



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 7th February 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: G Puddephatt (Chairman), Councillors: J Morden, C Lewis, P Challis, Mrs A Philips, J Mazillius, A Thorpe, Mrs R Weiss, K Davies, R Peters, M Loader, J Gosling and Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), Approx 25 Members of Public, 1 Member of the Press.

Apologies: Councillors: L Picking, Mrs J Lever, Ms S Harding and K Lock

02/23

Minutes and Matters Arising:

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 10th January 2002 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- Mrs Kirk reported that £495 had been received from Scottish & Southern Energy Plc for back payment of Wayleave Consent for Brewery Common
- Mrs Kirk reported that she had reminded West Berkshire Council about the VAT Refund for the Parish Office of approx £1,400
- 02/07 Willink Leisure Centre Contributions. Mr Morden reported that he had looked at the Agreement dated May 1996 – right to withdraw and penalties.
 - a. 12 months notice to all other parties during which time you pay the current year's contribution.
 - b. Additionally pay a contribution based on the preceding financial year "+" or "- RPI for the year in which withdrawal takes effect – to be paid on 1/4/xx in the succeeding financial year.
 - c. Unless you can persuade another Parish Council to take over your obligation – hardly likely unless Burghfield and Sulhampstead would split it between them.

02/24

Report from District Councillors: No report

02/25

Planning: Report: Mr Morden reported that The Planning Committee met twice during the month at the Parish Office, on 10th January 2002 and 5th February 2002 when eight plans were considered:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 0102647/TEL56 | Great Park Farm. B T Cellnet. Installation of antenna together with associated equipment housing and ancillary works.
Support – reasons. We are pleased to see BT Cellnet using an existing grid line pylon without increasing its height. The ancillary equipment will be below the railway embankment. All in all, a very satisfactory arrangement. |
| 01/02699/FUL | 1 Briar Lea Road, Mortimer. Change of use from part shop part residential to all private residential. No objection |
| 01/02692/HOUSE
02/00065/HOUSE | 67 The Avenue, Mortimer. Rear extension and new garage. No objection
Meadow House, Turks Lane, Mortimer. Demolish existing out buildings and build single storey extension, conservatory and double garage.
Object
1. No objection to single storey extension and conservatory.
2. Object to siting of garage in front of the building line.
3. Garage in its proposed position and being 5.5 metres to the ridge will be unduly intrusive on the street scene. |
| 02/00081/HOUSE | 5 St John's Road, Mortimer. Two storey side extension.
No objection but would wish to see boundary hedge retained to soften aspect from neighbour's property. |

- 02/00096/FUL 15 Windmill Road (Carpenters Arms). Demolish Public House; construct 10 x 2 bedroom apartments.
Object.
1. Whilst the Parish Council has no objections in principle to this proposal, there being 5 licensed premises currently in the village, the loss of one would not be seen as catastrophic, the current proposal is considered over development of the site.
 2. The ten proposed flats have no amenity area.
 3. The building at the Windmill Road Corner is too close to the pavement and road.
 4. It is out of keeping with the present street scene.
 5. Lack of fire escape for evacuation from upper floor flats.
- 02/00167/HOUSE Pippins, The Street, Mortimer. Side addition to existing bungalow. No objection.
02/00110/HOUSE 9 Stephens Close, Mortimer. Two storey side extension. No objection.

The following Planning Decisions have been received:

- 01/00394/HOUSE 53 West End Road, two storey side extension, garage and conservatory – **approved**.
01/01002/FUL 9 Mortimer Lane, revised plans for house and garage – **approved**
01/02000/HOUSE 19 West End Road, two storey extension, alterations and loft conversion – **approved**.
01/02173/FUL: 8 West End Road (old Mortimer Garage) – new dental surgery, 6 flats and 2 houses - **refused** – reasons
Impact on street scene. Over development of site. Impact on adjoining property. Impact on footpath.
- 01/02380/HOUSE The Laurels, Summerlug. Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension - **approved**.
- 01/02503/OUT Land at rear of 12 Stephens Close. 3 bed detached style house with integral garage and parking - **refused**
1. Access Road unsuitable.
 2. Proposed property is 25 metres from road resulting in service and delivery vehicles waiting in Stephens Road close to its junction with West End Road.
 3. Unacceptable level of overlooking.
- 01/02669/FUL 1 Briar Lea Road. Change of use from part shop, part residential to all private residential - **approved**.
- 01/02533/FUL 49 Aborn Parade (ex Gladrags) – Change of use from retain to A2 Estate Agents/Financial Services – **approved**.
Tree preservation order – An oak tree at Oakwood 7 St Catherine’s Hill

About 25 residents attended the meeting to express their disapproval at the plans for The Carpenters Arms. Mr Morden advised the members of the public that every individual should put their objections forward (with copies to District Councillors and Parish Office) to West Berks Council. Mr Morden also reported that notification had been received from Hampshire County Council for an application to construct additional silt ponds at Budds Firs, Mortimer Quarry, Welshman’s Road. The mineral extracted from the Burnt Common Site has a higher silt content than was expected and the existing settlement system has not worked out as well as planned therefore an additional silt lagoon is required. This is to be sited next to the existing 3 silt ponds on the corner of Ramptons Lane/Welshman’s Road behind a 3m-bund wall. It will be the same distance from Ramptons Lane as the existing Pond No 1 and the same distance from Welshman’s Road as Pond No 2. As the existing ponds cause no offence he could see no reason to object to this application.

