

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2021
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) and County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh) 2 members of the public joined the meeting.
Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

21.21 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllr Mark Durham sent apologies as he had to attend a personal engagement.

22.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to Highway item Fambridge Road footway being related to the landowners adjacent to the highway. AM declared a non-pecuniary interest to Planning item Barn at Old Mill House as some business is conducted with the applicant.

23.21 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public in attendance advised Cllrs they had received many responses to a letter circulated to Woodham Mortimer residents seeking support for measures to mitigate volume and speed of traffic and construction of a potential crossing point along the A414. All respondents noted they had not been consulted with the recent speed restriction proposals by the County Council. Parishioner and Cllrs to seek further clarification on bus routes and drop-off points in time for next surgery with County Cllr Bentley.

24.21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 12 January 2021 and Extraordinary (Planning) Meeting 19 January 2021 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by KM seconded AM and agreed by all present at the respective meetings.

25.21 PLANNING

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.* **REFUSED**

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. **APPROVED BY NW AREA COMMITTEE**

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. **APPROVED**

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. **APPROVED**

20/01242/FUL – THE PIGHTLE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Removal of condition 2 (Agricultural Occupancy) of planning permission 66/00171.* **APPROVED**

20/01225/FUL – BURY FARM FAMBRIDGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Two storey extension to the side of an existing detached dwelling house and the subdivision of the extended building into 2-self contained dwellings.* **REFUSED**

20/01269/HOUSE – 4 GOAT HOUSE LANE HAZELEIGH – *Change to external materials, replace bay window with door, construction of timber terrace and extend and remove side window of porch.* **TO BE DECIDED BY LPA**

20/01326 – 5 GOAT HOUSE LANE HAZELEIGH – *Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed new single storey outbuilding with flat roof over.* **TO BE DECIDED BY LPA**

20/01337/FUL – BARN AT OLD MILL HOUSE VINEYARD HAZELEIGH HALL LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *convert agricultural barn into vineyard manager's dwellinghouse with associated internal and external alterations, layout amenity area and plant native hedgerows and trees (amended proposal).* **TO BE DECIDED BY LPA**

21/00031/DLA – LIMBURN HOUSE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Application for the Discharge of Planning Obligation on permission FUL/MAL/04/000676 (holiday accommodation).* Cllrs agreed that given the expansion of housing development south of Limebrook Way the amenity of Limburn House as rural holiday accommodation is likely to become less attractive and **SUPPORT** the discharge of the planning obligation.

26.21 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

KJ reported that budgets are going to be discussed at a special meeting at end of February, which are expected to provide difficult decisions due to the effect of the pandemic and in particular how to progress with situations associated with leisure services. Previous plans for changes to Maldon High Street are currently on hold. At present the Council is behind with its 5 year house supply but is expected to get back on track once Covid-19 restrictions reduce. AR asked if Planning Committee decisions could be included in case documents of each application on the Planning Portal, KJ advised this has been asked previously and something which will continue to be discussed. Minutes of Committee Meetings are available on the MDC website both in note and recorded formats.

County Cllr Penny Channer to circulate February Report including following topics: The latest Covid-19 data for Essex shows a continued decline in rates; Walk-in and get tested for Covid-19; Local vaccination roll-out ramps up; Apply for a £500 self-isolation support payment; Get practical support if you are self-isolating; Get help coping with a bereavement; Free school meals vouchers for half term; Essex introduces new platform for health and social care; Business and economy; Grow your business with ACL; Apprenticeships; Learn through lockdown with ACL Essex; Share the love with a local business this Valentine's Day; Find environmentally friendly ways to dispose of unwanted items; Green schemes; Power your home with solar energy; Green Homes Grant; Essex Climate Action Commission calls on the county to lead the way in climate change action; Roads and infrastructure; Park and ride services in Sandon and Colchester closed due to Covid-19; Support a disabled child by providing respite care; Get involved; Register for a postal vote; Take part in Census 2021 this spring; Stuck for Valentine's Day ideas?; How to Visit the Essex Country Parks safely this half term; Family fun for February half term; Start the Daily Mile with Active Essex; Take a front row seat for Essex wildlife.

Cllr Channer also advised that there a speed review policy due shortly which may help with the situation along the A414.

SB raised the issue of residents each side of the A414 not being included in recent consultation of the proposed speed restriction, PCh would follow up with ECC Highways. PCh left the meeting at this point.

27.21 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.** AR mentioned that he had frequently used the route recently from the junction of Public Footpath 1 Hazleigh with Fambridge Road heading north to Limbebrook Way and has noted that most of the distance is now subject to a new wide footway/path constructed alongside the new housing development. There now remains just a short non-footway section of Fambridge Road and it would seem practical before development has completed to join the new footway to FP1. At present the whole scheme to provide a

footpath all the way to the Royal Oak Pub has stalled due to landowner consent issues, at least a section connecting the Footpath to the new housing development would alleviate a road walk if attempting to connect to the PROW network which many new residents are likely to utilise. All Cllrs agreed this would be an advantage for any further discussions to extend the path to the pub and asked the Clerk to recommend the project to the LHP.

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.* Awaiting outcome of County Council Cabinet members discussions following objections to proposed reduction in speed limit.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road.* Cabinet member for Infrastructure Cllr Bentley has advised it is not feasible to install a crossing point at a location near the Oak Corner bus stops. Parish Cllrs are determined to continue to seek mitigation measures and will raise the issue again at the next surgery with Cllr Bentley

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (*enquiry No. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017*) *rotten verge reflector posts.* Having been unable to update the previous logged defect online AR has been advised to submit a new report. Once icy/snowy weather has improved RB will supply AR with photo evidence that can be submitted with the new report.

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

Conduit Lane – *proposed 20mph speed restriction.* Further to a new request from a parishioner seeking a meeting with County Cllr Bentley, Cllrs agreed the lane is very narrow, frequently used as a 'rat-run' is difficult to access the A414 and would benefit with a speed limit introduction to 20mph. SB to ask PCh to set up a Highways surgery.

28.21 BUS SHELTER LICENSE

The license application for 2x bus shelters (one at Oak Corner on the Chelmsford Road and one opposite Post Office Road on the Maldon Road) was supported by County Cllr PCh and sent to the County Council on 01/02/2021.

29.21 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The Parish Council Rights of Way Representative (AM) has received a letter from the landowner of the field in which Footpath 16 Woodham Mortimer is located advising the stiles in the field have not been maintained by the Council, have become dilapidated, unsafe and has replaced them at their own expense. Also reporting that although walkers are welcome members of public have been straying from the path and allowing dogs loose, the private gate has been broken down by people climbing the fence. AR advised having reviewed Parish Council Definitive Maps the location of stiles are not shown which may have been consented by the Highway Authority. AM to write back to landowner seeking consent for the Clerk to contact them.

30.21 LOCALITY FUND

Payment has now been made to The Hurdlemakers Arms for the replacement battery for the defibrillator attached to the Pub's external wall.

The Village Hall has been awarded £1,200 towards new benches on the playing field and a gate across the current hedge gap, there is some uncertainty in respect to planning permission for the gate and KM will seek further clarification.

31.21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts – AR advised bank account balances of: T1 Current Account £623.65; Instant Access Savings Account £1,772.89. Total funds on deposit £2396.54

Authorisation of payments – there were no payments to authorise.

32.21 INFORMATION ONLY

No other business was raised and AR advised the date of next Ordinary monthly meeting is 09/03/2021 at 19:30 via Zoom