



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: G Puddephatt (Chairman), Councillors: P Challis, K Davies, Mrs R Weiss, J Mazillius, J Gosling, Mrs A Philips, C Lewis, L Picking, Ms S Harding, M Loader, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), K Lock (District) and 4 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillors: J Morden, A Thorpe, R Peters

02/173 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12 September 2002 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- 02/161 (i) Mrs Kirk advised that a payment of £80 had been received from Ludwig Leisure, thanking her for helping with this matter and would like to use the facility again next summer.
- 02/161 (ii) Mrs Kirk confirmed that The Standards Officer at West Berkshire has confirmed that the Standards Committee have agreed to the full Council being granted a dispensation to discuss matters relating to the land in the centre of Mortimer, which is held under a "Fairground Trust". A dispensation was granted under Regulation 3(a)(i) of the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) (Dispensation) Regulations 2002.

02/174 **Report from District Councillors:**

Mr K Lock reported that the Eastern Area Planning Committee had met the day before and approved 120 houses at Mortimer Hill, subject to Section 106 agreement, and had passed plans for the Willink School's Drama Studio and 6th Form Block. The negotiations with Sovereign over the future of care home part of Windmill Court is finally nearing completion and Mr Lock is hopeful that the conversion to independent units with extra support will soon take place. At present there are still 6 residents in the care home section and 3 of them are awaiting nursing home places. The staff house will then be transferred at the same time and should then be occupied but not by a warden. Mr Lock advised that the winter salting programme will cover the same routes as last year and he will look into whether West End Road can be included. The Government is to set up local Public Service Agreements under which a council agrees with the Government a number of performance targets to achieve over three years covering education, social services, crime and health. If the scheme and targets are accepted West Berkshire will receive about £900,000 in advance with about £4 million to follow if targets are achieved.

Mr Lock is to look whether West Berkshire could provide a litterbin on St Catherine's Hill, next to the notice board. He was also asked to find out who owns the land at St Mary's School. Mr Gosling reported that Thames Water has no objections in relation to the Water Supply for the Mortimer Hill Development. They have said that if insufficient sewerage capacity is available Thames Water Utilities will provide the appropriate additional capacity as soon as possible.

02/175 **Planning:** Mrs Kirk read out a report received from Mr Morden in his absence. Mr Morden said that he had attended the Eastern Area Planning Committee at Calcot Centre on Wednesday 9th October 2002. He spoke on two items:

1. 01/02375/FUL land adjacent to Lane House (The Old Apple Store) change of usage to B1 (light industrial). Despite officers recommendation to approve this was once again refused.
2. **02/01364/FULMAJ land adjoining Mortimer Hill House 120 dwellings. Approved** but subject to Section 106 Agreement. The West Berkshire Council Officers are keen to see The Street re-aligned to the north and a continuous footpath from the village centre, St Mary's School and the station. This is considered a must and will have to be in place before building

commences. A station car park to the east received favourable comment, as did the reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph for the full length of The Street. Our ward members will be consulted before the 106 agreement is signed.

Mr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met twice since the last meeting on the 19th September and the 2nd October 2002.

- 02/10890/HOUSE 20 Windmill Road. First floor extension at side to form family bathroom. No objection.
- 02/01906/HOUSE Meadow House, Turks Lane. Single storey extension. No objection.
- 02/01932/HOUSE 16 Spring Lane. Construction of balcony to rear of new extension. No objection.
- 02/01955/HOUSE 21 The Crescent. Joining of pitched garage and porch roof across front of house. No objection.
- 02.01958/HOUSE 36 Stephens Firs. Double garage and domestic shed.
Object:
1. Over large for domestic use only (27'6" x 19'9"). The shed alone is 19' x 8'.
 2. Highly visible from street scene.
 3. Environmental impact on adjacent Tumuli.
- 02.02006/HOUSE 134 The Crescent. Single storey rear extension. No objection.

