

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council
ORDINARY (VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETING (online via Zoom)
MINUTES - TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020

Meeting opened at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Councillors; Simon Brady, Chairman (SB), Andrew Macmorland (AM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Kim Broadhurst (KB). District Cllr Karl Jarvis (KJ), County Cllr Penny Channer (PCh joined during Planning item (Bradwell B Power Station).

3 members of the public joined the meeting.

Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

102.20 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Richard Britten sent apologies, (SB and AR had convened an earlier meeting in an attempt to overcome technical difficulties of access for Cllr Britten but he was still incurring audio and video issues rendering him unable to join.

103.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Item 20/00893 Hall Farm being the owner of the land subject to an EIA application by Low Carbon.

104.20 PUBLIC FORUM

Members of public attending the meeting raised concerns regarding difficulties associated with crossing the A414 due to lack of any helpful pedestrian crossing, the issue is becoming progressively hazardous exacerbated by increased traffic caused by the massive developments along Limebrook Way. School children and elderly residents alighting from buses have been seen struggling to cross whilst waiting for a suitable break in traffic often for several minutes. Letters of concern have been sent to District and County Cllrs, head of Essex Highways and the area Member of Parliament. Parish Cllrs have complete sympathy advising they have been frustratingly campaigning for many years for this situation to be addressed. The item had been on the Local Highways Panel for quite some time until recently being refused as not a scheme viable within the remit of the LHP. Cllrs thanked the resident for again raising the profile and urge any other parishioners to continue to lobby their local District and County Cllrs and Member of Parliament should they have similar concerns

105.20 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Draft minutes of ordinary Council Meeting 08 September 2020 received a request to remove the names of Essex Highways Officers, the request having been actioned Cllrs agreed the aforementioned minutes a true representation of events as proposed by KM and seconded by SP. Minutes were signed by AR as previously delegated by the Council.

106.20 PLANNING

ENF/17/00048/03 WOODHAM MORTIMER PLACE – *Painting and landscaping of approved new outbuilding to be completed by 11/08/2020.* The Council understand the applicant is in correspondence with the Planning Authority regarding the outstanding conditions and as the appeal for the development has been settled by the Planning Inspectorate this item would now be removed from further agendas.

20/00619/LDE - THE PIGHTLE SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Claim for a lawful development certificate for the existing occupation of The Pightle in non compliance with the agricultural occupancy condition.* **APPROVED BY LPA**

20/00675/OUT – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Outline planning permission with the matter of access for consideration is sought for the demolition of the building and replacement of the driving range and pitch & putt with 25 new one and two-bedroom detached and semi-detached elderly persons/disabled bungalows.* **PENDING LPA DECISION**

20/00742 LODGE FARM LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Removal of condition 2 (demolition of existing dwelling) on approved planning permission 14/01109/FUL (variation of condition 2 on approved application FUL/MAL/09/00994 (New detached double garage to residential family room) to allow the provision of a double front entrance door instead of a single door as approved, and change to the front porch on the northern elevation of the dwelling).* The Council have been informed this application has been 'called in' by Cllr Durham and will be resolved at the North West Area Committee on 21/10/2020. **PENDING LPA DECISION**

20/00848 ORCHARD HOUSE POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Proposed single storey extension and link to garage, conversion of existing garage into habitable space and external fenestration changes to rear of dwelling and garage.* **PENDING LPA DECISION**

20/00333 KINVARA MANOR LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Proposed altered vehicular access and replacement garage.* **APPEAL NOTICE (APP/X1545/D/20/3254866).**

20/00893/SCR – HALL FARM LAND AT 583941 203977 HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *EIA screening request for proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure.* DWD Property and Planning is the Agent for Low Carbon who are requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment opinion relating to a proposed solar photovoltaic (PV) farm. Due to the size of the planned solar farm there is a requirement under EIA Regulations to screen/assess the proposed development in order to determine whether EIA is required. Low Carbon accept the proposals are likely to result in some potential environmental effects, however they anticipate these to be of limited nature. This application by Low Carbon seeks to demonstrate that EIA is not required.

Having considered the matter and the potential effect on the surrounding rural environment the Parish Council believe that an Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out in order to assess the direct impact on the local environment during construction, whilst in use and eventual dismantling of the proposed solar farm. Comments aforementioned would be sent to the LPA.

20/00934 CHURCH HOUSE FARM HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *Prior notification for a new agricultural, lean-to, steel frame barn.* Cllrs do not believe the lean-to structure would have any detrimental effect on the countryside setting and have no objections to the prior notification.

BRADWELL B NUCLEAR POWER STATION – *invitation to join Bradwell B Community Forum.* Chairman advised he had joined the inaugural Bradwell B Community Forum meeting via Microsoft Teams and asked Cllrs if they would support his attendance at the next meeting in January which was agreed by all as a valuable way of keeping up to date with matters associated with the proposed new power station.

ROYAL OAK QUARRY – Reports of large soil movement works between Thrift Wood and The Anchor had been conveyed to the Council, these appear to be activities associated with the existing approved mineral extraction phases, enquirers to the Chairman and Clerk had been advised accordingly.

COUNTY BROADBAND – The Council have received an Invitation from County Broadband to engage in communications so that their planned build associated with broadband delivery could be presented and Cllrs could ask questions where necessary. Cllrs AM and SP advised they would contact County Broadband initially seeking further information.

107.20 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Cllr Karl Jarvis summarised key points of interest since the previous Parish Council meeting including the following items: MDC Accounts and Budget; Bradwell B Consultation; Covid-19 High Street Recovery Plan; Leisure Centres; Planning reform White Paper 2020; Unitary Paper Devolution 2023; MDC Committee reports; MDC Planning items Land East

of Bradwell and Land North and West of Knowles Farm Wyke Hill; Community Initiative Fund Essex/Micro grants.

