

Woodham Mortimer With Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall 7.30pm

In attendance

Parish Councillors: Simon Brady (SB) Chairman, Andrew Macmorland (AM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Kim McDonald (KM). County Councillor Penny Channer (PM) attended part of the meeting. Andrew Ritchings (AR) Clerk to the Council recording proceedings.

2 members of the public.

154.16 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Councillor Kim Broadhurst (holiday). District Councillors Henry Bass & Mark Durham

155.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr AM declared a non-pecuniary interest to agenda item 159.16 Land North East of Woodham Mortimer Lodge, that interest being business associations with the applicant though unrelated to the planning application.

Cllr SB declared a non-pecuniary interest to agenda item 159.16 Bryants Nurseries being a neighbouring property owner.

156.16 CASUAL VACANCY

Following the statutory notice of Casual Vacancy for the position at Hazeleigh published under the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council are waiting for Maldon District Council to advise if an election is to be held or whether the Council are able to fill the vacancy by co-option. The Returning Officer was due to advise the Parish Council today and once AR is advised the outcome he will act accordingly. If the Council are able to co-opt a new Councillor AR will publish the announcement in the Village Magazine, in the village noticeboards and on its own website – proposed by PM and seconded by DM with all Cllrs in agreement.

Actions AR to publish vacancy to be filled by co-option parish magazine, website and noticeboards

157.16 OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

One of the members of public in attendance declared an interest at filling the vacancy left by Ian Spurr, The Council advised that once they know the outcome of the statutory requirements the member of public would be advised accordingly.

158.16 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 September 2016 were proposed by AM as a true record of events, verified by SB and duly signed as such by the Chairman.

159.16 PLANNING

LAND OPPOSITE MILL COTTAGE – Tree re-stocking to occur by 30/06/2017

OUT/MAL/14/01103 – LAND SOUTH OF WYCKE HILL AND LIMBROOK WAY

MALDON – Outline application for up to 1,000 dwellings, employment area, primary school, open space, allotments sports playing field, landscaping, vehicle access onto existing highway network and associated infrastructure, including footway link from Royal Oak PH and provision of Public Rights of Way linking Maldon to Purleigh. **DECISION TBA FROM PLANNING AUTHORITY**

FUL/MAL/15/00146 – LAND NORTH EAST OF WOODHAM MORTIMER LODGE, LODGE ROAD, WOODHAM MORTIMER – Brick pier and metal entrance gates to barn

site. Alterations to internal arrangement including foaling box and alterations to fenestration (retrospective). No activity to report.

ILLUMINATED SIGN AT A414 HAND CAR WASH – Following the Council's initial enquiry dated 08/12/2015 MDC have now advised the signage is a breach of planning control and will be considering the appropriate progress in accordance with District Council policies.

OUT/MAL/15/01327 – LAND NORTH AND WEST OF KNOWLES FARM WYCKE HILL MALDON – C3 residential development (up to 370 homes) of mixed form, size and tenure, small scale B1 employment development (up to 2,000sqm), C2/D1 community uses, a new relief road to the north of A414, strategic landscaping, pedestrian and cycle linkages, estate roads, open space, drainage and sewerage (including SUDS) and other associated development. **DECISION TBA FROM PLANNING AUTHORITY**

LDP/MAL/16/00799 – THE CHESTNUTS – Claim for lawful development for proposed single storey front extension with internal alterations. The Planning Authority have considered this application **NOT LAWFUL**

FUL/MAL/16/00848 – HERMES BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Demolish current dilapidated bungalow and construction of 2 storey house plus detached garage. **APPROVED** by the Planning Authority.

FUL/MAL/16/00940 – FORMER LYNFIELD POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – Variation of Condition 2 on approved planning permission 15/00338 by construction of an attached garage to the front/east elevation of Plot. **APPROVED** by the Planning Authority. PM raised concerns that although she was not able to be present at the September meeting the objection submitted on the Parish Council circulation list did not materialise into an objection by the Council, AR advised it was his understanding that a decision had to be resolved at a public meeting and therefore Cllrs were required to be present in order to contribute an objection/supporting vote. At the September meeting Cllrs resolved not to raise any comments (agenda item 142.16) and therefore that constituted the Council's representation. It was agreed to seek further advice from the EALC.

