

Woodham Mortimer With Hazeleigh Parish Council

MINUTES - TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015

Held at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall 8.00pm

In attendance

Parish Councillors: Pauline McDonald (Chair)(PM), Kim McDonald (KM), Andrew Macmorland (AM), Simon Brady (SB), Ian Spurr (SP), Kim Broadhurst (KB)

District Councillors: Mark Durham and Henry Bass joined the meeting towards the end of the public open meeting.

Two members of the public were in attendance.

Andrew Ritchings (AR: Clerk to the Council recording proceedings)

29.15 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Stephen Pemberton

30.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Although not being debated: - AM declared a non-pecuniary interest in 33.15 Planning **OUT/MAL/14/01182 - LAND SOUTH OF HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM**, and **OUT/MAL/15/00072 - LAND ADJACENT THE DELL BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIER** that interest being he conducts some business activities with the applicants not associated with the sites concerned.

31.15 OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public attended the meeting wishing to raise severe concerns with respect to the condition of the highway at Rectory Lane. The Lane is currently experiencing increased deposits of earth, grit and other products including manure resulting in driving and walking difficulties along the lane, deposits appear to be falling from farm vehicles and trailers which are also causing verge damage and the blocking of drains and ditches causing flooding across the lane resulting in the formation of pot holes and surface defects, which is causing concern with respect to possible damage to resident vehicles. Maldon District Council have on one occasion attended the site and cleaned the highway surface which temporarily improved matters. Garden flooding is now occurring having a detrimental effect on nearby flora and residents have safety concerns due to the hazardous conditions of the highway surface. The Council would register the issue as surface defects and flooding issues with Essex Highways and advised the parishioners to do likewise, and also to express their concerns to MDC environmental services seeking an inspection to ascertain the severity of the conditions with a view to resolving the situation. The Chairman advised that a letter of complaint had also been received regarding similar matters along the B1010 Burnham Road, a parishioner had reported tractor and trailer movements of slurry and straw bales which are leaving trails of materials at the side of the highway and accumulating in front of residential properties. Cllrs advised the attendees to contact both District Cllrs and County Councillor Mrs Penny Channer and asked the Clerk to also report the issues to the Essex Highways website.

It was also reported that a stile at the junction of Rectory Lane and Footpath 15 Woodham Mortimer had become derelict and disappeared and that motorbikes had been seen accessing the Footpath through the gap left by the derelict stile. The Clerk would check the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way to see if any stile consents existed.

Frustrations were discussed with respect to extremely slow Broadband speed issues in Woodham Mortimer. District Cllr Durham advised of the forthcoming Superfast Broadband roll out update and consultation to be convened on 18 March at the Essex Records Office. KM and/or PM would be attending the consultation in order to gain an understanding of when the Superfast Broadband would be available in the villages and whether any interim solutions could be made available.

Actions AR to report highway issues to EH/MDC

Close meeting for public speaking

32.15 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 February 2015 and the Planning Meeting held on 23 February 2015 were proposed by SB and seconded by KM as a true record of events and agreed by all present at those meetings, the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

33.15 PLANNING

LAND OPPOSITE MILL COTTAGE – No further news

NEW BARN LODGE ROAD WM – No further news

SOUTHWOODS HAZELEIGH HALL LANE – No further news

T&CPA 1990 (TREE PRESERVATION REGULATION 2012) ORDER NO.7/14 – MANDALAY POST OFFICE ROAD WM – Provisionally effective Order made 17/12/2014 to be confirmed or otherwise within a period of 6 months (17/06/2015). AWAITING CONFIRMATION

WTPO/MAL/14/01078 – OAKSIDE POST OFFICE ROAD WM - TPO Oak – removal of ivy when dead. **CONSENT GRANTED**

AGR/MAL/15/00048 – SOUTHLANDS BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Agricultural barn for storage of arable crops and associated machinery. **PERMISSION REQUIRED**

