

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2021

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

In attendance: Parish Councillors Simon Brady (Chairman SB), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM). There were no members of public in attendance.

157.21 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllrs Richard Britton, Andrew Macmorland, Stephen Pemberton, County Cllr Jane Flemming, and District Cllr Karl Jarvis were all unable to attend. It was with much regret that the Chairman informed the Council he was in receipt of a letter of resignation with immediate effect from Parish Cllr Kim Broadhurst. Unfortunately Kim's work commitments have increased and is now unable to dedicate time he feels is necessary to effectively carry out his role responsibilities, everyone felt Kim had been a respected addition to the Council and will miss his valued contributions.

There is now a Casual Vacancy on the Council and under Section 87(2)b and Section 232 of the 1972 Local Government Act notification of the vacancy must be published for members of the public to decide whether an election is required. AR to contact the District Council in order to advise the respective publication dates.

158.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared a non-pecuniary interest in Highways item Fambridge Road being related to landowners subject to the potential footpath.

159.21 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of public in attendance.

160.21 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 09 November 2021 were approved as a true record of events as proposed by KM and seconded by PM.

161.21 PLANNING

21/00936 – LAND REAR OF HILL BARN RECTORY LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER –

*Proposed conversion of existing equestrian/storage barn building to form offices (Use Class E(g)) and associated development (Re-submission of planning application ref: 20/01021/FUL refused on the 15th January 2021) **APPROVED***

21/00978 – BARN AT HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellinghouses (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **REFUSED***

21/00977 – ROSE COTTAGE 13 CONDUIT LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey rear extension. **APPROVED***

21/00883 LITTLE OWLS POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Outline application with matters of access, layout and scale for determination for the erection of a 1No. two storey detached dwelling and outbuildings in place of manege/stables, altered access and extended access driveway. **REFUSED***

21/00889/RES - LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMBROOK WAY MALDON ESSEX

Reserved matters application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for Phase 2 of the Western Parcel of outline planning permission 20/00074/FUL (Variation of

condition 10 (speed review strategy) and 20 (pedestrian/cycle crossing of Limebrook Way) on approved application 19/01134/FUL (Removal of condition 11 (details of 'Access Link Strategy') on approved planning application FUL/MAL/18/00071 (Variation of conditions 5,13,21,25,43,53,55,61,63,67, 68,69,74,81,84 on approved application OUT/MAL/14/01103 (Outline application for up to 1000 dwellings, an employment area of 3.4 hectares (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 uses), a local centre (Use Classes A1-A5, B1a, C2, C3, D1 and D2 uses), a primary school, two early years and childcare facilities, general amenity areas and formal open space including allotments, sports playing fields, landscaping, sustainable drainage measures including landscaped storage basins and SuDs features, vehicle accesses onto the existing highway network and associated infrastructure.)) comprising the construction of 210 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), new public open space and car parking. **AWAITING DECISION BY DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

PROPOSED CREMATORIUM – to be situated opposite Woodham Mortimer Church (Pre Planning Application). SB has been advised that plans have been submitted to the Planning Authority, though no consultation documents have yet been received by the Parish Council. When received the Council will arrange a public meeting in order to obtain parishioner views and submit a representation to the Planning Authority,

BRADWELL B POWER STATION – Nothing to report

162.21 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Cllr Jane Flemming provided Cllrs with her December Report which included the following topics: Essex County Council Plan to Improve Bus Services; New Walking and Cycling Schemes; Park and Ride For Free After 12pm on Saturdays; Essex Libraries Christmas & New Year Opening Hours; Man v Fat Football Comes To Maldon In 2022; Lions Barber Collective; The Power Of Gaming.

163.21 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. No activity.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – measures to aid parishioners to cross the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. No activity.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (enquiry Nos. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) and 2705814 logged 01/03/2021) rotten verge reflector posts. No activity.

Footway Defect A414 – Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church. No activity.

Lodge Road (junction with A414 Maldon Road) – earth deposits on verge (ref No. 2710764 logged 29/03/2021). County Cllr Jane Flemming advised further enquiries were made but proved unsuccessful at removing the earth deposits. A close bordered gate to hide the unsightly mess and to deter future dumping in the ECC storage compound was also suggested by Cllr Flemming but this was rejected due to financial restrictions.

Fambridge Road – Multiple pot holes. Cllrs reported that some pot holes have been filled but not all of them, Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Flemming seeking works completion schedule.

164.21 LOCALITY FUND GRANT

Cllrs confirmed acceptance to the Terms & Conditions of the Grant Application and the Clerk would now complete the online Application Form.

165.21 CLERKS EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY REVIEW

Due to the absence of other Cllrs it was resolved to review the Clerk's salary at the January meeting.

166.21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

166.21.1 Balance of Accounts: AR advised balances of: Current Account £559.19, Instant Access Accounts £3,459.89 - Total funds on deposit = £4,231.87

166.21.2 Budget proposals and precept demand for year 2022/23

In considering budget expenses required for the Council financial year April 2022 to March 2023 factors taken into account by Cllrs included the increasing cost of electricity, existing dated computer equipment, Clerk salary deliberations, costs associated with potential extraordinary planning meetings and the general effect of rising inflation on ancillary items required such as IT services and stationery procurement. The increasing cost of electricity particularly provides a difficult-to-predict effect on the Council budget along with recently reported street lighting defects. The Council is also aware of advice from internal auditors to maintain adequate reserves allowing for any snap elections, and the recent retirement of one of its valued Cllrs should be factored into the precept required for the next financial year. With all the aforementioned factors in mind) as proposed by KM and seconded by PM the Precept for 2022-2023 was agreed by all Cllrs present to be set at £6,137, this being an increase of £600 above the previous year precept (though lower than the 2021-22 increase). This equates to £19.17 per Band D household.

166.21.3 Street lighting maintenance

The Council have been contacted by a parishioner advising that some street lights are not working, AR contacted A&J Lighting contractors and was informed due to Covid-19 related issues it would not be possible to attend to the street lights until the New Year. It appears there are at least 2 lights not working and other lamps emitting at reduced brightness. Cllrs agreed to ask A&J Lighting to attend and repair where necessary as soon as possible.

166.21.4 Authorisation of payments

The below payments proposed by PM and seconded by KM were agreed by all Cllrs in attendance to be authorised for payment.

Remembrance day poppy wreath	£17.00
Clerk emoluments	
Salary Nett	£608.98
HMR&C	£152.00
Work from home allowance (11 weeks)	£44.00
E-on non-metred electricity 01/04/2021-30/11/2021	£212.79
Transfer from Instant Access to Current Account	£1,000.00

167.21 INFORMATION ONLY

Date of next scheduled Parish Council meeting is 11/01/2022

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 11 January 2021