

# Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

## ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES – TUESDAY 09 JANUARY 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), Richard Britton (RB).  
District Cllr Simon Morgan  
Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings  
1 member of the public in attendance

#### 1.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Lorraine Cobb was unable to attend due to illness. County Cllr Jane Flemming sent apologies as she had to attend a County Council meeting.

#### 2.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

#### 3.24 PUBLIC FORUM

A Representative on behalf of Crematorium Developer was in attendance to provide the Council with contact details should the Council wish to discuss any matters as the development progresses. SB thanked the representative for taking the time to attend and providing the details.

#### 4.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary Parish Council Meeting 12 December 2023 as proposed by KM and seconded by RB was agreed by all present.

#### 5.24 PLANNING

**23/00800/LDP – BRELADES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed flat roof dormer (extension of existing flat roof dormer).***

**DEEMED NOT LAWFUL AND REFUSED BY THE LPA**

**23/01070/LBC – KEEPERS COTTAGE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Construction of gazebo.*** **APPROVED BY LPA**

**23/01069/LBC – KEEPERS COTTAGE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Installation of solar panels to existing cartlodge roof.*** **LPA Deadline 25/01/2024 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA.**

**23/01071/FUL – THE ROYAL OAK FAMBRIDGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Extension to existing Public House forming new restaurant area and new toilets.*** As this application arrived just after the previous agenda was published discussion of the development carried over to this meeting. All Cllrs were in full support of the application but it has already been approved by the LPA therefore a formal representation will not be sent.

#### 6.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Cllr Simon Morgan reported matters from Maldon District Council meeting dated 14/12/2023 included a decision to raise fees for the garden waste/green bin collection service to £75 per annum; The Strategy Resources Committee will soon be meeting to decide where overall savings can be made and early stage discussions on the future structure of Council are taking place; there have been changes to the National Planning Policy Framework though no significant items have been noted; there has been a shortage of green bags for food caddy's and this will be resolved shortly.

SB wished thanks to be forwarded to respective MDC officers working with local police officers when a hazardous fly tip blocked Bryants Lane shortly before Christmas, the matter was dealt with promptly and efficiently.

#### 7.24 **SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH**

Following the Council's complaint of conditions being endured on the Public Footpath across the solar farm development, the Council have been contacted by the developer and advised that levelling work has taken place. AR advised there has been an improvement, but rutted areas remain across the path away from the vehicle crossing point still rendering it difficult for users. As the matter has been reported to Essex Highways and the respective area officer has surveyed the site Cllrs will wait to see if further improvements are carried out.

#### 8.24 **LOCALITY FUND**

The County Council has approved the PC's Locality Fund claim for litter picking equipment.

#### 9.24 **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**A414 Pedestrian Crossing** – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study. No activity noted.*

**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 activity noted.*

**Footpath 11 Hazeleigh** – *width and gate restrictions.*

There has been no further activity at the site of Footpath 11 Hazeleigh, the Highway authority are seeking to address 4 concerns:

- 1) Clarification of vehicular access rights,
- 2) Removal of the kissing gate at the Lodge Road end,
- 3) The relocation of fencing at the eastern end so that the path can be reinstated to its legal alignment and not where it is currently aligned on top of the old ditch line,
- 4) The modification of two wooden inspection hatches to mitigate user slipping hazard.

**Burnham Road Hazeleigh gateway structure** – *sightline restrictions. No activity noted.*

**Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer** – (Temporary Prohibition of use) Order 2024 – The Council have received notification of the temporary closure of Footpath 17 whilst preliminary work commences for the crematorium development.

#### 10.24 **BUS SHELTERS GRAFFITI REMOVAL**

Danbury PC has kindly provided a potential contractor contact name and AR has commenced communications. The Council is still waiting to hear if Essex County Council will accept the transfer of ownership of the 2 shelters currently in the responsibility of the Parish Council.

#### 11.24 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The budget proposals and precept demand sheet calculations for year 2024/25 as agreed at the December meeting was signed-off by SB.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter budget review October-December 2023 Accounting Statement was reviewed and raised no matters of concern.

##### **Balance of Accounts**

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£4479.48
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£797.04
Total funds on deposit	£5,276.52

### Authorisation of payments

Zoho email accounts annual subscription	£80.64
Remembrance Day poppy wreath (cheque required)	£20.00

The above financial items as proposed by KM and seconded by SP were approved by all Cllrs present

#### 12.24 CLERKS EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW

The updated Clerk's Contract of Employment as agreed at the December meeting was signed by SB and AR.

#### 13.24 INFORMATION ONLY

Cllrs raised concerns over general road verge damage which is becoming increasingly prevalent, it is considered the issues are mainly due to the result of poor road maintenance and drain blockages.

The following Application was received by the Council after the agenda had been published and will be discussed at the February meeting: **23/01231/HOUSE – WILLOWBURN POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER** – *Single storey rear and side extensions including single storey link to detached garage and extension to garage. Roof alterations to garage and porch canopy. Alterations to fenestration. LPA Deadline 23/02/2024.*

PM advised the date of the next Burns Night is 27/01/2024

Next scheduled ordinary meeting is 13/02/2024

.....*Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 13/02/2024