The Following Planning Decisions have been received:

- 02/01732/HOUSE Meadowside, Mortimer Lane. 2 storey rear extension and extension of existing loft. Approved.
- 02/00809/FUL Serena, Birch Lane. Detached chalet bungalow – refused.
- 02/01128/FUL Gardeners Cottage, Mowbray's Hill. Replacement of existing dwelling – residential – approved.
- 02/01325/HOUSE 81 The Avenue. Bedroom addition/front elevation/single storey. Refused – unacceptable threat to TPO tree.
- 02/01363 Land adjoining Mortimer Hill House – 140 dwellings – Refused.
- 02/015680/HOUSE 13 Orchard Road. Single storey rear extension to garage and extension of existing covered driveway – decision – not required – permissible within permitted extension.
- 02/00629/FUL Carpenters Arms, Windmill Road. Demolition of public house and construct 8 x 2 bedroom apartments – approved subject to heads of agreement.
- 02/01162/HOUSE 35 King Street. Single storey rear extension. Approved
- 02/00899/FUL Pylon at Great Park Farm. 6 antennae's and ancillary development – refused.
- 02/01479/HOUSE Croft House, St Mary's Road. Two storey side extension - approved
- 02/01830/ADV 7 West End Road, Nat Westminster Bank. Standard internet illuminated fascia and other ancillary illuminated signs. The totem pole will not be illuminated – approved.
- 02/01844/HOUSE Kypings, Ravensworth Road. Demolish existing conservatory, replace with a garage – approved.
- 02/01585/HOUSE 19 Fairfield Park, West End Road, Extension to entrance retrospective – approved.
- 02/01764/OUT Proposed 2 bedroomed detached bungalows with integral garage and parking – approved.
- 02/01890/HOUSE 20 Windmill Road, First floor extension at side to form family bathroom – approved.,
- 02/02570/OUT Planning Appeal. Oak Stumps, Birch Lane. New one bedroom bungalow in grounds of Oak Stumps – appeal dismissed.

Mr Puddephatt advised that Basingstoke & Deane's Local Plan Review First Deposit Draft had been received giving notice of their consultation period from 11th October to 22nd November.

Mr Puddephatt read out a letter that had been sent to Bryant Homes regarding 3 Hammonds Heath and the state of the property and the recent fire and their response, which said they would secure the property again. Councillors asked **The Clerk** to write to West Berkshire Council to investigate issuing a Repair Notice on Bryant Homes.

02/176 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No report.

- i. **Letter re The Use of Motorbikes on Windmill Common:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter that had been received from a member of the public regarding the use of motorbikes on Windmill Common. It was decided that this should be passed to the Roads and Footpaths Committee to look into and report back at the next meeting.
- ii. **Traffic Calming Catherine's Hill/West End Road up-date:** Mr Puddephatt said that he and two other councillors met with officers from West Berkshire to discuss future traffic calming. West Berkshire have recommended to amalgamate all the money from the 106 agreements from Mortimer Hill, Carpenters Arms and Mortimer Garage to incorporate a bigger scheme for traffic calming within the village. Mr Puddephatt commented that the proposed schemes looked very good and will report further when West Berkshire come back with firm proposals.
- iii. **Car Park West End Road up-date:** Professor Davies said that there was no further news

on the ownership of the car park. A van has been abandoned in the car park and **The Clerk** is to investigate.

- iv. **Brownie/Guide Hut:** Mr Puddephatt reported that the Guide Hut has now been demolished and that Mrs Plank the Guide Leader had written saying that they had been unable to raise enough funds to pay Clembins Skip Hire for a second skip needed to clear the last of the rubble at a cost of £135. Mr Mazillius proposed that the Parish Council make a donation of £135 to pay for the hire of the skip, this was seconded by Mr J Gosling and unanimously agreed. **The Clerk** to action.

02/177 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** No report.

- i. **R & T Agricultural Ltd Contract/Invoice:** Following Minute No 02/171 (vii) last month Mrs Kirk reported that she had been unable to contact R & T despite several phone calls and a letter. Although the grass has now been cut (for September) it was decided to only pay half of the amount of the invoice for August, as the work had not been carried out as per contract. **The Clerk** to send a cheque for £93.59 with a covering letter.

- ii. **Fairground Litter Pick/Tidy – Sunday 13th October 10am:** Mrs Philips confirmed that this event had been publicised and asked if she could purchase some disposable gloves and black sacks. Mr Gosling proposed that up to £15.00 could be spent on purchasing equipment and Mr C Lewis seconded this.

