

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

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), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Lorraine Cobb (LC), Richard Britton (RB).
County Councillor Jane Flemming (JF).
Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings
1 member of the public in attendance

28.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllr Morgan unable to attend due to a MDC planning meeting.

29.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

RB declared a pecuniary interest in Planning item Barn at Old Mill House, Hazeleigh Hall Lane being the applicant and landowner. SP declared a pecuniary interest to both solar farm agenda items that interest being the respective landowner.

30.24 PUBLIC FORUM

Updates relating to the crematorium development advised that ground works are progressing well with the concrete base soon to be laid, however there have been delays with the Highway Authority s278 adoption agreement which is still with Essex County Council legal executives, JF offered to seek an update from ECC. The formal Footpath Diversion Order is to be published 14/03/2024 with its subsequent 28 day statutory public consultation, and will appear on the Parish Councils' April agenda for discussion. SB asked for Cllr support to approach the crematorium developers to discuss the name of the site which all agreed.

31.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary Parish Council Meeting 13 February 2024 as proposed by SP and seconded by GH were approved by all Cllrs as a true record of events.

32.24 PLANNING

23/01231/HOUSE – WILLOWBURN POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey rear and side extensions including single storey link to detached garage and extension to garage. Roof alterations to garage and porch canopy. Alterations to fenestration.* **APPROVED BY LPA**

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)* **LPA Deadline 09/04/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00064/LDP – BRELADES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificates for proposed demolition of existing flat roof dormer and construction of flat roof dormer to rear elevation. Addition of window to side elevation.* **LPA Deadline 21/03/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00059/HOUSE – HIGHLANDS BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey front porch extension, including covered veranda and staircases. Alterations to fenestration including additional cladding.* **LPA Deadline 02/04/2024.** Clls do not believe the

frontal changes would impose a negative detrimental effect to the current street scene and recommend GRANTING the application.

23/00292/FUL BARN AT OLD MILL HOUSE VINEYARD HAZELEIGH HALL LANE

HAZELEIGH – *Convert agricultural barn into vineyard manager's dwellinghouse with associated internal and external alterations, laying out of amenity area and planting of native hedgerows and trees.* **APPEAL Date 24/04/2024 REF: APP/X1545/W/23/3327753 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

24/00125/FUL – LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER –

Demolish existing buildings, redevelop site and siting of two additional mobile homes with associated facilities for Gypsy and Traveller use. **LPA Deadline 24/04/2024.** Cllrs have consistently raised objection to all previous applications at this site due to proposed additional dwellings outside of the village settlement boundary as protected by Policy S8 of the Local Development Plan 2014-2029 as well as the site is not listed as a brownfield site by MDC. Cllrs have also always expressed concerns at the prospect of vehicles entering onto and leaving the busy 50mph A road strategic link between Chelmsford, Maldon and the wider Dengie area, which is considered a potential hazard unless a further speed limit is introduced. It is the Council's opinion that this application would cause overdevelopment at the site following on from the upheld appeal application for 2 Gypsy/Traveller pitches with 1 mobile home and 1 touring caravan, the expansion of the site would only exacerbate the concerns previously raised particularly as the Maldon Garden Suburb around Wyke Hill nears its completion along with further vehicle movements from the new crematorium and separate café establishment at the Claremont Garden Centre site. The site does not have easy access to local services and facilities and will mainly rely on private transport adding to the aforementioned vehicle proliferation. For the aforementioned reasons Cllrs recommend REFUSAL of the application.

33.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Jane Flemming reported a 400K Rural Community Fund initiative has been launched with initial applications aimed at charities and community groups, followed by smaller businesses and other groups/organisations later in the year. Further funds have been made available for community defibrillators and bleed bags. Essex County Council resolved to raise Council Tax payments to the maximum 2.9% permitted. The Local Highways Panel is to be completely revamped so that a new model providing achievable deliveries taking advantage of extra funding can be made available for respective claimants.

34.24 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MINERALS EXTRACTION REVIEW

SB has received various parishioner concerns about a potential extraction site in Woodham Walter that could affect vehicle movements in Tom Tit Lane and recommends Cllrs review the details for comments at the April meeting. Inappropriate

35.24 SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH

Following further parishioner concerns about the condition of the public footpaths across the site of the solar farm development and contact with the respective developer, the Parish Council have been advised construction work affecting the paths site has now been completed and work will be implemented to level the paths where construction vehicles have caused surfaces to become uneven which should return them to a much more user friendly condition fit for public use.

36.24 SOLAR FARM ON LAND NORTH OF MALDON ROAD

Applicants of the proposed solar farm at the above-mentioned site have accepted the Parish Council's invitation to attend the June Parish Council Meeting to discuss Community Benefit project options resulting from the solar farm development if approved.

37.24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study. No updates.*

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. (First logged by Essex Highways at site meeting with SB 14/09/2018. Added to LHP list and Footway Clearance Scheme by County Cllr Flemming - June 2023. No updates.*

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh – *width and gate restrictions.*
Kissing gate and fence to be removed by 30/03/2024

Burnham Road Hazeleigh gateway structure – *sightline restrictions.* Having sought clarification of site line conditions when exiting nearby properties Essex Highways have advised "an inspector would have assessed all visibility lines when inspecting the area". Therefore the removal of the gateway structure would need to be requested via the Local Highways Panel.

Ancient Highway/ Conduit Lane – The fallen dead tree that is causing an obstruction to the adjacent property has been reported to Essex Highways but no actions have yet been taken, JF will follow up with her EH contacts.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) A414 Oak Manor Chelmsford Road – Cllrs fully support a resident request for a VAS to be installed at the above-mentioned location in an attempt to calm traffic as it descends from the unrestricted length of the A414 past the Royal Oak Quarry site and enters the 30mpm limit just before the Zara Restaurant. AR to contact JF to take the matter forward.

38.24 BUS SHELTERS

AR and SB continue to explore all options available in order to remove the graffiti vandalised bus shelters with potential organisations. Cllrs agreed to delegate the decision of respective operator to AR and SB provided the cost does not exceed that provided by the most recent company.

County Cllr JF advised as per the recent new Bus Shelter Contract between ECC and local authorities Parish Council shelters are not within the scope of the contract, this was decided because most Parish Councils wished to retain ownership. Therefore it is not possible for Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh PC to transfer ownership to the County Council.

39.24 NHS ST PETERS HOSPITAL

A letter of concern raised by Cllrs sent to the Mid and South Essex NHS Trust in response to closure of services at the hospital will be forwarded to MP Sir John Wittingdale for his successful application to debate "Future of St Peter's Hospital Maldon" in the Chamber of the House of Commons. SB will attend an online meeting arranged by DHGPC on behalf of the Council to discuss the potential closure of services.

40.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£4,479.48
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£690.40
Total funds on deposit	£5,169.88

Authorisation of payments

May 2023 uncontested election fees	£198.60
Clerk quarterly emoluments:	
Clerk January-March Nett salary	£697.46
HMR&C PAYE	£174.40
Work from home allowances (13 weeks)	£52.00
Transfer from Instant Access to Current Account	£1,000.00

The above payments were agreed by all Cllrs as proposed by KM and seconded by SP.

41.24 INFORMATION ONLY

Next scheduled ordinary meeting is 09/04/2024

April is usually the month for the Annual Parish Meeting (AKA Parish Assembly) and this will take place immediately prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 09/04/2024