



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 11 July 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: G Puddephatt (Chairman), Councillors: C Lewis, P Challis, Mrs A Philips, A Thorpe, K Davies, J Morden, R Weiss, R Peters, L Picking, J Mazillius, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs J Lever, Ms S Harding, M Loader, J Gosling, K Lock,

02/124 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 13th June 2002 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

1. 02/123 No 2. Mrs Kirk advised that she had received a reply from John Redwood stating that he does hold regular surgeries in Wokingham and that his next two surgeries are scheduled for the mornings of 12th July and 26th July and that either of these could be held in Mortimer if there were a number of people wishing to come. It was decided that **The Clerk** to reply saying we do not know how many people will wish to come and to advise us if he wishes to hold a surgery in the future.

2. A thank you letter from Mortimer BP Scout Group for the Parish Council's donation of £250.

3. 02/121(vii) Mrs Kirk advised that a letter had been received from Mr L Picking, Chairman of St John's Hall Management Committee acknowledging receipt of the cancellation of the booking for Silverlink and stating that he appreciated the reasons why.

02/125 **Election of Vice Chairman for 2002-2003:** The election for the post of Vice Chairman was again held over until next month's meeting.

02/126 **Report from District Councillors:**

In the absence of Mr Lock and Ms Harding Mrs Kirk read a report from Mr Lock who reported that: The contract with Amey Plc for all support services, apart from Legal started on 1st July. Anybody contacting West Berkshire should not notice any difference but should contact him and Ms Harding if they experience any problems. The Audit Commission Review Team is starting work on Monday 15th July to assess the District Council. He also mentioned that various planning applications have been received including the revised application for Mortimer Garage and three applications for Mortimer Hill.

02/127 **Planning: Report:** Mr Morden reported that The Planning Committee met twice during the month on 13th June and the 25th June 2002 when three applications were considered:

02/00811/HOUSE St John's House, Loves Wood, Mortimer. Amended Plans showing new position for proposed garage. No Objection but recommend the following conditions:

1. No materials on highway.
2. Attention to be drawn to original condition re re-planting of tree- not complied with.

02/01202/FUL Aborn Parade, West End Road, Mortimer – Flat and Maisonette

Object Reasons:

1. This is a full 3-storey building completely out of keeping with the village scene (permission granted by Bradfield R.D.C. some 40 or more years ago). To increase the frontage bulk of an inappropriate building will further dominate the street scene.
2. Over development of site.
3. Revision of parking arrangements already approved will reduce the new ground floor flats amenity area.
4. Overpower the adjacent chalet bungalow immediately to west of site.

02/01162/HOUSE 35 King Street, Mortimer – single storey rear extension. No objection.

The following Planning Decision has been received:

02/01162/HOUSE 36 King Street, Mortimer – single storey rear extension – Approved.

- i. Mr Morden also advised that an application had been received from Hampshire County Council re Burnt Common gravel extraction. A revision for the proposed additional silt ponds. These will be behind a 2m bund and will not be visible from either Welshmans Road or Ramptons Lane and he recommended acceptance, which was unanimously agreed. He also advised that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council have been asked to contribute, along with other local Parish Councils, £64 towards the cost of 15 new directional signs for the Willink Leisure Centre. It was proposed that the Council had no objection to this as long as at least one sign is placed in Mortimer. **Mr Morden** to respond.
- ii. Mortimer Hill Planning Applications: Mrs Ruth Weiss declared an interest and left the room. Mr Morden advised that members of the Council had met with representatives of Bell Cornwall (agent) and Bryant Homes (developer) to look at the proposed new plans. Several points were raised at that meeting most of which were addressed in an email from Bell Cornwall saying that they had checked when the traffic data was taken with their highway consultant and could confirm that traffic flows were measured between 29 April and 6 May. Although the Consultants have used only the figures from the week prior to the bank holiday, it was considered that the figures did not provide a representative sample as some parents took their children on holiday prior to the school holidays. With regard to the newts they confirmed that the Ecologists were fully aware of the ponds on and near the site and have fully considered the impact of the development on the newt population. The ecological findings are set out in the paperwork, which will be forwarded by the West Berks Council. **Mr Morden** is to reply to Bell Cornwall saying that the figures would have been distorted because of the bank holiday. **The Clerk** is to write to the developers asking for the promised assurance that the derelict cottage on Hammonds Heath, which they have purchased, will not be the subject of a future planning application. Also **The Clerk** is to write to Thames Water asking if they can confirm that the surface and foul water services in The Street will be able to cope with the proposed additional houses at Mortimer Hill. Mr Morden advised that the Parish Council's own ecological survey on the great crested newts had been received and read out the findings to the Council. The report's recommendations said that due to the protected status of Triturus cristatus, the land of Mortimer Hill House should be protected whether the newts are breeding in the pond or not as the feeding and hibernation grounds of the species are also protected. It also said that as recommended in the first report, these grounds are within the English Nature recommended 500-metre buffer zone of the known breeding populations on the Fairground. Due to the highly vegetated state of the pond during the breeding season it is recommended that if confirmation of breeding within the pond is required that bottle traps are set on up to 3 separate nights in late March – mid May 2003. However use of the site by this species has already been confirmed. The full report is available at The Parish Office.