Mr Puddephatt advised that as a follow up to the Litter Pick a member of the Fairground Trust has offered to organise individuals or groups of people (dog walkers, school class, Cub or Brownie Pack, neighbours etc.) who would be prepared to take responsibility for an area of the Fairground (“adopt a patch”) and to keep that area clear of litter for a year. Villagers are asked to telephone The Clerk on 9331955 if they would be prepared to help to improve their environment and community.

- iii. **Mortimer Fairground Trust Report.** Further to Minute No 02/161 (ii) Prof. Davies reported that he had approached a firm of solicitors Anthony Collins of Birmingham (who specialise in charity law) who have responded saying their initial costs would be £750 to £1,000. Prof Davies proposed that we agree to engage this firm of solicitors to proceed with the first stage as advised but not the second; this was seconded by Mr J Mazillius and unanimously agreed. **Prof Davies** to reply.

02/178 **Cemetery:** Mr Gosling requested that The Council purchase two new record books to properly record the burial of cremated remains in The Cemetery at a cost of £135.95 + VAT. Proposed by Mr J Gosling and seconded by Mr C Lewis and unanimously agreed. **The Clerk** to action.

02/179 **To Consider Purchasing a New Internet Provider:** This was held over until the next meeting.

02/180 **Parish Council Website Statistics (www.Stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk):** Mrs Kirk advised Councillors that British Telecom now provide statistics on the Parish Council Website usage. For the week 26.9.02 to 2.10.02 there were 166 hits and for the week 3.10.02 to 9.10.02 there were 173 hits. Mr Puddephatt advised that an invoice for the renewal of the webhosting and domain name renewal had been received but seems to have gone astray. The amount he thought was approximately £120.00 and a duplicate invoice will be asked for.

02/181 **Update on Village Plan:** Mr Puddephatt advised that the second Newsletter had been produced and was now available at the various distribution points in the village. He also advised that there are a few outstanding matters that need to be addressed before the application for the grant of £5,000 to the Countryside Agency can be submitted. Mr Puddephatt has been in close contact with The Countryside Agency and West Berkshire Council and will report back at the next meeting.

02/182 **Issued Raised from Parish Plan Initial Questionnaire:** Mr Puddephatt advised that a list of issues had been received from the Parish Plan Group that had collated responses from the initial public questionnaire, some of the issues raised were environmental, litter, flooding, library footpaths etc. It was decided to circulate the list to all councillors for consideration and discuss the issues at the next meeting. **The Clerk** to action and to acknowledge receipt to the Parish Plan Group.

02/183 **Report on Training Workshop Held 14th September 2002:** Mr Puddephatt reported that the recent Training Workshop had been a very interesting and useful day and was attended by 10 members of the Parish Council, 5 Parish Councillors from neighbouring councils (Aldermaston, Tilehurst and Brimpton) and The Clerk. The topics covered were local councils, who are we and where we come from and what we do, duties and powers of local councils, managing resources, Meetings, parish

plans, local councils playing a larger role. Mr Puddephatt thanked Mrs Kirk for organising the event, Mrs Weiss for the superb food, and Rebecca Kirk for helping on the day.

