

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

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

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady(SB) presiding, Graham Harle(GH), Kim McDonald(KM), Pauline McDonald(PM) Lorraine Cobb(LC), Stephen Pemberton (SP). County Cllr Jane Fleming(JF), Andrew Ritchings(AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

14.25 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllr Simon Morgan sent apologies due to attending an MDC Devolution meeting.

15.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a non-pecuniary interest the solar farm community benefit fund item being the freehold owner of the leased land subject to the solar farm company.

16.25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

17.25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 14 January 2025 were agreed as a true record of events as proposed by KM and seconded by SP.

18.25 PLANNING

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*

24/00844 – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Reserved matters application for the approval of all matters on approved planning application 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing) LPA Deadline 28/01/2025. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

24/00869/FUL - LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Demolish three existing buildings, redevelop the site for Gypsy and Traveller Use comprising the siting of a total of four mobile homes (including the retention of two existing mobile homes allowed on appeal under application ref. 22/00344/FUL), use of existing hay store building for storage together with associated facilities and landscaping. LPA Deadline 14/01/2025 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA*

24/01014/OUTM – LAND SOUTH OF MALDON ROAD DANBURY – *Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 72 dwellings with associated infrastructure. LPA Deadline 18/04/2025*

Cllrs raised no objection to the development and would like to see the current 40mph speed limit from its existing location in Danbury extended to pass the proposed development site along Maldon Road to the 30mph limit in Woodham Mortimer at the Zara Restaurant, this would introduce a traffic calming measure to mitigate the extra volume of traffic that would be leaving and accessing the site. Cllrs would also like to see a s106 commitment towards additional bus services and associated infrastructure. Public Footpath 38 Danbury aligns

through the centre of the development and a condition should be imposed to protect its use at all times. As the proposal is another development highly likely to see an increase in traffic passing through Woodham Mortimer Village Cllrs request an investigation for a potential Danbury/Woodham Mortimer bypass road is instigated.

19.25 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr Jane Fleming reported on topics including updated devolution details and ECC Council Tax expectations, the full report will be made available on the Parish Councils website. Cllr Fleming also advised she had been contacted by local residents raising concerns about problems associated with the current road closures of Post Office Road and Tom Tit Lane resulting in Bryants Lane being used as a diversion route which is proving hazardous and causing inconvenience to residents. Cllr Fleming will raise the concerns with Essex Highways officers in order to seek a more appropriate resolution.

20.25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£5,173.16
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£320.39
Total funds on deposit	£5,493.55

Authorisation of payments

None	
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Transactions since the previous meeting

Lloyds Debit Card charge	-£3.00
A & J Lighting Goat House Lane street lamp repair	-£216.00
Zoho email accounts annual fee	-£80.64
Lloyds Debit Card fee	-£3.00
Essex County Council legal advice (community benefit fund)	-£573.60
Monthind Cleaning part graffiti removal	-£502.61
Monthly bank account charge	-£6.00

Review of 3rd Quarter financial activities 01/10/2024 to 31/12/2024

All Cllrs reviewed the financial activities for the third quarter, non-signatory Cllr KM scrutinised third quarter bank statements, no matters of concern were raised and the accounts were approved by all Cllrs as proposed by SP and seconded by GH.

SB advised Cllrs that MDC Finance had asked AR to provide separate Precept demands for each village which has been completed and this will now be the procedure going forward.

21.25 COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAZELEIGH SOLAR FARM

Cllrs approved the contents of the amended Community Benefit Agreement and AR will advise the Solar Farm Company as such. The concluding matter should be the Chairman signing of the agreement and transfer of the Benefit fund payment to the Parish Councils dedicated account set up specifically for the fund.

22.25 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road, LHP Scheme No. 6.* The pedestrian island on the A414 close to Conduit Lane has now been constructed and Cllrs are extremely relieved the scheme is drawing to a close after many years of pressure by local parishioners and Councillors, the second island at Post Office Road is ongoing and expected to be completed soon.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Tom Tit Lane and Runsell Green Danbury (LHP Scheme No. 36).* No activity.

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

AR has made contact with Northumbrian Water who may be able to help locate a respective landowner of the areas subject to the Public Footpath.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. – *VAS Installation.* No updates, the Working Party is waiting for traffic monitoring equipment to be implemented.

Chimney Lane – *'Unsuitable for HGV' signage. (LHP Scheme No. 22).* No activity.

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

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

Post Office Road – *hedge encroachment at junction with A414 (EH Ref: 2953028).* A significant amount of foliage has now been cut back as part of the current street works taking place, therefore this item will be removed from the next Agenda.

A414 Chelmsford Road – *hedge encroachment between Zara Restaurant and gravel pit (EH ref: 2942385).*

A414 Maldon Road – *verge condition central island crossing point church side of Crematorium.*

A slope has now been constructed on the Church side of the crossing but is not usable until Essex Highways raise the level of the narrow access road to the Church.

Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer – *diversion around crematorium site* - The diverted path has been marked and largely made available but has not yet been legally implemented, however The Council believe the path as marked on the legal Public Path Order is not correctly marked on the ground at the monument end and will make further enquiries with Essex Highways.

23.25 BUS SHELTERS - *Graffiti removal updates.* - The Council continue to experience contractor difficulties in order to achieve the removal of the remaining graffiti and AR will canvass alternative companies.

24.25 BUS STOP BENCH – *Installation of bus stop seating furniture via County Cllr Locality Fund.* Cllrs agreed to locate the prospective bench on the grass verge to be fixed in with Postcrete, SB to advise descriptive location to AR, the aforementioned information should complete the details needed for the license to be approved. Once the license is approved The Council will then need to procure the bench and then claim the funds from JF's Locality Fund which has already been approved pending the license granting.

25.25 'LOVE YOUR BUS' - *Grant funded bus service application with neighbouring Parishes.* The Parish Council may be eligible for funding to apply for a bus service schedule through the villages, SB believes it is likely to be cost prohibitive as grant funding would need to be matched with Council funds. SB to research further and provide information in due course.

26.25 CASUAL VACANCY

There were no requests for the Council to instigate an election and Cllrs are now able to Co-Opt a new Cllr. Interest has been expressed and a new Cllr will be appointed at a forthcoming Council Meeting.

27.25 INFORMATION ONLY

The following application did not appear on the February Agenda, and will be discussed at the March Parish Council Meeting: **25/00081 – 1 SPRING COTTAGES CONDUIT LANE**

WOODHAM MORTIMER – Single Storey side extension.

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 11/03/2025.

.....*Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 11/03/2025