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – consultation

Cllrs raised concerns that a plan included in the Development Plan consultation details shows the area of land currently occupied by Woodham Mortimer Driving Range and the adjoining field has been identified as an alternative site for housing development of which it was unaware. The Council wonder that given the refusal of other applications in recent years due to the adopted Maldon District Replacement Local Plan policy T1 and the Local Development Plan policy S1 how development at the site would meet the aforementioned policies in terms of sustainability.

COUPA/MAL/16/01055 – BRYANTS NURSERIES BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM

MORTIMER – Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to storage. Cllrs felt that due to the narrow character and nature of Bryants Lane it is not considered to be an appropriate access lane and would like access restricted to the proposed agricultural building via Tom Tit Lane only. All Cllrs present in agreement to raise no objections but to seek a condition for the access as aforementioned.

Actions AR to send representations for Bryants Nurseries application and comments with respect to the MDC Development Plan.

AR to contact EALC re: Council decisions in absence of Cllrs.

160.16 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

In the order of proceedings County Councillor Penny Channer had not yet arrived and the following report was presented following agenda item 164.16 Correspondence.

PC advised that Essex County Councillor Cabinet Member Rodney Bass has announced he will be stepping down shortly. A new appointment has also been announced with the introduction of a new position for Digital Interaction. There has been much activity within the County and District Councils and a detailed report will be emailed to AR in due course which will be uploaded to the Council's website.

161.16 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh - flooding issues southern side of nature reserve reported by local resident **Enquiry 2391077** (reported 12/03/2015 assessed 03/07/2015). No activity noted.

Lodge Road - excess surface water issues – **Enquiry 2438287** logged 28/12/2015. No activity noted.

Footpath 13 Hazeleigh – missing fingerpost - **Enquiry 2426505** HA to investigate within 28 days (06/10/2015). No activity noted.

Footpath 22 Woodham Mortimer - missing fingerpost - **Enquiry 2426504** HA to investigate within 28 days (06/10/2015). - No activity noted.

Lodge Road 'unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles' signage – **TO BE DECIDED BY LHP**

Speed Activated Sign – AR had commenced completing the LHP application form which raised various questions that require determining:

- exact location of the SAS needs to be suggested
- verify the exact issue required to be resolved
- what evidence is there available identifying the need for the SAS
- written support is required from either County or District Cllrs

KM suggested 2 signs would be more appropriate as excessive speeding occurs in both directions of travel. It is understood a public petition was completed some time ago with respect to the lack of footway. County Cllr PC confirmed that the police have been monitoring the road speeding activity and have issued penalties, therefore this information could be useful for evidential purposes.

To conclude: AR to contact Parish Councillor Kim Broadhurst for suggestions of SAS location and to obtain the petition previously completed, to seek written support from the County Cllr, contact the police for evidence of speeding penalties and contact the resident in Fambridge Road attempting to have the speeding situation resolved.

Provision of additional parking at Woodham Mortimer Church – No activity to report

Rectory Lane Closure – Still no response from Essex Highways Structures since 05/07/2016

Sale of cars on verge of A414 – Concern is raised to the frequent notices of sale of different vehicles parked on various verge locations along the A414 including the layby near Lodge Road and close to the property known as The Rosary and also the Royal Oak Roundabout, this would seem to be an inappropriate location for commercial vehicle sales as well as a driver distraction. AR was requested to raise the matter with the District Council.

Actions *AR to gather evidence for SAS application form*
 AR to raise vehicle sales with District Council

162.16 ANNUAL RETURN FOR ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The Parish Council accounts 2015-16 have been scrutinised by external Auditors appointed by the National Audit Office, the auditors have certified that the Council's Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have been raised giving concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The Annual Return would be published on the Council's website as required by the Transparency Code legislation.