- 02/184 **Period Electoral Review/Parish Council Elections 1st May 2003:** Mr Puddephatt advised councillors that a letter had been received from West Berkshire Council advising that The Electoral Commission have now completed their review of the District Council's electoral arrangements (Statutory Instrument 2002 No 2243) The Mortimer Ward, with effect from 1st May 2003, will include the parishes of Padworth and Ufton Nervet in addition to the existing parishes of Beech Hill, Stratfield Mortimer and Wokefield. West Berkshire Council also reminded councils that elections for Parish/Town Councils will be held on 1st May 2003 and details of indicative costs for these elections are being prepared and will be forwarded in the next few weeks.
- 02/185 **Remembrance Day Parade:** Air Vice Marshal B Newton was asked to report on the requirements for the Remembrance Day Parade. He reported that West Berkshire Council require the Parish Council to apply for a Temporary Road Closure Order for this year's Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 10th November in the interests of road and public safety. Mrs Kirk reported that this will also necessitate the purchase of 3 new Road Closed signs. Mr Picking proposed that up to £100 could be spent on the new signs (which will be able to be used in future years) this was seconded by Mr J Gosling and unanimously agreed. **The Clerk** to apply for the Temporary Road Closure Order, check Public Liability Insurance and obtain the new road signs.
- 02/186 **Letter Regarding Halloween – Police Presence:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter received from a Mortimer resident asking if the Parish Council could ask for some kind of Police presence in the village on 31st October for Halloween as last year damage was done to property and fear installed in some elderly parishioners. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to The Police and also to the local schools. **The Clerk** to action.
- 02/187 **AWE Report:** Mr Mazillius read out a report circulated to all councillors. The report covered the recently published AWE Aldermaston Site Development Plan, which sets out to explain the plans and reasons for the future development of the main site at Aldermaston and brings together in one document a number of proposals for development and gives advance notice of a series of developments that are in the early stages of discussion. The plan sets out a number of options for development the most important being the consideration of the closure of the site at Burghfield and transferring the operations to Aldermaston. A new hydrodynamics facility is planned and a notice of planned development is due to be submitted to West Berkshire Planning Authority in the near future. Also planned is the closure of the Pangbourne pipeline and its replacement by a new liquid waste treatment plant. The plan also looks at the demolition of many old buildings to be replaced by modern buildings. It is proposed to re-site the main entrance to the west of the site with access being gained from the A340 road. A copy of the plan will be held at The Parish Council Office. Mr Mazillius reported that AWE has asked Lancaster University to conduct a study in the public's perception of AWE's long-term environmental aims. The project called PASCALA will involve a series of meetings with staff, regulators, local authorities and the public over the next two months. Four public meetings are planned at local venues each starting at 7pm. The dates are as follows:
 Tuesday 29th October 2002 – Tadley Community Centre
 Wednesday 30th October 2002 – Reading Town Hall
 Wednesday 6th November 2002 - Chequers Inn Newbury
 Thursday 7th November 2002 – Brighton Community Centre Basingstoke
 An independent steering group will oversee the project and a final report will be published in January 2003. AWE will have no editorial control over the report. The project has a website **www.pascalea.com** for information and the posting of questions.
- 02/188 **Letter from PCC asking for permission to advertise on Fairground Fence:** Mr Puddephatt informed the Council that St John's Church had written requesting permission to advertise their Church Bazaar to be held on 30th November on the Fairground Fence for 2 weeks prior to this. This was unanimously agreed. **The Clerk** to action.
- 02/189 **Flooding:** Mrs Philips reported that West Berkshire Council had held a Flooding Awareness Day at Newbury on the 25th September. Mr G Mayes attended the road show and sent a very comprehensive and useful report to the Parish Council, which will be held in The Parish Office. Mrs Philips reported that West Berkshire Council had written saying that they are reviewing their requirements for the pre positioning of sandbags, or sand and sandbags separately for the bottom of

The Street in case of future flooding of the Foudry Brook. They have offered the Parish Council either 100 filled bags (which could deteriorate if stored for any amount of time) or the option to have sand and empty bags with the option of purchasing a sandhopper. After much discussion it was agreed that the most sensible course of action would be to have the bags and sand separately to be stored at The Fox and Horn Public House by kind permission of Mr Bailey. Mrs A Philips then proposed that the Council purchase a sandhopper at an approximately cost of £240 plus VAT this was seconded by Prof. K Davies. **The Clerk** to action.

02/190 **To Agree Payment to Mr D. G. Nickless for Updating the Community Award Board in St. John's Hall £20.00:** Proposed by Mr J Gosling and seconded by Mr J Mazillius.

02/191 **To Agree Payment to J Barnes for Payment of Train Ticket to Harrogate for SLCC Conference (for Mrs J E Kirk) £43.50:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mrs A Philips.

