

Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018

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

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

3 members of public

Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings

160.18 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Councillor Henry Bass sent apologies as he had to attend an alternative meeting.

161.18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SB wished to declare a non-pecuniary interest to an item in correspondence in respect to 2 stiles installed on the alignment of Footpath 15 Woodham Mortimer, the interest being an adjacent landowner.

162.18 PUBLIC FORUM

The applicant of planning item 18/01284/WTPO Autumn House Post Office Road Woodham Mortimer, of which the Council resolved to make a representation to the Planning Authority at its November ordinary council meeting, attended to seek clarification from the Council that it had reviewed and taken into consideration an expert Tree report and the reasons for seeking cutting of the protected garden tree. The Chairman confirmed all matters had been considered confirming the letter from the applicant had been read out to all at the November meeting and details submitted with the Application had been reviewed. Discussions continued with respect to the advantages and disadvantages the trimming of the tree would provide. SB concluded the matter was now in the hands of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the Council's recommendations as a consultee had been submitted to them for their consideration. All interested parties to now wait for the LPA's decision and should anyone require further information regarding the application to contact the LPA directly.

163.18 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 November 2018 proposed by SP and seconded by KB were agreed as a true record of events by Cllrs at that meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

All members of the public departed from the meeting (though advised by the Chairman they were at liberty to remain and listen to the Council debate other agenda matters)

164.18 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 **DECISION TBA FROM LPA**

WOODHAM MORTIMER PLACE – Reported development (27/02/2017) – awaiting information from the LPA

FAIRVIEWS (FORMERLY LAND ADJ TO COLTS PIGHTLE), POST OFFICE ROAD – Conditions compliance (25/06/2018) - awaiting information from the LPA

18/01066 LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMEBROOK WAY – Advertisements attached to hoardings, no more than 100m in length in total, to promote Maldon as a great place to live and work and announce the creation of the South Maldon Garden Suburb.

APPROVED

18/01086/HOUSE ROSEMARY COTTAGE 15 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – Single storey rear and two-storey side extension with a lean roof over **APPROVED**

18/01063/FUL LITTLE GRANGE FARM MARLPITS ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Convert 2 No. redundant agricultural barns to a live/work unit with an extension. Convert 2 No. smaller outbuildings to formal live/work. Demolish 1 No. barn and lean to extension. New build 1 No. cart lodge and 1 No. cart lodge with office above **REFUSED**.

18/01309/HOUSE 3 MEARD POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – vary condition 3 of approved application 18/00626 (single storey rear extension): Render stipulated is not best finish on wooden structure **DECISION TBA FROM LPA**

18/01284/WTPO AUTUMN HOUSE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Copper Beech (T1) Remove the lowest main limb on the south side to raise the crown and balance the south side of the crown with the north side. This will also raise the crown to be in line with the ground clearance of the second beech adjacent to it. **DECISION TBA FROM LPA**

18/00871 ST MARGARETS RECTORY MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – To provide a 10 space car park, construction of a new entrance, graveled parking area, cycle parking, kerb edging and closed boarded fencing to enclose car park. The amended application which reduces the number of parking spaces to 10 from 13 appears to have no further negative impact to the previous application which the Council recommended for approval, Cllr RB wished to sustain his previous comments that he believes the existing entrance could provide extra parking and enhance the road view therefore reducing costs to allow funds to be utilised elsewhere and does not support the amended application. The majority decision was to make no further comments to those submitted in the previous application.

18/01298/FUL – LAND SOUTH WEST OF OAK ACRES MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – removal of all buildings and hardstanding and construction of two detached dwellings and cartlodes. The Council do not consider the application to be significantly different to the previously refused application 17/00923 and reiterate that the land resides outside of the local settlement boundary as protected by Policy S8 of the approved Local Development Plan 2014-2029 along with concerns that further vehicle movements directly accessing the unrestricted A414 categorised route raises safety concerns and the Council recommends REFUSAL of planning permission.

18/01367 – THE OLD FORGE CHELMSFORD ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Replacement of existing windows and French doors. Cllrs do not perceive any detrimental impact to the character of the existing building and recommend the GRANTING of planning permission.

18/01373 – NEW PROPERTY SOUTH OF HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD HAZELEIGH – variation of access to agricultural workers dwelling. - Cllrs have concerns over the introduction of an additional access onto the unrestricted B1010. Local parishioners have recently made the Council aware their worries regarding fast moving traffic conditions on this stretch of road particularly in response to a serious accident occurring in August this year. The Council regard an additional access onto the Burnham Road would introduce an additional unnecessary safety conflict between vehicles exiting the property onto the busy unrestricted carriageway and recommend REFUSAL of planning permission to the variation of access.

18/01422 – LANGSIDE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Single storey double car port/lodge. Cllrs believe the proposed car port will have a minimal effect on the character of the street scene and recommend GRANTING planning permission.

