

Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors: Simon Brady (SB Chairman), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Kim Broadhurst (KB), Richard Britton (RB).

District Cllr Karl Jarvis (KJ)

Andrew Ritchings (AR), Clerk recording proceedings

One member of public in attendance

142.19 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

County Cllr Penny Channer was unable to attend due to a Civic meeting. Parish Cllr Andrew Macmorland unable to attend.

143.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to agenda item 151.19 Public rights of Way as an adjacent landowner of the discussion associated with stiles on Footpath 15 Woodham Mortimer.

144.19 PUBLIC FORUM

A local resident attended the meeting in response to a letter sent to the Parish Council regarding an enforcement notice at Woodham Mortimer Place. Due to security reasons following persistent break-ins to wooden outbuildings a metal garage was built in order to store and secure items, the garage/store was believed to meet permitted development rights. The resident hopes the Council will support the appeal not to have to remove the structure and invited Cllrs to view the building and the land subject to the enforcement appeal. Cllrs advised that at the time the large building was constructed in February 2017 complaints were received as it was erected overnight and caused inconvenience to neighbouring property owners. Concern was also raised to the precedent of other land owners proceeding with development without relevant authority. The Council were also confused with the enforcement letter received from the Planning Authority as it stated the notice was associated with an unauthorised dwelling, though it is understood the structure subject to the enforcement is a garage/storage building.

145.19 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 12 November 2019 as proposed by SP and seconded by PM was approved as a true record of events, agreed by all Cllrs present at that meeting and signed as such by the Chairman.

146.19 PLANNING

OUT/MAL/15/01327 – LAND NORTH AND WEST OF KNOWLES FARM WYCKE HILL MALDON – *C3 residential development (up to 320 homes) of mixed form, size and tenure, small scale B1 employment development (up to 2,000sqm), C2/D1 community uses, a new relief road to the north of A414, strategic landscaping, pedestrian and cycle linkages, estate roads, open space, drainage and sewerage (including SUDS) and other associated development, (Committee Date 23/03/2017).* Cllrs commented that this application was due to be reviewed by MDC Planning Committee in March 2017 but no decision or further information is available on their Planning Portal, District Cllr KJ in attendance offered to seek clarification of the application and will advise the Council any relevant information if available.

ENF/17/00048/03 WOODHAM MORTIMER PLACE – *New development within grounds reported (04/02/2019) – Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/C/19/3234346 Unauthorised operational development for the erection of a building on the land.* A letter received from MDC has invited comments to be made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in respect to the aforementioned appeal to an enforcement notice which was also discussed in the open public forum. Clerk to make comments to PINS providing a brief history of events and also

to seek clarification whether a Planning Application has been received and to seek confirmation from MDC with respect to the enforcement notice being against a garage/storage building or dwelling. Cllrs would welcome viewing a Planning Application if one is available in order to understand the details of the structure subject to the enforcement notice.

19/00121 LAND REAR OF HILL BARN RECTORY LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Proposed conversion of existing equestrian/storage building to form 1 No.new dwelling including the addition of a first floor single storey front extension, replacement sing storey side extension, demolition of the existing open bay lean-to, changes to the fenestration and associated works. APPEAL No. App/X1545/19/3236645. No decision by PINS.*

19/01022 – FENEMORE 9 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *First floor extension, lifting the ridge by 1.3 metres to the right and left wings. Replace UPVC windows with timber windows. APPROVED by the LPA.*

19/00874 – LAND ADJACENT TO THE RISE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Change of use of domestic field to private recreational equestrian use and the construction of a stable block located in the north east corner of the site. REFUSED by the LPA.*

19/01029/LBC & 19/01028/FUL – THE OLD FORGE CHELMSFORD ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey extension to outbuilding and its conversion to annexe accommodation, relocation of oil tank, alterations to French doors, new fence and hedge to the front boundary. No decision by LPA.*

19/01112 – ST FLORIAN BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolition of existing bungalow/garage and erection of a new dwelling and associated garage. Cllrs do not believe there will be a detriment to the current street scene and recommend GRANTING permission.*

147.19 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr KJ advised Cllrs that MDC accounting submission had been delayed due to problematic IT system and resource issues and the Council will be discussing matters at a forthcoming meeting to understand the issues and learn how to prevent a repeat occurrence. There are important decisions due to be made by the District Council including budget reviews, the ongoing radical change programme and potential office relocation.

Cllrs asked if some of the reasons for relocating MDC to new offices was to reduce carbon footprints and improve energy consumption why have the new properties at the many houses now being constructed at the South Maldon Garden Suburb been approved without such features as solar panels etc., KJ to feed comments to District planners.

Cllrs advised KJ that complaints had been received about the new card only parking machines recently installed in White Horse Car Park Maldon causing problems for many shoppers and creating chaos in the car park. Comments will be fed back to MDC for discussion.

148.19 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Introduction of speed limits on the A414 Chelmsford Road from Oak Corner Roundabout along Maldon Road to Lodge Road. (initiated by resident in July 2017). In a recent email forwarded to the Council in response to a residents' speed restriction enquiry, ECC's Cllr Bentley's stated that the Maldon LHP have a commission for this location, however the only scheme viewable on the LHP Funded Schemes is a scheme to help pedestrians cross the road to bus stops unrelated with speed restrictions, which is still being pursued by County Cllr Penny Channer with her Essex Highways Relationship Manager, AR to seek clarification.

