

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 09 APRIL 2024

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall immediately following the Annual Parish Assembly which commenced at 7:00pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady (Presiding), Kim McDonald (KM), Loraine Cobb (LC), Richard Britton (RB). County Cllr Jane Fleming, District Cllr Simon Morgan. Andrew Ritchings (Clerk to the Parish Council taking minutes)
There were 2 members of the public in attendance

28.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllrs Graham Harle was unable to attend due to overseas commitments, Pauline McDonald is unwell and Stephen Pemberton had work commitments.

29.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

RB declared a pecuniary interest in Planning item 23/00292 Barn at Old Mill House Vineyard being the landowner and applicant of the appealed application.

30.24 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of public in attendance raised concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling on the A414 from Danbury once they have entered the 30mph restriction, accidents have occurred close to the bend along with many near misses and it is considered that it is time some mitigating measures were implemented. The proposal of installing a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) was suggested which has the full support of the Parish Council and County Cllr Jane Fleming. The resident has offered to finance a respective VAS, discussions between JF and resident have indicated it could be possible for private individuals to procure devices but would need a commitment from the Parish Council to ongoing maintenance costs. JF to contact another Parish who are already operating such a scheme for contractual advice.

Member of public also wished to raise comments about planning application 24/00125/FUL LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER, they are very disappointed the original application was granted and unhappy with the way the Planning Authority presented information at the appeal hearing. There is a large group of residents determined to lobby MDC about the legality of the previous decision. Conditions of the decision have been breached but MDC have approved the conditions irrespective of the breaches. The latest Application decision will be made by Maldon District Council North West Area Planning Committee and SB advised that any concerns or comments should be sent to MDC Planning Department as well as attending the aforementioned meeting.

31.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary Parish Council Meeting 12 March 2024 were approved as a true record as proposed by KM and seconded by RB.

32.24 PLANNING

24/00011/VAR – LAND OPPOSITE ST MARGARET’S CHURCH MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission 21/01276/FUL (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)* **LPA Deadline 09/04/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00064/LDP – BRELADES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificates for proposed demolition of existing flat roof dormer and construction of flat roof dormer to rear elevation. Addition of window to side elevation.* **LPA Deadline 21/03/2024. APPROVED**

24/00059/HOUSE – HIGHLANDS BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey front porch extension, including covered veranda and staircases. Alterations to fenestration including additional cladding.* **LPA Deadline 02/04/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

23/00292/FUL BARN AT OLD MILL HOUSE VINEYARD HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *Convert agricultural barn into vineyard manager's dwellinghouse with associated internal and external alterations, laying out of amenity area and planting of native hedgerows and trees.* **APPEAL Date 24/04/2024 REF: APP/X1545/W/23/3327753 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

24/00125/FUL – LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolish existing buildings, redevelop site and siting of two additional mobile homes with associated facilities for Gypsy and Traveller use.* **LPA Deadline 24/04/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA** - Matters concerning this application were raised by a member of public in the Open Forum (see above).

24/00229/FUL – SOUTHLANDS BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Construction of stable barn with associated hardstanding and fencing.* **LPA Deadline 16/05/2024**
Cllrs do not perceive any detrimental impact on the surrounding neighbourhood or environment and there appears to be a negligible effect on Footpath 5 Woodham Mortimer and recommend GRANTING the Application.

24/00284/FUL – ST FRANCIS POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling, with associated landscaping, parking, refuse and cycle storage.* **LPA Deadline 22/05/2024** Cllrs feel given the location of St Francis the replacement dwelling would not appear to have an overbearing impact to the current street scene or neighbouring properties and recommend GRANTING the application.

33.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Simon Morgan advised at a recent Budget Meeting of the District Council Cllrs passed the finances and managed to balance the budget, however there is a potential shortfall for the next financial year as there are still significant challenges. Government has advised MDC there is potential £5m funding for culture projects but there is an extremely short lead time to assemble detailed projects, SB has some potential ideas and would send them to SM for appraisal.

County Cllr Jane Fleming reported the Local Highways Panel has now been reformatted into two tiers where large proposed schemes will be decided by a County wide Chairman's panel, and smaller budget schemes by each district.

