

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2025

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

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady(SB) presiding, Kim McDonald(KM), Lorraine Cobb(LC), Stephen Pemberton (SP). Andrew Ritchings(AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

1.25 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllrs Pauline Macdonald was unable to attend being unwell and Graham Harle had work commitments. District Cllrs Jane Fleming and Simon Morgan sent apologies due to other meeting duties.

2.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a non-pecuniary interest the solar farm community benefit fund item being the freehold owner of the leased land subject to the solar farm company.

3.25 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4.25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 10 December 2024 were approved as a true record of events by Cllrs at that meeting as proposed by KM and seconded by LC.

5.25 PLANNING

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* **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00824/VAR – KINVARA MANOR LODGE ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Variation of Condition 2 on approved planning permission 24/00494/HOUSE (Erection of Carport and alterations to the existing driveway) LPA Deadline 27/12/2024.* **APPROVED BY THE LPA**

24/00844 – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Reserved matters application for the approval of all matters on approved planning application 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing) LPA Deadline 28/01/2025.* **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00869/FUL - LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Demolish three existing buildings, redevelop the site for Gypsy and Traveller Use comprising the siting of a total of four mobile homes (including the retention of two existing mobile homes allowed on appeal under application ref. 22/00344/FUL), use of existing hay store building for storage together with associated facilities and landscaping. LPA Deadline 14/01/2025* **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00899/LDE - LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Certificate of Lawful development certificate for an existing use or development to demonstrate lapsing of planning permission 22/00344/FUL allowed on appeal APP/X1545/W/22/3308046 and Consequential Nil use of Land. LPA Deadline 14/01/2025* **APPLICATION REJECTED BY LPA**

6.25 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no reports available.

7.25 COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE HAZELEIGH SOLAR FARM

A minor requested amendment of the Agreement has been sent to Low Carbon along with the separate bank account details for the Community Benefit Fund to be transferred.

8.25 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road, LHP Scheme No. 6.* It is understood recent closures on the A414/Post Office Road are due to works associated with the approved pedestrian refuge island crossings.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Tom Tit Lane and Runsell Green Danbury (LHP Scheme No. 36).* No activity to report.

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path) – *gate restriction and return to previous character.* Nothing to report.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign A414 adj Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. – *VAS Installation.* No activity 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.* No activity to report.

A414 40mph Speed limit – *between Post Office Road and Limebrook Farm.* No activity to report.

Post Office Road – *hedge encroachment at junction with A414 (EH Ref: 2953028).* Essex Highways have assessed the impaired visibility issue reported by the Parish Council but do not deem it requiring attention which is unsatisfactory with Cllrs and the matter will be raised with County Cllr Fleming.

A414 Chelmsford Road – *hedge encroachment between Zara Restaurant and gravel pit (EH ref: 2942385).* No activity to report.

A414 Maldon Road – *verge condition central island crossing point church side of Crematorium.* Nothing to report.

9.25 **BUS SHELTERS** - *Graffiti removal updates.* - A new further reduced offer has been received from the original contractors who were not able to fully complete the graffiti removal and Cllrs approved the new offer. The Council are now waiting for an official quotation and suggested March date for the blasting work to remove the remaining graffiti from a different company.

10.25 **BUS STOP BENCH** – *Installation of bus stop seating furniture via County Cllr Locality Fund.* SB has completed license application forms and AR has forwarded to Essex Highways, if approved a respective bench will be procured and located at the Conduit Lane bus stop.

11.25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£6,173.16
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£702.24
Total funds on deposit	£6,875.40

Authorisation of payments

Essex Legal Services	£573.60
Zoho Email Account annual service fee	£80.64
Monthind graffiti removal	£418.84
A & J Lighting Lodge Rd/Goat House Lane lamp	£216.00
Transfer funds from Savings to Current Account	£1,000.00

Transactions since the previous meeting

Lloyds Debit Card charge	-£3.00
Clerks remunerations (gross & home allowances)	-£1,022.20
Royal British Legion poppy wreath	-£20.00
Bank accounts service charge	-£6.00
Interest	+£46.66

The above payments and transfer of funds were approved by all Cllrs present as proposed by KM and, seconded by SP.

AR has received notification from current banking provider that interest rates will be reducing from 2.6% to 2.5% from 18/02/2025.

12.25 CASUAL VACANCY

Publication of the Parish Councillor Vacancy due to resignation of Richard Britton has been placed on the Councils website and village notice boards, if no request for an election has been made to MDC by 24/01/2025 The Council may co-opt a new Cllr.

13.25 INFORMATION ONLY

Discussions around the crematorium development raised the issue of the new diverted Footpath which doesn't appear to have been provided yet. AR to contact Crematorium Developer and Essex Highways for further information.

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 11/02/2025.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Chairman to the Council) 11/02/2025