OUT/MAL/14/01103 – LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMEBROOK WAY MALDON – Outline application for up to 1,000 dwellings, employment area, primary school, open space, allotments sports playing field, landscaping, vehicle access onto existing highway network and associated infrastructure. **DECISION TBA FROM PLANNING AUTHORITY**

OUT/MAL/14/01182 – LAND SOUTH OF HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD Erection of farm workers dwelling. **PERMISSION GRANTED**

OUT/MAL/15/00072 – LAND ADJACENT THE DELL BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIER - Erection of 2no. Bungalows. **DECISION TBA FROM PLANNING AUTHORITY**

FUL/MAL/14/01289 – LAND BETWEEN MIDDLEWICK FARM THE MARSHES

SOUTHMINSTER – Variation of condition 37 of approved FUL/MAL/10/00004 nine wind turbine generators.

Cllrs made no comment to this application.

FUL/MAL/15/00009 – MOONFLEET, BURNHAM ROAD, WOODHAM MORTIMER

Demolish bungalow and build a new chalet bungalow.

As there appeared to be moderate material changes to those of application

FUL/MAL/14/00262 at the same property (demolition of a bungalow and replacement chalet bungalow) which would not mitigate the concerns of the Parish Council's previous objection, the Council resolved to maintain its objection due to the change of characteristics of the line of bungalows, the installation of dormer windows would be out of character to the bungalows and result in a detriment of amenity currently enjoyed by neighbouring properties by resulting in a loss of privacy to the rear gardens.

Actions AR to forward recommendation of refusal to the PA re: Moonfleet

34.15 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was decided to arrange 12 April 2015 as the date of this year's Community Litter Pick, details of which to be the same as last year. Dist Cllr Mark Durham advised to contact Gerry Lewsey at MDC should any equipment be required.

35.15 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Dist Cllr Mark Durham advised that the recent Tourism Summit held at the Maldon Football Club Hall was very well attended and proved a successful event.

Work at Blackwater Leisure Centre continued on target for reopening by the end of March.

The first of a 3 month trial of the Maldon High Street Market Day proved a huge success.

These will continue every Monday in the High Street finishing at approximately 2:30pm.

District Councillor Henry Bass advised that a decision for the Local Development Plan by the Government Inspector is due to be announced on 09 May 2015 and the District Council remain confident the housing element will be agreed.

The District Council has resolved that all major Planning Applications will now be dealt with by all Members across the District in order that a balanced view can be achieved.

IS asked Dist Cllrs as part of negotiations with developers for the South Maldon Garden Suburb if consideration could be given to the continuation of a footpath currently being used

along the old railway line from Morrisons towards Purleigh, the permissive path at present terminates at the Purleigh boundary and it would be of benefit to users if the path continued all the way to Purleigh Halt. He also asked that another path be considered to provide an off-road route from the existing Rights of Way network to the Royal Oak Public House. The Council agreed these paths would provide an increased enjoyment of the countryside which could be used by both existing local parishioners and prospective new residents should the Garden Suburb be approved. Dist Cllr Henry Bass would forward the request to the officer dealing with the application.

36.15 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Maldon Road between Bryants Lane/Tom Tit Lane - Blocked drains x2 - Enquiry 2330259 - (HA assessed 07/10/2014)

Tom Tit Lane near Bryants Lane – Blocked drain - Enquiry 2330260 - (HA assessed 07/10/2014)

Verge defects Lodge Road Woodham Mortimer - from its junction with the A414 to Hazeleigh Hall Lane - **Enquiry 2319066** - (HA assessed 06/11/2014)

Verge defects Bryants Lane Woodham Mortimer - from outside Claremont Nursery to the first house on the left hand side – **Enquiry 2319059** - (HA assessed 07/11/2014)

There had been no further activities to the above outstanding highway issues.

37.15 CORRESPONDENCE

For Circulation:

Correspondence passed to cllrs for circulation as noted on the 10/03/2015 Agenda.

For Discussion:

A letter had been received from Danbury Parish Council expressing their severe reservations regarding infrastructure matters associated with the Local Development Plan, the letter invited other local councils to endorse their concerns and debate such matters at a future meeting. Cllrs agreed they would wish to be included in any further discussions and the letter would be put into general circulation for full evaluation with a view to agree any further actions at next month's meeting if deemed appropriate.