Actions AR to submit recommendations to the LPA for; land SW of Oak Acres, The Old Forge, New property S of Hatch House Farm & Langside

165.18 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Penny Channer had sent AR a report for December which has been circulated to Cllrs and uploaded to the Council's website including the following topics: Essex County Council in the top ten for outcomes for residents; Could you support the refugee resettlement scheme?; Task Force says 'all options on the table' in joint effort to tackle A127 congestion, for more information go to www.A127.co.uk; Christmas

Thoughts....Essex Trading Standards is wishing residents and businesses across Essex a happy and safe Christmas; Adult Community Learning Courses.

166.18 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 and B1010 proposals:

1. **Proposed extension of the 30mph limit currently imposed on the A414 Chelmsford Road from Oak Corner Roundabout Maldon Road to Rectory Lane.**
2. **To introduce a 40mph limit on Maldon Road from Rectory Lane to Lodge Road.**

Further to the site meeting with Essex Highways Officers and the County Councillor the following comments have been received from the Highway Authority in respect to items 1 and 2: based upon the recorded mean average speeds there would be good compliance with the posted 60mph speed limit on the A414. Speed limits must be implemented in a consistent way and must appear sensible to the driver. If drivers cannot understand why a limit is in force, many are unlikely to comply with it. The environment is the major determining factor in speed choice, so drivers should expect to see the same limits in similar environments. This consistency breaks down if exceptions are made and, as a result, drivers encounter unexpectedly low limits. These limits are the most likely to be abused but bring other limits into disrepute. Lowering the speed limit here will not necessarily slow vehicles, as there are no obvious reasons for drivers to slow down on this stretch of road, as such we would not recommend proceeding with the request for a 30mph speed limit.

Cllrs are very disappointed with the refusal to introduce a speed limit and comment that the same categorised A road passes through Danbury which has 30 mph limits and in order to maintain consistency the same limits should apply to the rural village of Woodham Mortimer. SB also pointed out that 50mph limits have been applied to various sections of the main A127 in order to calm traffic movements and wonder what criteria is different that would not be appropriate for the A414 through Woodham Mortimer. It is also understood a Toucan Crossing has been approved for installation.

3. **To extend the current 40mph limit on the B1418 Southend Road from The Grange to Oak Corner Roundabout (this would reflect the same limits applied through Bicknacre and Woodham Ferrers)**
4. **To introduce a 40mph limit along the B1010 Burnham Road from Oak Corner Roundabout to the crossroads at Lodge Road Goat House Lane (this would reflect the same limits applied along the Fambridge Road Hazeleigh) –**

Following data collected from the Automatic Traffic Count surveys located for items 3 and 4 Essex Highways have reported the results show good compliance and seek the Councils comments: The Council's opinion is that the data shows good evidence that motorists prefer to be driving at speeds averaging 40mph, an indication that the B1010 section of road should be limited to the perceived speed, which could appropriately link in to the existing 30mph limit at the Purleigh boundary. It would also make more sense to Cllrs if the current 40 mph limit was therefore extended to the Oak Corner roundabout. The Council feel this section of Southend Road is similar in nature to sections of the Bicknacre to Woodham Ferrers Road which is restricted to 40mph.

5. **To introduce 2 crossing points on the A414 in Woodham Mortimer;**
 - 1) to access the footways near Post Office Road and the bus stop opposite
 - 2) to access the footways adjacent to Bryants Lane and Conduit Lane

AR has established that item 5 has been added to the list of potential Local Highways Panel schemes, ref No.LMAL182016 for validation and would attempt to ascertain the specific timescale for the validation.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry No. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) rotten verge reflector posts. – No activity

Lodge Road (junction with A414) – (enquiry No.s 20385657, 2502209, 3146993)

Continuous running water from ditch adjacent to storage compound. The Council have been informed the western ditch will shortly be cleared and once this has taken place AR will advise Essex Highways so that they can attend and repair/clear the broken culvert underneath the road

Fambridge Road – vehicle speeding issues and proposed footway. – The Community Protection Team have been in attendance with specialist TruCam equipment in Fambridge Road and the Council have been informed 34 vehicles have been captured above the restricted limit. When the invoice is submitted to the Council further details will be supplied to the Council with the relevant invoice for the TruCam operations service.

Cllrs reflected that activities in Fambridge Road had now included the installation of a gating effect and Community Protection Officers attendance. The matter of the proposed footway is still to be clarified and AR would make further enquiries to the current status of negotiations between the Planning Authority and developers of the South Maldon Garden Suburb.

AR advised the gating scheme is listed on the LHP schemes (ref: LMAL172002) with an allocated budget of £14,000 which Cllrs thought extremely high and did not consider the affect to be good value of tax payers money.

Tom Tit Lane/A414 – Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle signage (22/06/2018) – Cllrs thought the replacement signage had been approved but AR advised the scheme is listed on the potential LHP Schemes list ref No. LMAL172025 with an allocated budget of £2,500 which again Cllrs were amazed at such a high cost for what appears to be minimal signage work.

Conduit Lane – (enquiry No. 2582212) overhanging dead tree hazard (24/07/2018) – AR advised this enquiry is currently noted on the Essex Highways reporting tool as further investigation required. An initial assessment of the issue has been carried out and ongoing work is required to gather further information to determine what action, if any, can be taken.