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 rubbish (reported in July 2018).* Yet again the Council have been advised

that contaminated waste fly tipped in the ECC compound adjacent to Lodge Road will shortly be removed but still remains in situ.

Fambridge Road – *Walkable verge/footway from Limebrook Way to Royal Oak Public House (LMAL162099) and Detailed design of footpath from Limebrook Way to Royal Oak Public House (LMAL142006 £7,000 budget)* (originally requested 22/04/2014). Both of the aforementioned schemes are no longer appearing on the LHP Schemes list (funded or potential) however some discussions have taken place between KB, Essex Highways and Gray and Sons Brewery, no further information has been received since the last communication from Essex Highways dated 27/08/2019.

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)*. There were no requests by Cllrs for any further footway repair schemes. The Council is not completely sure whether their above initial request has been accepted and assume, as advised by Cllr Bentley, as they has not been contacted the above mentioned scheme has been approved for clearance.

Highway Authority Complaint – *Letter sent to Cllr Bentley on 23/07/2019, receipt acknowledged 25/07/2019*. Still no response to highway issues raised. County Cllr Penny Channer has suggested a meeting with the Cabinet member at one of his surgeries in the New Year could be the way forward to discuss all the Council's highway issues. Cllrs welcome the opportunity when next available.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL FUNDED SCHEMES

Tom Tit Lane/A414 – *Request for Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle signage - (LMAL172025 allocated budget £4,500)*. LHP scheme noted as completed, Essex Highways to advise why signage has not been installed and when it will be completed.

A414 Maldon Road Oak Corner to Post Office Road – *Measures to help pedestrians cross the road to bus stops (LMAL182016 allocated budget £6,500)*. No updates.

Southend Road and B1010 Burnham Road – *Speed limit reduction (LMAL182028 allocated budget £12,500)*. No updates.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL POTENTIAL SCHEMES

There are currently no schemes for Woodham Mortimer or Hazeleigh listed.

149.19 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received for discussion.

150.19 CLOSURE OF ESSEXINFO.NET (PARISH COUNCILS WEBSITE)

AR has been advised of a Community organisation called Voice online Communities, who are offering free website platform for community groups/organisations similar to EssexInfo.net. AR has registered for a site and will commence transferring and building the pages to reflect those currently available. If the site proves to be successful the Council could proceed with Voice once EssexInfo.net closes in March 2020. Email provision still needs to be arranged once the current supplier closes the existing system which is ongoing.

151.19 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

Stiles Footpath 15 Woodham Mortimer - Cllrs were advised that the landowner has been provided with the Highway Authority Area Inspector contact details so that they can discuss the possibility of changing the stiles for more user friendly gates.

152.19 CLERKS EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW

Clerk advised Cllrs this item could be considered a personal sensitive subject and would be acceptable to discuss without public presence; it was decided to discuss the matter as a final item of business once members of the public departed.

AR advised that NALC pay awards for 2020-21 are not yet available; Cllrs were also advised that an accumulative hours of activity spreadsheet had been administered for the past couple of years and now showed an average hourly time spent on Council business of 22 hours per month, this was in keeping with other small Parish Council's Clerk activities.

After discussion about spinal column rates and monthly hours it was resolved to raise the Clerk salary to £11.00 per hour for 22 hours per month, equivalent to £2,904 annual salary commencing 01/04/2020.

153.19 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

1. **Balance of Accounts** – AR advised bank account balances of: T1 Current Account £688.73, Instant Access Deposit Account £2,477.15. Total funds on deposit £3,165.88
2. **Budget proposals and precept demand for year 2020/21**
Cllrs considered budget provisions for financial year 2020/21. The Councils portable laptop computer purchased in August 2012 is now approaching 8 years and although currently performing to an acceptable standard will eventually succumb to processing and software advances, Clerk salary cost of living allowance was considered and the following year will see a change in email and website provision costs of which at present are unknown. The Council have also been advised there is a possibility that Parish Council precepts may soon be capped and many other Councils are considering substantial increases in precept demand as future protection. Given the aforementioned considerations and a general inflationary uplift in costs SB proposed an increase of 10% be implemented to the 2019/20 demand, seconded by KM and agreed by all Cllrs present. This results in a precept demand for 2020/21 of £4,787; a cost to Band D Council Tax of £15.42.
3. **Authorisation of payments** - Clerk emoluments, this item was missed for discussion and will carry over to the January meeting.

154.19 INFORMATION ONLY

The following Planning Application was received after the Agenda had been produced and details will be circulated with Cllrs: **19/010978/RES – LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMBROOK WAY (WESTERN PARCEL) MALDON** – *Reserved matters application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for Phase 1 of the Western Parcel of planning permission FUL/MAL/18/00071 (Variation of conditions 5, 13, 21, 25, 43, 53, 55, 61, 63, 67, 68, 69, 74, 81, 84 on approved application OUT/MAL/14/01103 (Outline application for up to 1000 dwellings, an employment area of 3.4 hectares (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 uses), a local centre (Use Classes A1-A5, B1a, C2, C3, D1 and D2 uses), a primary school, two early years and childcare facilities, general amenity areas and formal open space including allotments, sports playing fields, landscaping, sustainable drainage measures including landscaped storage basins and SuDs features, vehicle accesses onto the existing highway network and associated infrastructure) comprising 106 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), new public open space and car parking.*

Cllrs were advised if they wish to submit comments in time for the LPA expiry date of 02/01/2020 an extraordinary meeting would need to be convened, Chairman to advise Clerk accordingly.

Date of next ordinary Council Meeting 14 January 2020.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 14 January 2020