

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021
Commenced at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady, Chairman (SB), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Kim Broadhurst (KB), Richard Britton (RB). District Cllrs Karl Jarvis (KJ), and Mark Durham (MD), County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh) 3 members of the public joined the meeting.
Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

1.21 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Andrew Macmorland sent apologies due to work commitments.

2.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to footway Fambridge Road item as potential landowners are related. Though not possessing any voting rights as Clerk to the Council AR declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application 4 Goat House Lane (being the Applicant) and a non-pecuniary interest in 5 Goat House Lane (next door neighbour).

3.21 PUBLIC FORUM

Members of public advised the Council that letters requesting support for measures to reduce traffic issues associated with the A414 have been printed and will soon be distributed to residents within the area. Also further information regarding latest County Broadband work/installations will be provided once Cllr Macmorland has been contacted.

4.21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of ordinary Council Meeting 08 December 2020 as proposed by SP and seconded by SB were agreed by all as a true record of events.

5.21 PLANNING

20/01021/FUL – LAND REAR OF HILL BARN RECTORY LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER
– *Proposed conversion of existing equestrian/storage buildings to form offices (Use Class B1) alongside access, parking, landscaping and other associated development.* The Planning Officer recommendation is REFUSAL for reasons that the proposed development would result in a harmful visual impact due to the urbanisation of the site resulting from the proposed change of use and physical alterations to the existing building. The application has however been called to the North West Area Planning Committee by District Cllr Durham as it is considered the application offers local employment opportunities.

20/00994/FUL – LITTLE GRANGE FARM MARLPITS ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER –
Full planning application for the proposed change of use from Agricultural to Dwellinghouse (C3) and associated operational development of the Apple store and Essex barn at Little Grange Farm. The Planning Officer recommendation is REFUSAL for reasons that the proposed development, by reason of its location and the resultant intensification of residential development would substantially alter the character of the area and have an unacceptable visual impact on the countryside through the urbanisation and domestication of the site. The application has been called to the North West Area Planning Committee by District Councillor Jarvis for policy reasons S1, S8 and D1.

20/01106/FUL – OAK CORNER COTTAGE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER
– *Erection of a 2-bed dwelling.* **WITHDRAWN**

20/01103&4/HOUSE – ELMS BARN LODGE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Erection of single storey garaging for vehicle storage – APPROVED

20/01135/HOUSE – MILTON GRANGE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Reconfiguration of entrance hall, external windows and doors, with elevations to be clad and rendered. Alterations of the internal layout and conversion of loftspace. TO BE DECIDED BY LPA*

20/01183/FUL – LAND ADJACENT TO THE RISE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Change of use of existing domestic field to private recreational equestrian use and the construction of a stable block located in the North East corner of the site. TO BE DECIDED BY LPA.*

20/01111/HOUSE – OAKLEA BURNAHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Alterations to raise the roof, dormer roof alterations to front and rear, single storey side extension, single storey rear extension with balcony. APPROVED*

20/01242/FUL – THE PIGHTLE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Removal of condition 2 (Agricultural Occupancy) of planning permission 66/00171. The Council understand that the location is subject to reduced agricultural employment and following an Application of non-agricultural occupancy made in June 2020 that was considered lawful the Council SUPPORT this removal of condition 2 of approved planning permission 66/00171 and the dwelling should be allowed to be occupied by anyone not just those employed in agriculture or forestry.*

20/01225/FUL – BURY FARM FAMBRIDGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Two storey extension to the side of an existing detached dwelling house and the subdivision of the extended building into 2-self contained dwellings. Cllrs are supportive of the current occupant family requirements to seek private separate living space and be able to reside and work at the existing location. Cllrs believe there will be no detrimental effect to neighbouring properties or street scene, vehicular movements and exit/entry onto North Fambridge Road should not be negatively affected and the Council recommend GRANTING planning permission.*

20/01269/HOUSE – 4 GOAT HOUSE LANE HAZELEIGH – *Change to external materials, replace bay window with door, construction of timber terrace and extend and remove side window of porch. Cllrs are aware that other properties in the row of 6 bungalows that No. 4 resides within have been modified from their original character and the proposed changes to No. 4 do not appear to be out of keeping with the current street scene and the Council recommend GRANTING planning permission.*

20/01326 – 5 GOAT HOUSE LANE HAZELEIGH – *Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed new single storey outbuilding with flat roof over. The Council understand that in order to meet the requirements of lawful development outbuildings must not exceed 50% of the land of the original house, this includes all other outbuildings and extensions to the original house, the outbuilding must be no more than 2.5m high, and not be a separate self-contained living accommodation. Cllrs believe the application appears to conform to permitted development requirements but have concerns in respect to the size of the building particularly as it will be the full width of the garden space.*

6.21 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Karl Jarvis provided a report for circulation including the following topics: 2019/2020 accounts have been signed off, 2020/2021 accounts will be most impacted by Covid-19 related issues; Budget 2021/2022 – towards the end of January the Strategy and Resources committee will make recommendations for Council consideration. There will be a focus on prudence; Capital expenditure; Leisure Centres (Blackwater and Dengie 100 sports centres, run by Places Leisure) financial support; Covid-19 High Street Recovery Plan/ MDC offices; Vaccination centre – MDC offices have been transformed to provide this service; Grants available – business grants – new sets published each change in lockdown; Bradwell B Consultation.