The latest County Cllr report from Penny Channer was circulated, which included the following topics: Coronavirus update; Surge in demand for mental health support prompts new campaign; Essex Trading Standards team issues warning of test and trace scam; Residents encouraged to share their priorities for COVID-19 recovery; Help us shape the Essex of tomorrow; Essex Councils Awarded £300,000 funding to tackle rough sleeping; Let's do this! Let's get Essex fighting fit for winter!; Start your smoke free journey this Stoptober with free nicotine replacement therapy; Quicker and easier Blue Badge renewal process launched; Good causes in Essex invited to sign up for Essex Lottery funding; Apply for Love Essex Grants to Reduce Household Waste; Secondary school admissions open; Gritters gear up for winter.

108.20 HIGHWAY MATTERS

MALDON LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL SCHEMES

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**. LHP Minutes indicate the location of a footpath is only physically possible to design behind the hedge and feasibility discussions are ongoing. PCh seeking further information of previous and ongoing discussions.

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. Cllrs note the recent proposed 50mph limit consultation but are disappointed the Council's original request for a lower limit of 30mph between Oak Corner and Post Office Road/Rectory Lane was not included. Raising objections to the consultation could potentially jeopardise any limits being implemented and it was considered better to accept the 50mph limit but respond to the consultation noting the Council's disappointment that this reduction would not mitigate the concerns previously raised by residents.

Southend Road and B1010 Burnham Road – Speed limit reduction (LMAL182028 allocated budget £12,500). Cllrs note the Public consultation ended on 04/09/2020 and await further notifications from the Highway Authority.

OTHER HIGHWAYS ISSUES

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Following further requests to the Council to address the issue surrounding pedestrian difficulties crossing the A414 County Councillor PCh has advised she will attempt to convene a surgery with head of highways Cllr Bentley in order to discuss other mitigating options; Cllrs SB & KM would represent the Cllr along with a resident raising the most recent concerns.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry No. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) rotten verge reflector posts. No activity

Footway Repair Programme – Parish Council's request to clear the length of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church (PC response to Member request for schemes May 2019). County Cllr Pch seeking an update to the request sent in May 2019, however it has been noted that a section of pavement has been cleared between Bryants and Tom Tit Lane.

Lodge Road – The Council understand that 2 water mains were recently repaired but water still appears to be running down to the brook. Following a dryer period of weather the situation will be monitored and reported to Essex Highways if the flooding persists.

Post Office Road – Ongoing works forcing the temporary closure of Post Office Road will hopefully resolve the protracted issue of continuous standing water.

Conduit Lane – Continuous running water in Conduit Lane appears to have subsided and SB would monitor the situation.

109.20 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

There were no matters reported.

110.20 DEFIBRILLATOR

A request has been made to the Parish Council to consider funding the recent purchase of the new battery for the defibrillator situated at the Hurdlemakers Arms in Post Office Road, cost is circa £180. Cllrs were unaware there was a defibrillator in the village and who is responsible for the device, current budgets had not accounted for the extra cost from Council funds for the financial year 2020/21 and a request would be made for this to be funded from the Locality Fund as per the next agenda item.

111.20 LOCALITY FUND

As per the Council's September meeting where it was agreed that Councillors would bring requests for grants associated with the Locality Fund to the October meeting it was resolved to apply for 2 projects as follows:

- 1) The cost of a replacement battery for the Woodham Mortimer village defibrillator
- 2) Contribution of funds towards a replacement sewage system for the Village Hall.

Details of the projects will be sent to PCh for consideration.

112.20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

2nd Quarter budget review – Finance statements had been sent to Cllrs for transaction and budget review July – September 2020 and no matters of concern were raised by Cllrs.

Balance of Accounts – AR advised current fund balances of: T1 Current Account = £797.75, Instant Access Account = £3,272.89. Total funds on deposit = £4070.64

Authorisation of payments

The Debit Card maximum has finally been increased by Unity Trust Bank from £100 to £200, the Zoom Annual subscription fee has now been offered at a 30% discount of £99.28 which has been actioned by payment with the Council's Debit Card.

The A & J Lighting Street Lighting maintenance contract invoice has been received at a cost previously approved of £180.00

The Council approved the annual Remembrance Sunday donation for a Poppy wreath to be laid at St Margaret's Church Woodham Mortimer, a fee of £20 agreed to be donated from the Chairman's Allowance.

AR advised the VAT refund claim of £76.06 has been received.

In order to meet the above and forthcoming payments a sum of £500 was agreed to be transferred from the Instant Access Account to the T1 Current Account.

Budget review, account balances and payments were approved to be authorised by all Cllrs present as proposed by KM and seconded by KB.

AR advised the Council's Insurance premium renewal is due on 17/11/2020 and is being offered by the current provider at £323.61, previous year's premium was £321.35, with a budget allowance of £338 approved in December 2019. AR advised he was waiting for an alternative comparison quote so Cllrs could decide at the next meeting on 10/11/2020.

113.20 STAFF PENSION RE-DECLARATION

The Council confirmed there are no staff employed earning \geq £833 per month, the only member of staff employed has confirmed they do not wish to be included in a Pension Scheme and the aforementioned information would be declared to the Pension Regulator.

114.20 INFORMATION ONLY

SB advised he was intending to continue representing the Council at Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Council meetings, all agreed this would be of benefit to the Council and thanked SB for his continued representation. Next meeting of DHGPC due 18/11/2020.

Meeting closed at 21:40.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 10 November 2020 at 19:30 via Zoom.

.....*Andrew Ritchings*..... (Clerk to the Council) 10 November 2020