

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 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

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING

David Macmorland - It is with great sadness that the Council learnt of the death of David and we extend our sincere condolences to his family at this time. David's love of Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh coupled with his knowledge and experience proved to be the ideal combination during his time as a parish councillor. We learnt from him about the countryside he cared so much about and were guided by his advice; these principles are the basis of Parish Council values as it continues its work and duties today.

14.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

District Cllrs Simon Morgan & Mark Durham sent apologies having to attend another meeting.

15.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a pecuniary registrable interest in relation to the diversion of Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer being the applicant and landowner subject to the respective public path.

16.24 PUBLIC FORUM

A representative from the crematorium development was in attendance to provide Cllrs details of the application to vary condition 2 of approved planning permission 21/01276. This is considered minor amendments including; changes to the site entrance where drainage provision will affect the location of existing hedgerows which will be moved and replanted, the installation of a pond for fire security reasons due to inadequate water supply from the mains adjacent to the A414, solar panels installation, removal of some footpaths to provide greener spaces and changes to fenestrations. Cllrs were advised in order to aid crossing of the A414 the Highway Authority is to complete a legal agreement for the installation of a central island. It was also advised that the proposed new diverted public footpath will hopefully be in place before the current temporary closure expires. Cllrs expressed disappointment they had not been included in discussions to name the crematorium site.

17.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary Parish Council Meeting 09 January 2024 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by KM seconded by RB and agreed by all Cllrs present at that meeting.

18.24 PLANNING

23/01069/LBC – KEEPERS COTTAGE BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Installation of solar panels to existing cartlodge roof. LPA Deadline 25/01/2024 - APPROVED BY LPA*

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. LPA Deadline 23/02/2024.* Cllrs do not believe the proposals will have a detrimental effect on the street scene and recommend GRANTING the application.

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** - The majority of Cllrs do not feel changes are a major change to the Condition 2 Decision Notice. RB was not in support of the proposed variations, a vote was taken and a majority decision resulted in the recommendation of GRANTING the application.

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** - Cllrs have no comments to make about the lawfulness claim.

19.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Jane Flemming in attendance advised that protracted budget discussions at County Hall resulted in a resolution to increase the Council Tax by 4.99% - there are very demanding pressures on adult and children social care and school transport services. There has been a change in the Highways Cabinet member which is now Cllr Cunningham, who announced a new package including an £8m budget for Local Highways Panel Schemes and a new initiative providing County Cllrs with extra responsibilities to approve certain highway works schemes. The County Council continue to roll out their street lighting LED bulb replacement project. Cllr Flemming attended the Public meeting associated with the proposed closure of St Peters Hospital which was very well attended. It seems highly likely the hospital will close but not until various services have been relocated to other areas of the County

20.24 RESERVES POLICY

The circulated draft Reserves Policy was approved by 4 Cllrs and the Chairman, along with 2 abstentions, therefore the policy was adopted by majority decision.

21.24 SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH

Cllrs received further reports that the public footpaths across the site of the ongoing development continue to be disturbed by heavy vehicle movements rendering them difficult to walk. Clerk to contact the development company and Essex Highways to request improvements.

22.24 SOLAR FARM ON LAND NORTH OF MALDON ROAD – The development company proposing a new solar farm site north of the A414 have communicated with the Council seeking suggestions where potential community projects could be identified for benefit funding, should the application be approved by the LPA. An offer was made to meet with the Council to discuss further. Cllrs considered it would be beneficial to invite Meeting Place to the June meeting for further investigation and discussions. It was resolved a 30 minute dialog commencing at 7:00pm would be practical before proceeding other Council agenda items.

23.24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study.* As mentioned in her County Councillor Report JF advised the feasibility study should now go ahead due to the extra 8m funding approved for the LHP budget.

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 activity.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh – width and gate restrictions.

Essex Highways have advised that within 2 months the kissing gate should be removed and the path currently aligned on top of the old ditch will be moved back to its original location to provide a wider more user friendly passage. It was also confirmed that ownership of the land over which the footpath aligns from Lodge Road to the 2nd field gate is still unknown and therefore any further vehicle incursion onto the land could potentially be unlawful.

Burnham Road Hazeleigh gateway structure – sightline restrictions. The Highway Authority has inspected the site of the gateway structure and the inspection concluded that there does not appear to be any visibility issues. If the PC would like any changes made it would need to be submitted to the LHP. AR to seek further clarification that the inspection involved assessing the exit from Grove Cottage where the original reported danger exists.

Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer – (Temporary Prohibition of use) Order 2024 – As per discussion on the Open Forum it is expected that the current temporary 6 month closure will expire in time for the proposed diversion route to be ready.

Footpath 18 Woodham Mortimer – Diversion Order Consultation – Cllrs had no comments to make in respect to the proposal and therefore raise no objections to the diversion order.

Ancient Highway/ Conduit Lane – The Parish Council have been informed a large tree has fallen on the ancient highway that accesses the old Woodham Mortimer Well which is hindering the adjacent landowner hedge maintenance. AR to contact resident offering assistance if the Highway Authority have not removed the tree by the time of the next meeting.

24.24 BUS SHELTERS GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The Parish Council have now been provided with a 2nd quote to remove the graffiti which is much more competitive than an initial quotation, however it appears that MDC FreshService maintenance team could carry out the work but it’s unclear if there is a cost involved. AR is waiting for further information.

25.24 DENGIE HUNDRED GROUP OF PARISH COUNCILS –Cllrs agreed by majority decision to approve the rise in DHGPC proposed annual affiliation fee to £40 as it is considered being part of a large group of parish councils provides opportunity for inter council discussion, ideas and a potential large lobbying voice.

26.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£4,479.48
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£713.40
Total funds on deposit	£5,192.88

Authorisation of payments

No payments to authorise	
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27.24 INFORMATION ONLY

Next scheduled ordinary meeting is 12/03/2024

.....*Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 12/03/2024