A letter had been received from the Planning Authority notifying the Council an appeal has been lodged by Mr M and D Green against the refusal of OUT/MAL/14/00802 – Land adjacent The Willows Bryants Lane Woodham Mortimer. The Council previously submitted an objection and would not submit any further representation. The Council have been informed their original comments would be sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government and the appeal will be determined by an appointed Inspector by written procedure.

38.15 BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS

AR advised the following account balances: Unity Trust Tailored Account £1968.21; Unity Trust Tailored Deposit Account £2405.60; Alto Prepaid Mastercard £99.50

39.15 REVIEW OF EMPLOYEES DUTIES AND SALARY

The Council and Clerk acknowledged that a substantial increase in Council business had been seen over the past year with respect to further policy administration procedures including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment of Council activities, Freedom of Information requests, Council Publication scheme, complaints procedures and in particular a high demand in Planning Application responses more of which require the Council to convene special planning meetings in order to meet the Town and Country Planning Act consultation requirements. AR is currently contracted to 18 hours each month and had been noting an actual worked hours account for approximately 8 months which indicated working hours to be approximately 6 hours per week. It was thought by all parties an increase to 24 paid hours per month was neither realistic nor conducive with the already set 2015/16 budget. It was considered the increase in the precept demand could sustain a moderate increase in salary and SB proposed to increase working hours to 20 per month at the new NALC rate backdated to January 2015, it was also proposed that the Clerks next review including any SCP change would be discussed at the same meeting identified to set next year's precept demand in December 2015, this was seconded by KM and agreed by all present. The Clerk's new terms commencing April 2015 would change from 18 hrs/month @SCP17 (£8.747/hr) to 20 hrs/month @SCP17 (£9.029/hr). This is an increase in salary from £1889.40 to £2166.96 (an increase of 277.56/year or 23.13/month).

40.15 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

A & J Lighting Solutions (DD) October	12.41 (10.34)
E.ON non-metred electricity (DD) October	9.40 (8.95)
Woodham Mortimer Village Hall hirings	121.00
Clerks quarterly salary	377.95
HMR&C Clerks income tax	94.40
Clerks work at home allowance (13 weeks)	52.00

AR advised that the new contract with A & J Lighting commencing February 2015 resulted in an increase to £13.80/month, it had been assumed this would be automatically adjusted by A & J Lighting, however the payment is a Standing Order not Direct Debit and two payments have been made at the old rate of £12.41 therefore 2 months at the difference of £1.39 was owed to A & J Lighting. The annual lighting maintenance has recently been carried out and this would be added to the owed amount of £2.78. This annual maintenance has been carried out earlier than usual and the Clerk has agreed with A & J Lighting the invoice could be defrayed to April in order to allocate the payment to the next financial year in line with budget expectations.

A & J Lighting annual maintenance	104.70
A & J Lighting outstanding monthly payment Feb-Mar 2015	2.78

KM proposed the above payments be authorised, seconded by AM agreed by all Cllrs present.

41.15 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

This item to be deferred to next month to allow KM time to make enquiries with internet based company for comparison estimate.

Actions *KM to provide further Council website information for next meeting*

42.15 ANY OTHER BUSINES

KM sought information regarding Neighbourhood Plans, AR remembered forwarding an email with relevant information and would review sent emails and forward to KM for consideration.

KB asked if there was any progress with respect to the footway link from the Royal Oak PH to Limebrook Way roundabout. AR advised that the feasibility evaluation design should have been completed by now and suggested that both himself and KB should follow up with an enquiry to the relevant Highways Panel contact.

Press/media & FOI policies, Publication Scheme, Complaints procedure – AR to progress these policies when time allowed.

Actions *AR and KB to seek conclusion of footway evaluation*

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 14 April 2015. The 2015 Annual Parish Meeting would commence prior to the usual monthly meeting.