02/26

Mortimer Hill Planning Update: Mr Puddephatt reported that he had met with Sarah Ruff of EcoConsult at Mortimer Hill and had subsequently received a written report on her findings. She reported that although a survey for the European Protected Species Triturus Cristatus (Great Crested Newt) cannot be carried out effectively in the winter due to hibernation there is a good likelihood that Great Crested Newts are apparent. If Triturus Cristatus are present in the Mortimer Hill House ponds, then a 500 metre terrestrial buffer will be recommended to ensure the resting place is not disturbed this will include the majority if not all of the land proposed for development. The report strongly recommends that a breeding survey be carried out on site before planning permission is considered. At least three surveys should be conducted within one breeding season to determine presence or absence, commencing in late March 2002. Surveys should be conducted by a licensed

agent who should use torchlight and nets. A second search should be carried out to help estimate the area of terrestrial land utilised by the species. Thirdly a repeat survey of the Fairground ponds should be carried out. **Mr Morden** is to send a copy of the full report to West Berkshire Planners and to Dr Royce Longton.

02/27 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**

- i. **Car Park Next to Dads Shop:** Mrs Kirk reported that she had received a response from Mr Littleboy at West Berks who said that the ownership of the car park has not yet been resolved. He suggested that in the interim, as he was adamant (in the absence of contrary legal advice) that the car park is owned by the District Council. He recommended that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council consider paying the £10 per annum rent to West Berks as soon as possible. The Parish Council discussed this and it was felt that it was better not to recommence payment of the rent at this stage.
- ii. **Update on Gas Main Brewery Common:** Prof. Davies reported that he had spoken to Mr Byron Edwards, legal representative of Primeshade Contracts, regarding the gas pipe on Brewery Common. Mr Edwards had supplied a map showing the pipe and agreed that it is a trespass. **Prof. Davies** is to investigate further and report back at the next meeting.
- iii. **WBC – Prohibition & Restriction of Waiting Order 2002, West End Road, King Street & Windmill Road, Mortimer:** Mr Morden suggested that a copy of the summary of the proposed prohibitions and restrictions be displayed on the two Parish Council Notice Boards as the yellow notices look vulnerable to the weather or vandals. **The Clerk** to action.

02/28 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

- i. **Fairground Report 2002/2003:** Mrs Philips reported that there had been a Fairground Sub Committee Meeting on 4th February 2002 at which the scales of charges for the Fairground from April 2002 to 2003 were set. These are:

Tennis

Public Sessions:

Up to 18 years £1 per court per hour, Adults £2 per court per hour.

Bookable at Budgens, key £5 deposit

Tennis Club:

Junior hours:

Tuesdays 4 – 6 p.m. two courts (4 hours)

Thursdays 4 – 6 p.m. two courts (4 hours)

Sundays 1 – 6 p.m. two courts (10 hours).

Juniors free in return for an annual subscription of £5.

Senior hours:

Tuesdays 6 – 9 p.m. two courts (6 hours)

Thursdays 6 – 9 p.m. two courts (6 hours)

12 x 26 weeks (316 adult hours) plus 32 extra hours for BBQs etc. = 344 hours @ 94p per hour = £323.36.

Home matches to be booked separately and paid for at £2 per hour per court (approx 36 hours - £72). **The Clerk** to check if the Parish Council has been paid for 2001/2002 home matches.

Football Clubs

All to be charged a nominal £5 per annum

(Plus a copy of their public liability insurance Certificate to be produced).

Other Fairground Charges 2002/2003

Riding Clubs £50 per day, £20 per evening

Fairs £55 per day

Circuses £35 per day

Hunts £50

Community Charity Events £20

Grazing £15 per week (payable in advance)

It was proposed by Mrs A Philips that the scale of charges for the Fairground be agreed.

This was seconded by Mr R Peters and accepted unanimously.

Mrs Philips said that there does not appear to be too many problems regarding the

opening/closing of the car park barrier but that the car park needs to be closed on one day per year to remind people that it belongs to the Fairground Charity (Parish Council), a suitable day is to be decided. Mrs Philips has spoken to the Cricket Club regarding the practice nets, which are unsafe, and also the gang mower, which is in a dangerous position. A follow up letter is to be sent.