163.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING SCHEME

No activity to report

164.16 CORRESPONDENCE

For Circulation: Bus and train maps for Essex 2016. Recycling items information. Letter from Rt Hon Priti Patel MP – Aviva Community Fund

For Discussion:

Royal Oak Quarry - AR had been contacted by a local resident close to the Royal Oak Quarry informing the Council they had been in contact with the ECC as they had severe

concerns with the rising water levels in the pits. SB would contact the relevant ECC quarry liaison officer in order to seek an understanding of the situation.

Transparency Code Funds. EALC have advised funds are again available for this financial year for smaller councils having to conform to the Transparency Code by publication of online documents. The Council resolved to seek funding again for the cost of time incurred by AR to upload documents and the yearly cost of The Council's fees for domain name registration and email addresses. Proposed by PM seconded by KM, all cllrs in agreement.

Local government finance settlement 2017 to 2018: technical consultation – EALC have urged all town and parish councils to respond to the aforementioned consultation as they believe it will be detrimental to services councils will be able to provide. Cllrs agreed that the proposed 2% cap could prove detrimental to Parish Council business. As a small Council of two combined villages with a current precept demand of only £3,350.00 limited to monetary reserves by Audit Commission guidance could be exposed to significant decreases in funds if snap elections should occur, the estimated average costs thereof to be approximately £1,500.00. If the Council were to be capped as proposed it would be in a position where it would not be possible to demand the extra funds in order to meet usual commitments. Given the risks involved it would be extremely unlikely the Council would be able to borrow funds to meet demand with the possible result that the Council would become non-functional. It was proposed by KM and seconded by AM and agreed by all present to send a letter of objection to the proposals.

Actions SB to contact ECC Planning Officer re Royal Oak Quarry
AR to complete application for Transparency Code funding
AR to respond to government consultation

County Councillor Penny Channer joined the meeting.

165.16 BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS

AR advised balances of:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Unity Trust T1 Current Account | £573.65 |
| Unity Trust Deposit Account | £3599.41 |

The Alto Debit Card Account has now been withdrawn

166.16 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW & BANK STATEMENTS ENDING SEPTEMBER 2016

All Cllrs received current budget comparison figures up to end of September 2016, no questions or matters of concern were raised. KM reviewed quarterly bank statements which all appeared in order. Budget review and statements were proposed by KM to be accepted, seconded by PM and agreed by all present and duly signed by the Chairman.

167.16 AUTHOURISATION OF PAYMENTS

| | | |
|--|-------|------------------|
| A & J Lighting Solutions (SO) October | 13.80 | (11.50 excl VAT) |
| E.ON non-metred electricity (DD) October | 16.15 | (15.38) |
| Lodge Information (email addresses) | 30.00 | (25.00) |

Payments proposed by KM and seconded by AM to be authorised which was agreed by all present.

168.16 PARISH COUNCILS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The completed document had been emailed to all Cllrs on 11/10/2016, the document will be reviewed by Cllrs with the prospect of adopting the policy at the November meeting.

169.16 INFORMATION ONLY

FUL/MAL/16/01076 – LAND ON EAST SIDE OF HAZELEIGH HALL LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Erection of general purpose agricultural building to vineyard.* This application had been received following the publication of the October agenda and therefore the details would be circulated and if considered necessary a public meeting called by the Chairman in order to resolve a representation to the consultation.

Insurance renewal – AR has received this years insurance renewal notice form the current provider Zurich, the premium sees a 6.63% increase to £311.54 up from £292.16

which the Council consider excessive. The renewal date is 17 November and Clerk is instructed to seek comparison quotations for a decision to be made at the 08 November 2016 meeting.

DGHPC – The Council have once again been invited to the annual quiz on 09/11/16 at 8pm at Southminster – KM, AR and SB were keen to attend and would advise the DGHPC accordingly, it is hopeful other Cllrs would also attend.

Actions AR to seek alternative insurance quotations

Date of next Ordinary Meeting - Tuesday 08 November 2016 at 7:30pm.

..... *Simon Brady*..... (Simon Brady Chairman to the Council)

08 November 2016