

# Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

## ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES – TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

**In attendance:** Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Graham Harle (GH). County Councillor Jane Fleming (JF). District Councillor Simon Morgan (SM). Andrew Ritchings Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

#### 97.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE.

Parish Cllrs Richard Britton, Lorraine Cobb and Stephen Pemberton were unable to attend due to vacations.

#### 98.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to Planning Item The Rise being a neighbour of the applicants.

#### 99.24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### 100.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 13 August 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representative of events by all Cllrs present at that meeting.

#### 101.24 PLANNING

**24/00011/VAR – LAND OPPOSITE ST MARGARET’S CHURCH MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER** - *Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission 21/01276/FUL (Erection of a crematorium with ceremony hall, memorial arboretum and associated use of land, restoration of Coopers Monument, vehicular access, parking, landscaping, pedestrian crossing and diversion of footpath (PROW 269\_17)* **APPROVED**

**24/00262/VARM – HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH** – *Variation of condition 27 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)) on approved planning application 22/00261/FUL (The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.) Variation seeks: - Inclusion of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan as an approved document.* **LPA Deadline 03/07/2024 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

**24/00366/FULM – LAND SOUTH WEST OF THE WARREN HACKMANS LANE PURLEIGH** – *Proposed solar farm together with sub-station, ancillary buildings, structures, landscaping, emergency lighting and access.* **APPROVED**

**24/00494/HOUSE – KINVARA MANOR LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH** – *Erection of carport and alterations to the existing driveway.* **LPA Deadline 13/08/2024. APPROVED**

**24/00575/PACUAR – LAND NORTH EAST OF WOODHAM MORTIMER LODGE LODGE ROAD** – *Prior approval application for a proposed change of use of existing former agricultural building to 1 no. residential dwelling (Class C3).* **LPA Deadline 17/09/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

**24/00618/HOUSE – THE RISE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER** – *Demolition of outbuilding and replace with single storey outbuilding consisting of pool room, steam room, changing facilities and store.* **LPA Deadline 03/10/2024** Cllrs considered the proposals would

be an improvement to the site and would not have a negative impact on the current street scene. The Council recommend GRANTING the application.

#### 102.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

District Cllr Simon Morgan advised that the District Council will soon be welcoming new Chief Executive Mr Doug Wilkinson. Central government has imposed a substantial new homes requirement on the District Council which will be discussed at the next full council meeting; it is considered the expected 97% increase is unfeasible and concerned that many respective refused applications will be progressed as appeals to the Planning Inspectorate. County Cllr Fleming advised that some potential sites around the Maldon Town area already identified for development have stalled due to associated infrastructure and relief roads not able to be funded by the Highway Authority.

Following discussions at the recent St Peters Hospital summit with all interested parties Cllr Fleming advised it is unlikely all NHS services will cease from the Hospital until new sites have been identified. Added to difficulties is the fact that the NHS does not have funds available to procure or pay rent at other potential sites. The summit was unable to identify any meaningful objectives but it was felt the meeting proved helpful as all interested parties are engaging and discussing matters going forward in order to seek suitable resolutions.

A significant amount of work has been carried out by the Bus User Group and a list of prospective routes has been identified which will be suggested at next meeting with MP John Wittingdale and bus company representatives

#### 103.24 SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH

Following three legal company quotations received by the Council associated with a legal opinion of the Community Benefit Fund contract Cllrs elected to progress with Essex Legal Services. GH will review the Solar Farm Contract and advise AR the exact remit to forward to and instruct ELS. Cllrs also resolved to recover all the costs associated with the legal opinion from the Community Benefit Fund once received.

AR advised in order to set up a new savings account specifically for the administration of the Community Benefit Fund the three current banking authorising Cllrs will need to sign an application form, SB and PM were able to sign but as Cllr Stephen Pemberton was not in attendance AR will arrange signing once SP returns from holiday.

#### 104.24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

**A414 Pedestrian Crossing** – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road, LHP Scheme No. 6.* No activity to report.

**Footway Defect A414** – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. LHP Scheme No. 36.* No activity to report.

**Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path)** – *gate restriction and return to previous character.*

Further to Clerk reaching out to adjacent landowners in an attempt to discover the owner of the land subject to Footpath 11 only one response has been received so far and there are still no identifiable landowners.

**Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road.** – *VAS Installation.*

SB and GH will arrange to meet with the resident willing to fund the purchase, installation and ongoing maintenance cost of a respective VAS to decide the best device design and confirm its location meets the requirements of the application license policy.

**Bryants Lane** – *Signage and traffic flow improvements Claremont Garden entrance/exit.*

Following a meeting between SB, JF and café representatives mitigation measures have been implemented by the cutting of vegetation near the entrance/exit to aid visibility, speed bumps have been installed in the car park and a sign will be placed opposite the nursery exit

reminding vehicles to exit with caution. It has also been discovered that Apple Maps has marked the café location incorrectly and the owners will attempt to have this amended. Further meetings will be arranged as an ongoing working partnership to continue the good communications and help resolve difficulties at the site satisfactory to all concerned.

**Chimney Lane** – *'Unsuitable for HGV' signage. LHP Scheme No. 22.* No activity to report.

**A414 30mph Speed limit** – *between Oak Corner and Post Office Road.* No activity to report.

**A414 40mph Speed limit** – *between Post Office Road and Limebrook Farm.* No activity to report.

**105.24 BUS SHELTERS** - *Graffiti removal updates.*

Progress with complete removal of the graffiti vandalism is ongoing along with communications with the Councils insurance provider.

**106.24 BUST STOP BENCH** – *Potential installation of bus stop seating furniture via County Cllr Locality Fund.* SB proposed the Cluny 1800 bench to be installed on the grass adjacent to the A414/Conduit Lane bus stop footway which was agreed by all Cllrs. AR to seek contractor installation quotation.

**107.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Balance of Accounts**

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£8,568.01
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£995.38
Total funds on deposit	£9,563.39

**Authorisation of payments**

Information Commissioner's Data Protection fee	£35.00
Clerk emoluments:	
Work from home allowances (13 weeks)	£52.00
HMR&C PAYE	£194.00
A Ritchings Nett July-September salary	£776.20
LIS Annual Domaine name registration	£78.00
Transfer funds from Savings to Current Account	£1,500.00

Balance of accounts and authorisation of payments agreed by all Cllrs present as proposed by GH and seconded by KM

**108.24 INFORMATION ONLY**

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 08/10/2024.

AR advised the roll of electors for Hazeleigh has increased to 135 (from 86 in December 2023) due to the new housing development each side of the Maldon/Hazeleigh boundary, the full extent will be known once the development has completed.

The Council have been contacted by The Hurdlemakers occupants seeking a contribution for a new battery for the village defibrillator. AR waiting for confirmation of costs.

SB advised that several litter picking kits have been handed out and would like to thank those parishioners who have been utilising the kits during their litter picking volunteer work which is much appreciated by all.

KM advised the Village Hall will shortly see the installation of free WiFi.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 08/10/2024