34.24 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MINERALS EXTRACTION REVIEW

SB advised a representation has been sent to the public consultation regarding the White House Lane site in Woodham Walter. Concerns were raised where it was noted that Tom Tit Lane could potentially be used as an access route which is considered unsuitable due to its narrow nature and various wildlife activity adjacent to the lane.

35.24 **SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH**

AR reported no further information regarding the Community Benefit funding has been received and minor work carried out by the operators has not improved the public footpath condition, Essex Highways are aware and it is hoped pressure from the Highway Authority will be able to improve passage for members of the public.

36.24 **SOLAR FARM ON LAND NORTH OF MALDON ROAD**

Cllrs look forward to the June meeting when representatives of the proposed solar farm will be attending to answer questions from Cllrs. Cllrs to consider village projects to put forward as proposals for funding being offered by the solar farm developers.

37.24 **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road.*

Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study. Cllrs disappointed that no activity has been seen even though funding had been approved for the feasibility study to be carried out in the 1st quarter of 2024. JF advised the scheme has been carried forward to the new LHP format.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. (First logged by Essex Highways at site meeting with SB 14/09/2018. Added to LHP list and Footway Clearance Scheme by County Cllr Flemming - June 2023.* No updates.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh – *width and gate restrictions.* Having received further parishioner complaints that no action has been seen in respect to the kissing gate limitation and narrow fenced path the Council will contact Essex Highways for information.

Burnham Road Hazeleigh gateway structure – *sightline restrictions.* Essex Highways have assessed the site and contrary to Cllrs and resident opinions have deemed there not to be any visibility hazards. JF to request a further site visit with EH that she could attend herself.

Ancient Highway/ Conduit Lane – Cllrs and resident were pleased that Essex Highways had removed the obstructive tree and thanked County Cllr Jane Fleming for aiding the removal.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) A414 Oak Manor Chelmsford Road – Further to discussions in the public open forum (above) resolved for AR to contact EALC for contractual legal advice regarding a potential maintenance contract with resident.

Proposed diversion of Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer – Following general debate of the proposed footpath diversion Cllrs resolved to OBJECT to the proposed diversion of Footpath 17 as they do not believe that users of the footpath should be inconvenienced by the relocation of the public path when a small section of the crematorium car park and road entrance could easily be moved to accommodate the existing alignment.

Conduit Lane – A parishioner report of poor surface conditions in Conduit Lane will be escalated to Essex Highways by County Cllr Fleming.

Bryants Lane – Following the opening of the new Tin Roof café a number of congestion issues have occurred at the entrance to Claremont Nursery causing jams in Bryants Lane including some properties experiencing vehicle ingress into their private residence. County Cllr Fleming and SB will attempt to meet with the café owners to review mitigation measures.

Diversion of Footpath 18 Woodham Mortimer – The Council have been advised that the diversion of Footpath 18 west of Kestrel's Cottage, Lodge Road has been confirmed and the new diverted path will come into force on 16/04/2024..

Chimney Lane – Following damage to highway verge in Chimney Lane a resident has requested a weight restriction be introduced to the lane, JF believes one has already been applied by Purleigh PC and will forward AR details.

38.24 BUS SHELTERS - Graffiti removal. Further to discussions with the Probation Service for the Council to utilise the Community Payback Scheme Cllrs will revert to the previous company estimate as the only option via the CPS would have been to overpaint the graffiti which is not considered suitable.

39.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£3,508.84
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£740.11
Total funds on deposit	£4,248.95

AR reported that the Locality Fund sum of £193.17 has been received. SB used personal credit card to procure litter picking equipment which will be reimbursed using the Locality Fund money.

Authorisation of payments

EALC Affiliation Fee 2024/25	£225.09
Simon Brady (litter picking equipment including VAT)	£231.80

The above payments as proposed by KM and seconded by RB were approved by all Cllrs.

Final Quarter Review

The final quarter statement of accounts and bank statements were circulated to Cllrs which raised no matters of concern. AR will now proceed to compile documentation required for the end of year Internal Audit and Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

40.24 INFORMATION ONLY

The following applications were received after the April Agenda had been published and SB would advise if an extraordinary meeting is required:

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.*

24/00311/VAR – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Variation of condition 6 on approved planning permission 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing). LPA*

Deadline 02/07/2024

Next scheduled meeting is Annual Parish Council Meeting 14/05/2024.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 14/05/2024