The Planning Committee is to meet on Tuesday 23rd July at 8 pm in The Methodist Church Hall Meeting Room to discuss the Mortimer Hill Plans .

02/128 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No report.

- iii. **Letter from Mrs M Clark re Litter:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter from a Mrs L Clark about the amount of litter in the village especially outside Forbuoys and Budgens. After some discussion it was decided that **The Clerk** would write to Forbuoys, Budgens and West Berkshire outlining the problem and acknowledge Mrs Clark's letter. Also The Clerk is to contact West Berkshire and ask for the missing litterbin at the bus stop in Victoria Road (near Budgens) to be reinstated.
- iv. **Letter from West Berkshire re The use of Motorbikes on Windmill Common:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter from West Berkshire Council re Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 80-82 – Environmental Nuisance. The use of Motorbikes on Windmill Common. The letter said they had written to the identified owners of the motorbikes explaining that they had received complaints from the public. After some discussion it was decided that **The Clerk** would reply to West Berkshire pointing out that Englefield Estates

owns some of the site and there is a Byway going through Windmill Common on which motor vehicles are legally permitted to use. The Parish Council to obtain prices for signs forbidding motorcycling on their part of the common.

- v. Mr Puddephatt read out a letter from a Mr W Martin addressed to West Berkshire in which he thanked them for sorting out the blocked drain at the entrance to Ravensworth Road. **The Clerk** was asked to write to Basingstoke and Deane and Reading Busses to ask them to provide a hard standing for the re-sited bus stop.
- 02/129 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Mrs Philips asked if Quenton Jacobs could be engaged to cut the grazing area after the grass has seeded after the 15th July and before the fair arrives on the 24th July. Mr A Thorpe proposed that this be arranged and was seconded by Prof K Davies. **Mrs Philips** to arrange.
- i. Mortimer Fairground Trust Report. Prof Davies read out the reply from the Charity Commission regarding the tenancy agreement and also a proposed reply. It was unanimously agreed that the reply be sent.
- 02/130 **Cemetery:** It was reported that weed killer had been sprayed on the paths and the grass had been cut as per contract.
- 02/131 **New Audit Arrangements:** Mrs Kirk reported that the new Auditors Hacker Young had called the Parish Council to audit on the 30th August. Mrs Kirk has replied to Hacker Young asking for this audit date to be put back until October as the accounts had not yet been put to the Council for approval and that the approved accounts had to be available for 38 days prior to the audit date.
- 02/132 **Additional Module – Accounts Package to Produce New Audit Regime £45.00:** Mr A Thorpe proposed that the Council purchase the additional module for the accounts package this was seconded by Prof K Davies.
- 02/133 **To Consider Purchasing a New Internet Provider:** Mr G Puddephatt declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Mrs Kirk advised the Council that the present “free” internet provider was becoming unreliable and asked the Council to consider subscribing to an un metered 24 hour scheme. It was agreed that Mrs Kirk looks into this with and report back at the next meeting.
- 02/134 **Update on Village Plan:** Mrs Weiss reported that following the successful drop in session on the 8th June about 25 people had come forward to help and about 80 questionnaires had been returned to date and Geoff Mayes and Pauline Rabbits had started to analyse them. The new volunteers have been split into working groups with Geoff Mayes being Chairman of the steering group. The groups at present are Grants (completing the application form to the Countryside Agency). Questionnaire Analysis (continuing to analyse and cross reference questionnaires) and Communications (looking at ways to gather in information from villagers and also to keep all villagers regularly informed). The small groups are meeting over the next couple of weeks with the steering group meeting in September.
- 02/135 **Councillor Training Workshop September 2002 St John’s Hall:** Mrs Kirk advised Councillors that the Councillor Training Workshop had been re-scheduled for Saturday 14th September from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. and asked them to make a note of this in their diaries. **The Clerk** is to advertise additional places with other local Parish Councils.
- 02/136 **Flood Alleviation Scheme - Letter from Mr B Cole:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter from a Mr B Cole relating to flooding at the bottom of The Street. **The Clerk** is to forward the letter onto West Berkshire and acknowledge Mr Cole’s letter.
- 02/137 **St John’s School Inspection Report – February 2002:** Mr Thorpe read out a preceed of the Ofsted Report for St John’s Infant School.
- 02/138 **Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:**
- i. **Clerk’s Salary:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mrs A Philips.
- ii. **Clerk’s Tax and NI:** Proposed by Prof K Davies and seconded by Mr R Peters.
- iii. **Clerk’s Expenses:** None submitted this month
- iv. **Custodian’s Hours and Expenses:** None submitted this month.
- v. **Ian Philips – Grass Cutting Cemetery & Churchyard £478.50 inc VAT:** Mrs Philips declared an interest. Paid as per contract.
- vi. **Bridgewater Landscape Services – Grass Cutting Alfred Palmer Field £160.00:** Paid as per contract.

