

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024

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

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

85.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Councillor Stephen Pemberton sent apologies due to farming duties. Parish Cllr Richard Britton was unable to attend due to travel delays.

86.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared.

87.24 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

88.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 09 July 2024 as proposed by KM and seconded by LC were agreed as a true record of events by all Cllrs at that meeting.

89.24 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) LPA Deadline 09/04/2024 LPA TO DETERMINE*

24/00284/FUL – ST FRANCIS POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling, with associated landscaping, parking, refuse and cycle storage. 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 LPA TO DETERMINE*

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. LPA Deadline 24/07/2024. LPA TO DETERMINE*

24/00424/HOUSE – WHITEGATES POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey front extension. Single storey rear extension. Alterations to roof forms of existing porch and rear projection. Changes to fenestration including blocking up windows and door, addition of new windows and doors. Alterations to existing windows, changes to external materials, removal of chimneys and new chimney. APPROVED*

24/00425/LDP – WHITEGATES POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificate for proposed flat roof dormer to rear roof slope with sky light. APPLICATION CONSIDERED LAWFUL BY LPA*

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

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.**

Having reviewed the details of the Application Cllrs considered that the proposals appear to meet the permitted development criteria and raised no objections to the application.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 12/24 ADJ OAK MANOR CHELMSFORD ROAD – The Council have been advised that the Order made on 02/07/2024 has not been confirmed as the tree is already subject to TPO Order 03/90.

90.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Following the company closures of Arrow Taxis and Essex & Suffolk DaRT, County Cllr Jane Fleming (JF) will be meeting with fellow Bus User Group members to put forward timetable amendments that will hopefully mitigate some of the loss of service caused by the collapse of the transport companies.

JF advised that a new budget has been made available for Highway projects, Cllrs asked that consideration be given to direct some of the funds for vegetation and foliage clearance that has become so prevalent on many public footpaths. JF advised obstruction reports of many paths are increasing and recommend anyone encountering difficulties accessing public paths to report them online via the Essex Highways website which should instigate a review of path conditions in respective areas.

JF advised she will be attending summit discussions with MP's John Whittingdale, Priti Patel and NHS representatives in order to discuss the future of St Peter's Hospital.

91.24 SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH

Following Cllrs decision to seek a legal opinion of the Community Benefit Agreement, four separate law companies have been contacted, two have provided estimates, a third company will be providing an estimate shortly and the fourth company did not respond. GH reviewed the Agreement and advised the Council need to be quite clear that just an opinion is required otherwise costs could escalate. It was agreed that online digital signing should be avoided and two Cllrs including the Chairman should sign in the presence of witnesses. It was resolved to wait for the third estimate before appointing a respective company.

AR advised the Council's current banking provider have confirmed another separate savings account can be set up in order administer the funds associated with solar farm Community Benefit payment so that it can be audited completely separately from other accounts, AR to proceed with opening a new account.

92.24 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.*

AR has obtained Land Registry documents and will be contacting adjacent landowners seeking any information that may help identify landowners of the green lane footpath.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. – *VAS Installation.* In order to progress with the installation of a VAS near Oak Corner the Parish Council would need to apply for a license for such a device. Items to consider, how will the device be purchased,

where exactly where it be placed, what are the ongoing maintenance costs and who will meet those costs? AR and SB to make further enquiries.

Bryants Lane – *Signage and traffic flow improvements Claremont Garden entrance/exit.*
Nothing to report.

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.* Nothing to report.

A414 40mph Speed limit – *between Post Office Road and Limebrook Farm.* Nothing to report

93.24 BUS SHELTERS - *Graffiti removal updates.*

The contractor has now attended on two occasions and has been unable to remove all graffiti, however an invoice has been sent to the Council for all the work estimated which included full removal of graffiti and application of anti-graffiti coating. Cllrs are reluctant to pay the full cost considering all the graffiti has not been removed and is still waiting for clarification whether the anti-graffiti coating was applied. A further quotation was supplied for work to entirely paint the shelters in order to cover the graffiti. Cllrs resolved to seek a reduction to the estimate for painting the shelters in compensation for the graffiti not being completely removed. The cost of painting the shelters is to be claimed from the Council's insurance providers.

94.24 BUST STOP BENCHES – *Potential installation of bus stop seating furniture.* Although a bench will be funded by the County Councillors Locality Fund the Parish Council will need to fund its installation and future maintenance along with adding the asset to its insurance premium. JF to forward bench specifications so AR can contact contractor for installation estimate.

95.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£8,568.01
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£998.38
Total funds on deposit	£9,566.39

Authorisation of payments

Land Registry	£24
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New Computer – AR has commenced researching new computer costs.

Balance of accounts and authorisation of payments were agreed by Cllrs as proposed by GH and seconded by KM.

96.24 INFORMATION ONLY

The following application was received after the Agenda had been circulated; no Cllrs asked to convene an extraordinary meeting in order to meet the LPA consultation deadline and the application will be discussed at the September meeting: - **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.*

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 10/09/2024.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 10/09/2024