County Cllr Penny Channer provided a report for circulation including the following topics: Latest Covid-19 Data - Clarification on Hospital Data; Grants available to help Essex residents self-isolate; County, City, Borough and District Local Covid-19 Contact Tracing proving a huge success; Putting food on the Christmas table for children and young

people; New funding to cut fuel bills and help tackle climate change; Warm Homes Essex; County Council investment unlocks £1million loan fund to Essex businesses; Library service update; Love Essex.

District Cllr Mark Durham reported that Covid-19 is clearly dominating District and County Council activities, due to the continued changing guidance and restriction rules budgets are proving difficult to set. Business support is being reviewed as the situation becomes desperate for many. Everyone should be aware how real and serious the current situation is. Highway Matters: Drainage systems are struggling at the sides of roads due to the recent deluge of rain, many old systems need replacing with new plastic pipes but are very expensive and disruptive, there does however continue to be extensive jetting activity in operation. There is still LHP money available and Cllrs asked if money could be made available to clear the footway alongside the A414, however LHP money is not able to be utilised for maintenance projects.

SB asked if any information about mental health and well-being could be provided by the County Council, PCh advised there is lots of info and support on the County Council website and would forward AR links to the various pages and documents.

7.21 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Fambridge Road (Limebrook Way RAB to Royal Oak PH) - Detailed design of footpath (LMAL142006 £7,000) (originally requested 22/04/2014) and **(LMAL162099) - Walkable verge/footway**. PCh advised she believes discussions with landowners are ongoing.

A414 Maldon Road Oak Corner to Post Office Road – Detailed design and legal elements of a speed reduction to 50mph (LMAL182016 £6,500), from Wycke Hill to the junction with B1010 Burnham Road. PCh advised there had been a number of objections received and the proposal would now go to the County Council Cabinet for discussion.

Southend Road and B1010 Burnham Road – Speed limit reduction (LMAL182028 allocated budget £12,500). AR advised that following the installation of the restricted speed limit signage a parishioner had contacted the Council advising the signage installed close to their highway entrance/exit has caused an obstruction, rendering it hazardous leaving the property. Sight line of the road is proving difficult due to the installation of a 'gateway' to which the signage has been attached. Cllrs and Clerk advised they were unaware that a gateway treatment was going to be implemented, it is presumed the HA would have carried out a relevant risk assessment and AR would write to the parishioner advising them to contact the Highway Authority directly expressing their concerns. PCh will check correspondence in respect to the gating.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Surgery with Cllr Kevin Bentley scheduled for 18/01/2021.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry No. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) rotten verge reflector posts. Now that the ditch has been cleared alleviating water spillage onto the road some reflector posts are laying in the verge, AR to seek update from Essex Highways.

Footway Defect A414 – Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. Vounteers have not conducted detailed survey of path yet due to current government restrictions, District and County Cllrs MD & PCh will make further enquiries.

MD & KJ left the meeting at this point.

8.21 BUS SHELTER LICENSES

A request has been received from ECC to confirm which bus shelters the Parish Council own and to complete a license application form for each bus stop shelter. Cllrs agreed the 2 shelters in its ownership as shown on its own Asset List and Insurance documents are the one at Oak corner Chelmsford Road A414 and the one on the A414 Maldon Road opposite Post Office Road. AR to complete the licence application form. SB suggested the Council should consider reviewing all other furniture within the villages that reside on the highway verge.

9.21 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No Rights of Way matters were reported.

10.21 LOCALITY FUND

AR has been advised that the completed Acceptance Form for the cost of a new defibrillator battery has been confirmed by ECC to meet the award criteria, a further form had to be completed to accompany the defibrillator receipt and the Council is now awaiting confirmation that the claim is successful and grant funds have been transferred into the PC Account.

A further claim for Locality Fund money was discussed and an application will be made by the Village Hall Committee to apply for a new gate across the second access point that currently has a large tyre in place preventing access. A new gate will enhance the playing field area and help secure the parking area, an application will also be made for a replacement bench on the playing field as the existing one has deteriorated and not currently available for use. KM will seek quotes for the aforementioned equipment and send proposals to PCh so the project can secure the required County Councillor support. PCh left the meeting at this point.

11.21 CLERKS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

The new contract of employment agreed at the December meeting was updated, circulated and approved by Cllrs. AR signed document, SB to sign in due course.

12.21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts – AR advised bank account balances of: T1 Current Account £715.47; Instant Access Savings Account £1,772.89. Total funds on deposit £2488.36
Quarterly budget review – 3rd quarter financial statement summary had been circulated to Cllrs, no matters of concern were raised and budgets appeared on course. KM had reviewed last 3 months statements and approved the documents as a non-authorising signatory.

Authorisation of payments – payments were authorised for printer ink (£6.98) and the Councils annual email accounts subscription to Zoho Mail (80.64).

All above items were approved by Cllrs as proposed by SP and seconded by KB.

13.21 INFORMATION ONLY

Following reports at the July meeting of activity in field adjacent to A414 protected by Article 4 planning restrictions AR has now received a plan noting the location and Cllrs instructed AR to ask the LPA to investigate.

It has been reported that the gate at the entrance to the ECC storage compound at the northern end of Lodge Road has been rammed and materials have been dumped in the compound, AR to inform ECC.

SB advised the sad news that Miriam Holden had passed away, she was a well known person in the Dengie area and had administered meetings of the DHGPC for many years.

Date of next Ordinary monthly meeting 09/02/2021 at 19:30 via Zoom

.....*Andrew Ritchings*..... (Clerk to the Council) 09 February 2021