Mrs Philips suggested that she would organise a weekend working party to cut down some trees, do a litter pick and generally tidy up. She also asked if any more councillors would be interested in serving on the Fairground Sub Committee and Mrs R Weiss has agreed.

The ditch/hedge on the Fairground and Windmill Road needs to be cleared and cut back and **Mr Peters** is to obtain some quotations for this and report back at the next meeting.

Mr Gosling raised the question about the Fairground Charity receiving a fee from the Cricket Club for use of the Fairground and suggested that a meeting needs to be set up between the Parish Council (Trustees) and the Cricket Club to discuss this.

- ii. **To Discuss Quotations for Grass Cutting Contract – Fairground:** Mrs Philips said that two quotes had been received for the grass cutting contract, one from R & T Contractors who quoted £134.80 for a monthly cut and £24.50 per cut for the cricket area. Bridgewater Landscape Services quoted £270 per month for a fortnightly cut to include cricket area. After a discussion, she proposed that the quotation from R & T be accepted as they had done a good job over the years and a monthly cut was all that was required whereas Bridgewater would only do a fortnightly cut. **The Clerk** to action and to remind R & T to cut the outback after 16th July and on the last cut in October. Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Mr C Lewis.
- iii. **To Discuss Quotation for Grass Cutting Contract – Alfred Palmer Field:** Mr Puddephatt said a quotation had been received from Bridgewood Landscape Services to continue with the grass cutting of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Playing Field at a cost of £80 per cut, once a fortnight (a rise of £5). This was proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Mr J Morden.
- iv. **To Discuss Fence Around Fairground Car Park:** Mr Lewis has produced a specification for the proposed barrier and will obtain two quotations and report back at the next meeting.
- v. **Fairground Charity:** Prof. Davies asked that this be deferred until the next meeting when he will submit a report to the Council.

02/29 **Cemetery:** Mr Gosling advised that he had received an enquiry from a funeral director for an interment of cremated remains and a sub committee meeting has been arranged for Saturday 9th February to discuss this.

02/30 **To Agree Payment of £1,000 to PCC re 2nd Instalment of Once Only Grant:** Mr Gosling reported that the work at St Mary's Churchyard had been finished as per the specification and proposed that the second instalment of £1,000 be paid, this was seconded by Mr A Thorpe and unanimously agreed. **The Clerk** to action.

02/31 **Councillor Training:** Mr Puddephatt advised that he is trying to organise an on site training day (refresher/overview of new legislation) with the Cheltenham & Gloucester College to be held in St John's Hall. Will report back at the next meeting.

02/32 **Annual Parish Award for 2002:** The Council went into Committee for this Agenda item and asked members of the public and press to leave the room. Mr A Thorpe declared an interest and also left the room. Mr Puddephatt advised that the Annual Parish Award Committee (made up of Current Chairman/Vice Chairman and previous Chairmen of the Parish Council) had received a number of applications and that Mr A Thorpe had been nominated and chosen to receive the award this year for his work as headmaster of St Mary's School, the Volunteer Bureau and District Councillor. Mrs A Philips proposed this and was unanimously accepted. The Clerk has arranged for the commemorative plate to be made which will be presented to Mr Thorpe at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April 2002.

02/33 **Update on Village Plan Application Form to WBC:** Mr Puddephatt reported that Stratfield Mortimer had submitted their proposal to West Berks and should know the outcome by Friday 15th February. He also advised that the CCB are holding a series of Vital Villages Rural Roadshows which would be useful to Parish Councils, Village Hall Committees, village shopkeepers, pubs, rural community groups including youth and older persons and voluntary organisations who provide

services to rural West Berkshire. **The Clerk** is to place a poster on the Parish Council notice boards. Mr G Puddephatt, Mrs J Kirk, Mr J Morden and Mrs R Weiss are to attend a workshop on 18th April 2002.