- vii. **British Telecom: £189.80 inc VAT:** Mr G Puddephatt declared an interest. Proposed by Mr A Thorpe and seconded by Mrs A Philips.
- viii. **R & T Agricultural Ltd – Grass Cutting Fairground £748.71 inc VAT:** Paid as per contract.
- ix. **Frasers Office Supplies – Stationery £28.71 inc VAT:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mr R Peters.
- x. **BALC – 2 x Audit Guidance - £19.90:** Proposed by Mr J Morden and seconded by Mr J Mazillius.
- xi. **Ecoconsult – Assessment of Land Adjoining Mortimer Hill House for Great Crested Newts £295.73:** Proposed by Mr A Thorpe and seconded by Mrs A Philips.
- xii. Mr Puddephatt advised the Council that due to a recent theft the day before it had been necessary to change the lock on the door to the parish Council which will result in a bill for approximately £100 to £200. Mrs A Philips proposed that this be paid and Prof. K Davies seconded this.

02/139 **Correspondence:**

- i. Circular letter from CCB re annual fee.
- ii. NALC – Development Strategy 2002
- iii. BALC – AGM Friday 19th July 2002 at Grazeley Village Hall 7:30p.m.
- iv. The Countryside Agency – New Countryside Agency Publications, including booklet Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- v. Highway Improvement Programme 2002/2003
- vi. West Berkshire Council letter re Code of Conduct, Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Financial and Other Interests
- vii. West Berkshire Council – Details of Their Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- viii. West Berkshire Friendship Clubs – Letter re Vacancy on Management Committee.
- ix. National Lottery Circular.

02/140 **Any Other Business:**

Mrs Kirk advised that Mrs Plank has asked for help, guidance or advice regarding the disposal of the Guide Hut.

Mrs Philips advised that The Fairground Clean Up on Sunday 20th July is to be re-scheduled.

Mr Challis asked if a “No Camping” notice could be purchased for the Fairground Car Park as it had been reported that someone had been camping overnight in the car park. It was decided that if this happens again a representative from the Council would promptly address the matter.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th August 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

List of payments made:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
11 July 2002	501116	J E Kirk	
11 July 2002	501117	Inland Revenue	
11 July 2002	501118	Ian Philips	478.50
11 July 2002	501119	Bridgewood Landscape Services	160.00
11 July 2002	501120	British Telecom	189.80
11 July 2002	501121	R & T Agricultural Ltd.	748.71
11 July 2002	501122	Frasers Office Supplies	28.71
11 July 2002	501123	BALC	19.90
11 July 2002	501124	EcoConsult	295.73

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 21:30

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