

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023

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

In attendance: Parish Councillors: Simon Brady (SB presiding), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Richard Britton (RB), Andrew Macmorland (AM), Graham Harle (GH).
County Cllr Jane Flemming (JF).

District Cllrs: Simon Morgan (SM).

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

6 Members of the Public:

17.23 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

None received.

18.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a registerable pecuniary interest in respect to Planning item land opposite St Margaret's Church, being the landowner of the site subject to the application, also a registerable non-pecuniary interest in item 22.23. AM declared non pecuniary interest in planning items land opposite St Margarets Church and Keepers Cottage having conducted business with the respective landowners.

19.23 PUBLIC FORUM

Several Members of the public were in attendance to express their concerns at the result of works completed at Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (otherwise known locally as the old 'Dragons Path'), which aligns adjacent to the Hazeleigh burial ground connecting to Lodge Road at its western end. Parishioners conveyed their sadness and grievance that a vast majority of the wildlife habitat previously existing a few months ago has been destroyed and they are now forced to walk along a narrow uneven rooted path enclosed by hazardous barbed wire fencing which was the location of the old drainage ditch. It is understood that public rights exist across the width of the path between both hedges which is now blocked by a locked metal gate and high fencing at the eastern end.

Parishioners are questioning why the work has been carried out and why they are no longer able to walk along the route of the old Dragons Path. The Council were requested to make enquiries to ascertain whether permission was granted or is required to change the nature of the historic well used path and seek removal of the hazardous barbed wire, high fencing and locked gate so that access can be restored.

20.23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 10 January 2023 and Extraordinary (Planning) Meeting 31 January 2023 were agreed to be true records of proceedings by Cllrs present at the respective meetings as proposed by SP and seconded by KM.

21.23 PLANNING

21/01276/FUL - LAND OPPOSITE ST MARGARET'S CHURCH MALDON ROAD WOODHAM Mortimer - *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).* APPROVED BY NORTH WEST AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

22/00158 – BARN AT HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD HAZELEIGH - *Conversion of an agricultural storage building into two dwelling houses (Class C3.)* Details have now been made available on the Planning Portal with the decision noted as deemed consent. The LPA failed to determine the prior approval application within the 56 days required also noting a letter dated 16th May 2022 that works on site commenced from 16th May 2022. The LPA considered that the time in which it had to notify the applicant of decision had lapsed and the application has been closed. As the works on site have commenced the LPA strongly advise that a lawful development certificate to confirm the works are lawful, is submitted to MDC.

22/00443 – LAND REAR OF HILL BARN RECTORY LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Proposed conversion of existing equestrian/storage buildings to form 1No. new dwelling and associated development* APPEAL NO. APP/X1545/W/22/3303806. **AWAITING DECISION FROM PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

22/01256/RESM - LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMEBROOK WAY MALDON – *Reserved matters application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of Phase 3 of the Western Parcel (comprising 78 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), new public open space and car parking) of approved planning application 22/00393/VARM (Variation of condition 35 (details of employment land) on approved 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.))* **LPA Deadline 10/04/2023**
AWAITING DECISION FROM LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

22/01264/FUL - TYNDALES FARM SOUTHEND ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Section 73A application for Change of use of land and agricultural buildings to mixed Class E(g)/B8 Use.* **LPA Deadline 03/03/2023** **AWAITING DECISION FROM LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

23/00035/LDP - BRELADES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificate for a proposed single storey rear extension and new opening on the side.* **LPA Deadline 13/03/2023** **AWAITING DECISION FROM LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

22/00482 – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing.* APPROVED BY NORTH WEST PLANNING COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2022 **APPROVED AGAIN BY NORTH WEST AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 08/02/2023**

22/01263/LBC – KEEPERS COTTAGE HAZELEIGH HALL LANE – *Proposed detached annex incidental to the dwelling house.* **LPA Deadline 17/02/2023.** It appears to Cllrs the annex will retain the character of the existing building and the single storey height would not appear detrimental to the surrounding landscape. Cllrs recommend GRANTING the application.

