will await notification from the Planning Authority so that the details could be discussed at a future public meeting.

94.20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of ordinary Council Meeting 18 August 2020 were agreed as a true record of events by Cllrs in attendance at that meeting, AR was delegated to sign the document.

95.20 PLANNING

ENF/17/00048/03 WOODHAM MORTIMER PLACE – *Painting and landscaping of approved new outbuilding to be completed by 11/08/2020.* - The Council have been advised that correspondence is taking place between the proprietor and Planning Authority in respect to work associated with conditions set by the Planning Inspector and works are ongoing.

20/00619/LDE - THE PIGHTLE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing occupation of The Pightle in non compliance with the agricultural occupancy condition.* **DECISION TO BE MADE BY LPA**

20/00675/OUT – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Outline planning permission with the matter of access for consideration is sought for the demolition of the building and replacement of the driving range and pitch & putt with 25 new one and two-bedroom detached and semi-detached elderly persons/disabled bungalows.* **DECISION TO BE MADE BY LPA**

20/00742 LODGE FARM LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Removal of condition 2 (demolition of existing dwelling) on approved planning permission 14/01109/FUL (variation of condition 2 on approved application FUL/MAL/09/00994 (New detached double garage to residential family room) to allow the provision of a double front entrance door instead of a single door as approved, and change to the front porch on the northern elevation of the dwelling).* **DECISION TO BE MADE BY LPA**

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM NEAR MALDON – Cllrs accepted Low Carbon invitation to Zoom meeting 15/09/2020 at 19:30, details to be forwarded by AR once Low Carbon advise joining instructions.

20/00848 ORCHARD HOUSE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTINMER – *Proposed single storey extension and link to garage, conversion of existing garage into habitable space and external fenestration changes to rear of dwelling and garage.* Cllrs do not feel there would be any detrimental effect on the street scene or the surrounding environment and recommend GRANTING permission.

96.20 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Karl Jarvis introduced himself to those members of the public unfamiliar with some of their District Cllrs. KJ advised that the Leader of the Council has had to step down the reasons of which have been widely publicised, as a consequence the Council is experiencing a busy political period.

97.20 HIGHWAY MATTERS

MALDON LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL SCHEMES

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.* Email requesting updates sent to Essex Highways and Cllr. Durham 11/08/2020 received no response, AR to send again and keep following up until a response is received.

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. Proposal is noted on the LHP as funded, awaiting funding for implementation.

Southend Road and B1010 Burnham Road – *Speed limit reduction (LMAL182028 allocated budget £12,500).* Proposal is noted on the LHP as funded, awaiting funding for implementation.

OTHER HIGHWAYS ISSUES

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid parishioners cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road.* Further to advice from Essex Highways to contact their County Cllr, PCh advised usually the only option is to seek the feasibility via the LHP which had already been reviewed and decided it was not possible within the remit of the LHP. PCh would request a surgery with Cllr Bentley to explore the proposal further.

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

Lodge Road Essex Highways storage compound – (*ECC61171240119 & Ecc5099301 08 18*) *fly tipped contaminated waste (reported in July 2018).* Following the recent involvement of County Cllr Simon Walsh this has now been cleared and the compound is once again a tidy storage area free of contaminated waste after 26 months from initially reporting the concern. Cllrs asked Clerk to send message of thanks to Cllr Walsh.

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).* PCh has been unable to find out if this scheme is likely to progress and Clerk has been advised to contact Essex Highways directly.

98.20 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

Cllr AM had no PROW matters to report.

99.20 LOCALITY FUND

County Councillors have been allocated a sum of £10K to utilise for worthy projects throughout their regions and the Parish Council has been invited to put forward any proposals to be considered for funding. Various ideas were raised including employment of Community Action Team Officers utilising the TrueCam speed guns along Farnbridge Road as previously employed by the Council; contribution towards clearance of footway adjacent to A414, contribution towards new septic tank for the Village Hall. SB suggested that Cllrs consider where funds could be used within the Community and report back to AR, a project (or multiple) would then be decided at the October meeting where PCh would be advised of the potential project(s) identified.

100.20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts – AR advised Bank Account balances of: T1 Current Account £566.08 and Instance Access Account £4,272.89

Authorisation of payments – Payments proposed to be authorised included:

Clerk quarterly salary (Nett £580.80, PAYE £145.20, work from home allowance £48.00);

A & J Lighting (street lighting maintenance contract). 5 year fixed fee of £150.00/year;

Information Commissioner's Office Data protection renewal fee £40.00;

Transfer of £1,000 from Instant Access Account to Current Account in order to facilitate the aforementioned payments.

As proposed by KM, seconded by SP and agreed by all Cllrs present.

101.20 INFORMATION ONLY

County Cllr PCh wished to raise the concerns on behalf of the County Council that Covid-19 infection rates are seeing a worrying rise and the consistent message about hand washing, distance etc. should be reminded to all.

AR advised the Council soon need to renew their staff Pension declaration. AR advised requirements of automatically placing staff into an appropriate scheme was staff employed between the ages of 22 and retirement, earing => £833.00 per month (£10,000/yr) and request to be placed in a pension scheme. The declaration would be added as an Agenda item for the October meeting.

AR asked if Cllrs knew the source of the running water in Lodge Road which has been continuous for a couple of months now. AM thought the source might be from a residential property and would make further enquiries in time for the next meeting. SB asked for the issue to be an Agenda item along with similar issues in Post Office Road and Conduit Lane.

Meeting closed at 21:15

Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 19:30 via Zoom

.....*Andrew Ritchings*..... (Clerk to the Council) 13 October 2020