- 02/34 **Report – Eastern Area Forum Meeting 22nd January 2002:** Mrs Kirk reported that Mr Picking had attended the meeting and the only item to report was that he had asked about the Council's contributions to Willink Leisure Centre but had been unsuccessful in obtaining an answer.
- 02/35 **DTLR – Model Code of Conduct:** Mr Puddephatt advised that as part of the wide ranging changes introduced by the Government relating to the new Code of Conduct for Councils, West Berkshire have set up training sessions to introduce Parish Clerks and Chairmen to the Codes of Conduct. Mr G Puddephatt and Mrs J Kirk are to attend a training session on 19th February 2002. The Parish Council sub committee created to look at the Code of Conduct is to meet on the 21st February 2002 with the intention of reporting back ready to adopt the Code at the next meeting.
- 02/36 **Update on Sovereign Housing/West Berkshire Information Centre:** Mrs Kirk reported that she is still trying to liaise with Sovereign Housing and West Berkshire and will report back at the next meeting.
- 02/37 **Pre Feasibility Report for Stratfield Mortimer Flood Alleviation Scheme:** Mrs Philips (Flood Warden) reported that the pre feasibility report has been produced and she has sent copies to all the people who were flooded in The Street. The conclusions were that the flooding in October 2000 was likely to be caused by a combination of the following; bridge construction, the removal of the bund when the highway improvements were made, the raised roundabout impeding the flow of water and also silted up road drains. The recommendations to alleviate the problem (Option 6) are:
- Bed levels to be reinstated to levels measured in 1976.
 - The roundabout to be re-aligned.
 - Modifications to the bridge with concrete fillets to smooth the flow.
 - Reinstatement hedge row/bund slightly higher.
 - Earth bund to protect Railway Terrace.
- The cost is likely to be £43,000/£45,000. It was agreed that Mrs Philips should write and support the recommendations of the report.
- 02/38 **Letter from Governors St Mary's re Change of Status Meeting 19.02.02:** Mr Puddephatt advised that the date of the meeting has now been changed to Wednesday 6th March 2002. The meeting has been arranged so that representatives from the two organisations could meet to discuss what is involved. Mr G Puddephatt, Mr J Mazillius, Mr C Lewis, Mr J Gosling, and Mr A Thorpe are available to attend.
- 02/39 **Notice from District Audit – Accounts for the Year Ended 31.3.01:** Mr Puddephatt advised that the Parish Council's accounts are to be audited on 12th March 2002. Notices stating that any interested elector may inspect the accounts before that date have been placed on the Notice Boards and Website.
- 02/40 **Parish Office:**
- i. **To Agree Payment of Clerk's Salary:** Proposed by Mr J Mazillius and seconded by Mr J Gosling.
 - ii. **To Agree Payment of Clerk's Tax and NI:** Proposed by Mr J Mazillius and seconded by Mr J Morden.
 - iii. **To agree payment of Custodian's Hours and Expenses:** None submitted this month.
 - iv. **To Discuss Annual Pay Award for Clerk and Custodian:** This was discussed in Committee and Mr J Mazillius and Mrs J Kirk declared an interest and left the room. Mr Puddephatt proposed that Mrs J Kirk be paid on Salary Scale Point 21 of the LC1 Salary Scale from April 2002, this was seconded by Mr J Morden. Mr J Mazillius has submitted a contract and therefore does not need to be on a salary scale point.
 - v. **To Consider Quotation from Nurse Electrical Ltd to Supply and Fit a 3.4kw Storage Heater £543.00 Excluding VAT:** Mr Puddephatt stated that the quote from the West Berkshire's approved electrician seemed rather high and it was agreed that two more quotes should be obtained. Held over until next meeting. **The Clerk** to action.

- 02/41 **Correspondence:**
- i. WBC – Strategic Partnership for Support Services – Noted.
 - ii. WBC – Flood Defences – Literature – Passed to Flood Warden.
 - iii. WBC – Review of the number of Councillors on each Parish/Town Council prior to the next scheduled elections in May 2003 – Noted.
 - iv. CPRE – Questionnaire on Planning Green Paper 12th December 2001 – **Mr J Mordento** complete and return.
 - v. WBC – West Berkshire Partnership – noted.

02/42 **AOB:**
 Mr Mazillius reported that he had received a Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005 report, which defines the managerial system for tackling crime and sets targets.
 Mr Lewis reported that the leaning birch trees on Brewery Common had still not been dealt with and were now dangerous. Mrs Kirk said she had reported it in December and will chase again.

Addendum to Agenda:

- 02/43 **To Agree Payment to Mortimer Methodist Church for £72.00 Rent for Meeting Room from October 2001 to March 2002:** Proposed by Mr J Mazillius and seconded by Mr R Peters.
- 02/44 **To Agree Payment of Registration of Domain (.gov.uk) for Parish Council at a Cost of £115.00 Plus VAT:** Proposed by Mr J Mazillius and seconded by Mr J Gosling.
- 02/45 **To Consider Payment for Clerk to Attend a European Computer Driving Licence Course at IT Centre, Savacentre at a Cost of Approx. £43.99:** Proposed by Mr J Morden and seconded by Mr J Mazillius.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 14th March 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

List of payments made:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
7 th February 2002	501055	Mrs J E Kirk	
	501056	Inland Revenue	
	501057	Mortimer Methodist Church	72.00
	501058	Mortimer Parochial Church Council	1,000.00
	501059	NetNames Ltd	153.13

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 21:55

Signed:.....(G S Puddephatt)
 Chairman

Date:.....