23/00034/HOUSE - BRELADES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Proposed porch, front extensions, dormers to front and the increase of width to rear dormer.* **LPA Deadline 09/03/2023** Cllrs do not perceive any detrimental effect to the street scene or surrounding environment and recommend GRANTING the application.

22.23 SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS

The Council are awaiting the legal agreement document from Low Carbon.

23.23 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr JF circulated her monthly report which contained the following topics: Trial of booking system for all vehicles at Essex Waste Recycling Centers; What will the £2 bus price cap mean for you? New electronic screens; Essex Saver bus ticket; Read on the go with Borrowbox!; Making digital available to all; Army and Navy sustainable transport package; Railway strikes - can you get a full refund if your train journey is cancelled? Postal strikes - what can you do if your post is delayed or lost? Recycling of vapes; Donate your unwanted appliances; Regift with Freegle! Last chance to apply for digital vouchers. JF advised Council Tax increase of 3% was set at ECC budget.

District Cllr SM circulated the Members Monthly Bulletin which included the following information: Prom Park EV Buggy; Air quality action plan funding success; New Maldon District for business newsletter; Thames Barge Trust; Coronation website; Update on Swan Housing Association; ECC's holiday school meal vouchers return for February half-term. SM advised various groups are continuing to meet to address the 5 year housing supply.

24.23 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study.* SM advised The Council that all Local Highways Panel schemes are behind schedule

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (*enquiry Nos. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) and 2705814 logged 01/03/2021*) rotten verge reflector post.

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. Logged again by AR as a defect on 06/12/2022 Ref: 2808413).*

County Cllr Flemming advised she had requested the path clearance to be added to the Local Highways Panel schemes which has been accepted and it is hopeful the long standing issue can finally be resolved via the LHP.

Lodge Road (junction with A414 Maldon Road) – *earth deposits on verge (ref No. 2710764 logged 29/03/2021).* Nothing to report.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh – *width restriction*

Additional to the attendance of several parishioners SB advised further letters and emails of complaint had been received by The Council and following on from the extensive discussions in the Public Open Forum Cllrs agreed to report the tree and foliage cutting to the Forestry Commission, report the fencing installation to the Planning authority to ascertain if any breach of planning has occurred and advise ECC Flood Management Team that the ditch has been infilled to provide a surface for the footpath. AR would contact Essex Highways again for any updates on the Footpath width restriction and JF would make further enquiries in order to ascertain ownership of the unregistered land.

25.23 BUS SHELTERS/STOP SIGNS

The Council has attempted to resolve the graffiti vandalism at the bus stop opposite Post Office Road along with foliage and litter issues at two other stops, having contacted County Council groups usually able to carry out maintenance works the Council have been advised it is not possible for work parties to carry out works due to the risks associated with the speed of traffic travelling along the A414. Given this advice the Council do not deem it liable to gather a volunteer working party and await further advice from Essex Highways how the

matter can be resolved. As yet no response has been received from ECC to email sent on 31/01/2023.

26.23 FINANCIAL

Balance of Accounts:

Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£390.83
Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£3,674.50

Authorisation of payments:

No payments to authorise	
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27.23 INFORMATION ONLY

The following new Planning Application was received after the February Agenda was published and will be debated at a further meeting, responses to the LPA are required by 09/03/2023, SB to advise if an extraordinary (Planning Meeting is required) **23/00041/FUL – ANNEXE HIGHLANDS BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Extension to an existing residential annexe.**

AR has updated Risk Assessment to include specific reference to GDPR as recommended by internal auditor. Which will be circulated in time to be added to the agenda for approval at the March meeting.

Date of next scheduled ordinary meeting is 14/03/2023.

Simon Brady (Chairman to the Council) 14/03/2023