

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 09 MARCH 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), County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh) 4 members of the public joined the meeting.
Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

33.21 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllr Mark Durham sent apologies as he was attending another meeting.

34.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to Highway item Fambridge Road footway being related to the landowners adjacent to the highway, and a non-pecuniary interest to Planning Item land adjacent to The Willows Bryants Lane being a resident in the lane close to the application site. RB declared a pecuniary interest in Planning item Barn at Old Mill House being the applicant. AM declared a non-pecuniary interest to Planning item Barn at Old Mill House as some business is conducted with the applicant.

35.21 PUBLIC FORUM

Members of public attended the meeting raising their concerns again at the conditions being endured on the A414 Maldon Road. It was disappointing to hear the alternative proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on the approach to the Oak Corner Roundabout was rejected and it is considered pointless to reduce the limit from 60 to 50mph as this is unlikely to provide any noticeable difference. Members of public will still have difficulties crossing the road particularly as the Highway Authority are still reluctant to address the crossing issue. Chairman advised attendees a further surgery with Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Councillor Bentley is to be arranged shortly once bus stop information from relevant bus companies has been gathered. The Council urge Parishioners to continue lobbying their respective County and District Cllrs along with the corresponding Member of Parliament Priti Patel.

36.21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 09 February 2021 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by KM seconded by SP and agreed by all present at that meeting.

37.21 PLANNING.

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.* REFUSED

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

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).* PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE 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).* PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE LPA

21/00138/OUT – LAND ADJACENT THE WILLOWS BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Proposed No.1 dwelling with carport. – Due to his non-pecuniary interest SB elected to abstain from any opinions to this Application and the discussions were chaired by PM. Having considered details of the proposals and reviewed the previous application at the site dismissed on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate in July 2015, Cllrs considered although the dwelling would be constructed to an unobtrusive height the overall features and in particular the higher roof line of the car port would introduce a compressed character to this part of the lane due the proximity of adjacent properties outside of the village development boundary. Cllrs recommend REFUSAL of the Application due to the aforementioned reasons.

BRADWELL POWER STATION – offer of speaker presentation

A representative from the proposed new Bradwell B Power Station has offered to attend a meeting to present details of the development to Cllrs for discussion. Cllrs resolved it would be best to convene a separate special meeting just for these discussions and the Clerk would offer the representative either 20th or 27th April as attendance dates.

LAND ADJACENT TO A414 (ARTICLE 4 NOTICE)

KM to provide further information at next meeting.

38.21 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Karl Jarvis provided a monthly report for circulation including the following topics: Negotiations are continuing in respect to the proposed fees for 2021/2022 with the PSSA (Public Sector Audit Appointments): Budget 2021/2022 – agreed at a meeting held on 23/02/2021, key features being Council Tax, Citizens Advice Bureau, LDP review, Car parking charges and barge fees: Leisure Centre Services moving out of lockdown: ‘Suez’ refuse contract: Bradwell B Consultation: Five year housing land supply. Following his report KJ left the meeting.

County Cllr Penny Channer presented a report including the following topics: County Council Leader outlined road to recovery and brighter future for Essex; Essex residents reminded to stay vigilant as latest Covid-19 data is published; £100,000 fund announced for new emotional well-being initiatives to support people affected by the pandemic; Essex County Council announces new measures to rebuild economy; Essex households to take part in Census 2021; Essex is going solar together: Essex County Council responds to Budget; County Council welcomes Government funding announcement to tackle domestic abuse; Crews working hard to keep winter potholes under control; Essex prepares for return to schools and colleges: Covid-19 update: More support for voluntary sector to deal with Covid-19 impacts. - Following her report PCh left the meeting.

39.21 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**. An interim proposal to seek an extension from the newly created footway at the front of the new estate to link with Footpath 1 Hazeleigh is supported by both District and County Cllrs and the Parish Council have asked for the proposal to be raised at the next Local Highways Panel meeting.

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. Further to objections received regarding the above named scheme, it was mandatory to refer the matter to a Cabinet Member. Comments received included an alternative proposal for a 30mph speed limit from the Oak Corner Roundabout to Post Office Road and 40mph from Post Office Road to the Morrisons Roundabout. Councillor Kevin Bentley - Cabinet Member for Infrastructure considered the alternative proposals and concluded that the requested modification is outside of ECC’s Speed Management Strategy; therefore, a lower speed limit could not be approved and the originally advertised scheme in accordance with ECC’s Speed Management Strategy, has been recommended for implementation.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Date of surgery with Cllr Bentley to be advised.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry Nos. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) and 2705814 logged 01/03/2021) rotten verge reflector posts. The recent report logged by AR to highlight the current condition of the bollards/reflector posts received a report from Essex Highways as follows “we have investigated and risk-assessed this issue. Our recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects we are aware of, so we have recorded it and will consider it when we are planning future works in the area. This does not mean that this issue is not important to us; we will repair it just as soon as is humanly possible given the constraints explained.

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

Conduit Lane – proposed 20mph speed restriction. PCh to arrange surgery with Cllr Bentley which will now probably wait until after the Speed Management Review has been completed sometime this summer.

ECC storage compound Lodge Road – Broken gate - Following the Councils report in January alerting Essex Highways the entrance gate to their storage compound appears to have been rammed and is now insecure, large bags of earth have been placed in front of the gates to prevent easy access. SP noted that large piles of earth mixed with some waste still resides within the compound and discussions alluded to whether it has been illegally fly tipped or is material used/discarded by Essex Highways. Clerk to seek clarification.

Notification of speed restriction Order – affecting Hazeleigh, Purleigh, Cold Norton and Stow Maries Further to correspondence received from neighbouring Parish Councils that an order has been made to de-limit some sections of road within Cold Norton, Stowe Maries and Purleigh that are currently restricted, it has materialised an error has been made by EH and no changes to the current restrictions will be made.

40.21 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath 16 Woodham Mortimer (east of Rectory Lane) – there had been no further correspondence in respect to the stiles and Cllrs resolved no further action is necessary.

41.21 LOCALITY FUND

KM advised that funds of £1,200 have been secured from the Locality Fund which will provide one bench and a new gate for the playing field.

42.21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts – AR advised bank account balances of: T1 Current Account £620.65; Instant Access Savings Account £1,772.89. Total funds on deposit £2393.54

Authorisation of payments.

Clerks quarterly salary and allowances: Nett payment to AR (£580.80), (HMR&C 145.20), work from home allowance 13 weeks @ £4 = £52.00.

Eon non metered electricity annual bill due at the beginning of April and the Precept is usually received into the Councils bank account towards the end of April Therefore Cllrs resolved to transfer £600 from the Deposit to Current Account. All above payments proposed by KM seconded by SP and agreed by all Cllrs.

43.21 INFORMATION ONLY

RB requested if the large mound of earth that has been deposited on the highway verge just outside the Essex Highways storage compound at the northern end of Lodge Road could be removed as it is preventing members of the public using the verge to access the A414 Maldon Road. Cllrs asked AR to report the matter on the EH website and RB would provide photographs to be uploaded with the report illustrating the issue.

Date of next Ordinary monthly meeting is 13/04/2021. Cllrs decided as it had not been possible to convene the Annual Parish Assembly last year it could be convened next month prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting and would commence at 7:00pm via Zoom.

.....*Andrew Ritchings*..... (Clerk to the Council) 13 April 2021