

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

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

In attendance: Parish Councillors: Simon Brady (SB presiding), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), County Cllr Jane Flemming (JF).
Andrew Ritchings (AR) – Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

110.22 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllrs Richard Britton (on holiday) and Graham Harle who was unable to attend due to business commitments. District Cllr Mark Durham sent apologies for not being able to attend.

111.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SB declared non-registerable interest in Highways item Fambridge Road being related to landowners subject to the potential footpath. SP declared registerable pecuniary interests in respect to Planning items land opposite St Margaret's Church and land at Hall Farm (solar farm), being the landowner of the sites subject to the applications, also a registerable non-pecuniary interest in item 115.22.

112.22 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

113.22 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting 27 September 2022 were agreed as a true record of events as proposed by SP and seconded by SB.

114.22 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).* **AWAITING LPA DECISION**

21/00138 – LAND ADJACENT THE WILLOWS BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Proposed No. 1 dwelling with carport.* APPEAL No. APP/X1545/W/21/3283976. **AWAITING DECISION FROM THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE**

22/00158 – BARN AT HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD HAZELEIGH

Conversion of an agricultural storage building into two dwelling houses (Class C3.) AR had discovered that the details of this application are no longer available on MDC's Planning Portal. Having contacted MDC the Council have been advised the application was NOT determined within the 56 day legislative period and therefore the application is GRANTED without any formal decision, Cllrs are concerned that future applications will begin to succumb to the same scenario. Concern is also raised that details about the application have been removed from the Planning Portal presumably because it was not determined by the LPA. AR will send a request to County Cllr Flemming seeking details be made available again along with the reason for non-determination. Cllrs will now raise the profile of any future relevant applications with the respective District/County Cllrs in order to help prevent a repeat situation.

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**

22/00849 – BARN AT OLD MILL HOUSE VINEYARD HAZELEIGH HALL LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Change of use of agricultural building to self catered tourist accommodation.* **REFUSED**

22/00856 – WOODLAND VIEW MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolition of existing conservatory and garage. Erection of a part single, part two-storey rear extension, loft conversion, a car port and changes in fenestration.* **REFUSED**

22/00934 – HALL FARM LAND AT 583941,203977 – *Variation of condition 4 on approved planning permission 22/00261/FUL (The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.)* **AWAITING LPA DECISION**

22/00942 – LITTLE GRANGE FARM MARLPITS ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Erection of a new car port.* Cllrs raise no objections to the car port but note that Public Footpaths 12 Hazeleigh and 12 Woodham Mortimer have not been shown on the application plan as required by the Communities and Local Government 'Validation of Planning Applications – Guidance for local planning authorities' guidance document.

BRADWELL B POWER STATION – There are no updates to advise.

115.22 SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Having sought advice from the Council's Internal Auditor the Council have been advised that if funds are to be used for community projects the Council have the option of earmarking the reserves for such purpose, thereby not including them in general reserves. MDC have not been able to provide further help other than advising that the Parish Council would need to seek their own legal advice.

Cllrs considered additional funds being offered associated with the solar farm development would be very welcome for the benefit of the community. Before deciding which option would best suit the Council's circumstances AR will contact Low Carbon seeking a timescale decision and asking for contact details of other Parish Councils involved in the same situation. JF advised it may be worth pursuing advice from the Local Government Association.

116.22 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Both County and District Cllr reports have been fwd to Cllrs. The County Council report included the following news: Cost of living assistance from ECC; Sustainable Warmth Scheme; Highway user survey; Superfast Essex; Providers of Covid 19 booster; Homes for Ukraine scheme update; Changes to recycling centre operating hours; Retrofit opportunities; Essex Safeguarding Children Board – Online Safety; Young Essex Assembly; Sign up to OneNetwork; ECC news round up. JF advised money is still available from the Locality Fund, Cllrs suggested the Village Magazine could benefit from the fund and JF would contact the editor.

The District Council report included the following topics: Residents and Business Survey 2022; Planned Website Maintenance; Maldon District Health and Wellbeing Summary; Network Rail Update (Crouch Valley Line); Bird Flu Prevention; Wild Venison Project Invitation; CHESS Big Sleep Out; St Peter's Birthing Unit; Do Your Bit Campaign.

117.22 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.* As there is now a permissive path linking the Royal Oak PH to the new Limebrook Way housing estate which is proving popular, the aforementioned prospective

footway has been removed from the Local Highways Panel list of schemes. Should the permissive path be withdrawn in the future the Parish Council will resurrect the proposed footway scheme.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road. Scheduled for early 2023 feasibility study.* The Council have been advised that following the pending feasibility survey even if it is established a crossing point could be designed into the highway there are no County Council funds available, Cllrs considered whether funds could be utilised from the pending solar farm Community Benefit Scheme, JF will strive to ascertain an estimated scheme cost.

Lodge Road – (adjacent to Old Mill House) (*enquiry Nos. 2525149 logged 15/07/2017) and 2705814 logged 01/03/2021*) rotten verge reflector post. Nothing to report.

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church.* Nothing to report.

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

118.22 FINANCIAL

2nd Quarter Review of Accounts; The 2nd quarter July-September of Parish Council business dealings had been circulated to all Cllrs along with supporting Bank Statements and no matters of concern were raised.

Balance of Accounts; AR advised T1 Current Account balance of £473.23, Instant Access Account balance of £4,960.86 Total funds on deposit = £5,434.09.

Authorisation of payments:

A & J Lighting (annual maintenance contract)	£180.00
A & J Lighting (call out charge to replace defective LED)	£96.00
Lodge Information Services (Domain Name Registration Renewal 01/11/2022 to 31/10/2023)	£78.00
Parish Council Annual Insurance (Zurich)	£329.29
Choice Stationery Supplies (printer ink)	£12.00

In order to provide enough funds in the current account to meet the above payments the sum of £800 was agreed to be transferred from the Instant Access Account.

The above 2nd Quarter Review, balance of accounts and authorisation of payments were approved by Cllrs in attendance as proposed by KM and seconded by PM.

119.22 INFORMATION ONLY

Date of next scheduled ordinary meeting is 08/11/2022.

..... *Simon Brady* (Chairman of the Council) 08/11/2022