Conduit/Bryants Lane – blocked drains causing flooding (02/09/2018) – SB has been unable to establish a response to the enquiry and would make further attempts.

Actions AR to submit comments to the HA for speed limits on the A414 and results of the ATC's.

AR to make further enquiries re proposed footway Fambridge Road

AM to advise AR when ditch work has been completed

SB to make further enquiries re Conduit Lane blocked drains

167.18 CORRESPONDENCE

Eon have advised the Council there will be an increase in kWh charges from 17.90p to 22.10p from 01 April 2019 – AR has allowed for the increase for the Precept demand proposals in item 170.18.

Correspondence has been received by AR with respect to recently installed stiles on Footpath 15 Woodham Mortimer (to the west of Rectory Lane). Objection has been raised to the installation of the stiles as the structures are preventing some members of public accessing the path especially those exercising large dogs, the preference is for kissing gates. The Council understand the relevant landowner took advice from the Highway Authority when re-securing the field in order to keep animals and the new structures have been approved by the County Council. AR will contact the relevant Public Rights of Way Area Inspector for clarification.

Actions AR to contact PROW area inspector

168.18 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

It was reported to AM that the gap in the hedge on Footpath 16 Woodham Mortimer (east of Rectory Lane) was overgrown and difficult to pass.

Actions AM to survey gap and arrange clearance.

169.18 CLERKS EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW

The Council discussed the Clerks yearly employment conditions review. There were no members of the public remaining at the meeting and all interested parties were happy to discuss matters in the presence of AR. An updated 2018-19 National Salary Award briefing note had been supplied by the NALC which introduced a new Spinal Column Point structure commencing April 2019. The Clerk is currently paid at SCP level 20 which will change to a new SCP level 9. Cllrs commented the Clerk continued to maintain an efficient administration of the Council's activities and SB proposed to raise the salary SCP to the new level 10 which is an increase of 0.489p per hour. Number of hours paid per month will

remain at 20 and AR will continue to monitor activity hours. The new salary would therefore equate to £215.80/month or £2,589.60/year an increase of £9.78/month to commence from 01 April 2019. SB's proposal was seconded by KM and agreed by all Cllrs.

Actions AR to update contract for signing at January 2019 meeting

170.18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- **Balance of accounts** - AR advised current bank account balances of:
 - Unity Trust Instant Access Account £2,413.53
 - Unity Trust T1 Current Account £1024.50
 - Lloyds Debit Card is owed £39.48 which will be debit on 24/12/2018
- **Budget proposals and precept demand 2019/20** - Cllrs agreed the current year costs had broadly remained in line with 2018/19 budget proposals though additional expense had been given to Community Protection Team activities and a moderate elevated cost of street lighting repairs than anticipated. It was agreed that funds should be set aside for further employment of Community Protection Officers and increased street lighting repair costs. AR advised non-metered electricity costs are due to increase from 01 April 2019 and MDC are advising to allow between £500 and £1,000 for 2019 election year costs. AR also advised the Council's laptop computer was now 6 years old and it would be prudent to commence preparing a reserve of funds for a replacement as technology advances. Factoring in the aforementioned costs and allowing for moderate inflation increases; if the Council were to maintain the precept demand as 2018/19 and all worse case scenarios funds were implemented there would be a predicted deficit of -£347, it was noted there had been no increase to the demand from financial year 2017/18 to 2018/19 and it was therefore proposed by KM to increase the precept by £500 to £4,352 which was seconded by KB, the proposal was supported by all Cllrs except RB who did not feel it necessary to raise the demand. The Council have been advised by MDC that the 2019/20 Tax Base figure is 307.5 and therefore the band D equivalent of Parish Council precept will be £14.15 an increase from the 2018/19 precept of £1.66.
- **Authorisation of Payments** – Cllrs approved payments for:
 - A & J Street Lighting repair £162.42;
 - Clerk salary (Nett) £492.46;
 - HMR&C (Clerk PAYE Tax) £123.60;
 - Clerk work from home allowance £52.00;
 - MDC cost of Community Protection Officers for TruCam laser speed gun attendance £114.73.
 - Transfer of £500.00 from the Unity Trust Instant Access Account to the T1 Current Account.

171.18 STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT

AR advised that the National Association of Local Councils model standing orders published in April 2018 required some minor amendments which AR had incorporated into the existing document. Cllrs agreed and approved to accept the amendments and the document was duly signed by the Chairman.

172.18 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

AR to continue preparing the Data Audit

173.18 INFORMATION ONLY

Cllrs raised concern that the Essex Highways storage area at the northern end of Lodge Road is not being maintained and previous reports by the Council of rubbish being deposited has still to be cleared. AR will raise the issue when informing Essex Highways ditches have been cleared as per item 168.16 Lodge Road (junction with A414) above.

Actions AR to ask EH to remove rubbish from storage site

SB wished everyone a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year and closed the meeting. Date of next meeting 08 January 2019.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman) 08 January 2019