02/192 **Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:**

- i. **Clerk's Salary:** Proposed by Prof K Davies and seconded by Mrs A Philips.
- ii. **Clerk's Tax and NI:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mr J Gosling.
- iii. **Clerk's Expenses:** Not submitted this month.
- iv. **Custodian's Hours and Expenses:** Mr J Mazillius declared an interest. Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Mr P Challis.
- 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. **BALC – J Morden Planning Seminar £20.00:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mr J Gosling.
- viii. **British Telecom £194.12 (Telephone Bill for Parish Office):** Mr G Puddephatt declared an interest. Proposed by Mr C Lewis and seconded by Mr L Picking.
- ix. **The Post Office – Purchase of Stamps £46.00:** Proposed by Mr L Picking and seconded by Mr J Gosling.
- x. **BALC – Purchase of Administration by Charles Arnold Baker £42.00:** Previously agreed minute no 02/169 last month.
- xi. **P Blagden – Expenses Village Plan £40.56:** Proposed Mr J Mazillius and seconded by Mr L Picking.
- xii. **R Weiss – Lunch Training Day £36.30:** Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Ms S Harding.
- xiii. **West Berkshire Council – Contribution towards Summer Playscheme £760.00:** Proposed by Prof K Davies and seconded by Ms S Harding. Mrs Kirk read out a letter received from the Recreation Development Worker, West Berkshire Council which supplied information and statistics regarding this year's successful scheme. In total 120 places were sold over four weeks compared with 79 places sold at last year's playscheme. **The Clerk** is to write and ask if the Parish Council could have some A4 posters next year to advertise on the Parish Notice Boards in addition to advertising through the local schools.

02/193 **Correspondence:**

- i. Defra – letter re Rural Services Standard 2002.
- ii. BALC – Agenda for Special General Meeting Friday 6th December 2002.
- iii. Community Council For Berkshire - Newsletter
- iv. BALC – Newsletter
- v. CPRE – Planning Update
- vi. Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution – Summary booklet on Environmental Pollution Report.
- vii. NAG - Newsletter
- viii. Upstream – Newsletter

02/194 **A.O.B.** There was no Any Other Business.

02/195 **Addendum**

To Discuss Renovations to War Memorial: The President of Mortimer Royal British Legion, Air

Vice Marshal Newton asked the Council to consider cleaning the War Memorial and restoring the gilding on the ornamentation. Air Vice Marshal Newton also asked if the Council would consider refurbishing the War Memorial (with supporting documents) he proposed to extend the plinth with a cobbled area approximately 4 feet wide all round the memorial and would follow the octagonal plan of the existing plinth and be marked by 8 marker posts approximately 18 inches high to prevent parking. This would enhance the appearance of the memorial and improve the practicalities on Remembrance Day It was agreed that this will be considered and costs obtained.

- 02/196 **To Discuss quotations for Storage Heater in the Parish Office:** Mr Puddephatt advised that a heater is required for the Parish Office and two quotes have been obtained for installing a 3.4 kwatt Dimplex storage heater to be connected into the library heater point. One quotation was for £625 plus VAT and the other was for £564 plus VAT. Mr P Challis proposed that the quotation for £564 be accepted and Prof K Davies seconded this. **The Clerk** to action and to liaise with West Berkshire re entry to The Library.
- 02/197 **To Discuss National Salary Award for Council Clerks:** Mr Puddephatt advised that the 2002 and 2003 salary awards for Clerks had been received. It was decided to pass this to the Finance and General Purposes Committee who will report back at the next meeting.
- 02/198 **To Discuss Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** Mr Puddephatt advised that the vacancy for a Parish Councillor was going to be advertised and if a by election is not called then the vacancy would be filled by co-option. **The Clerk** to action.
- 02/199 **Letter from Chairman of Governors St Mary's School re Change in Status:** Mr Puddephatt read out a letter from Mrs Mayes, Chairman of Governors for Mortimer St Mary's Junior School which says that the School Governors are now ready to move into the next stage of the process to change the status of the school to Church of England Aided. The statutory public notice has been posted and then all the documents will be submitted to the Schools Organisation Committee for West Berkshire for its decision.
- 02/200 **To Discuss Contract for Supply of Services to the Council (Custodian):** Mr Puddephatt advised that Mr Mazillius has informed the Council that he will not be seeking to extend his contract for supply of services beyond 4th April 2003. Mr Puddephatt said he was sorry he was leaving and thanked him for all his hard work. It was decided that the position would be advertised. **The Clerk** to action.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th November 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

List of payments made:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
10 th October 2002	501146	BALC	20.00
10 th October 2002	501147	D G Nickless	20.00
10 th October 2002	501148	J Barnes	43.50
10 th October 2002	501149	Mrs J Kirk	
10 th October 2002	501150	J S Mazillius	
10 th October 2002	501151	Inland Revenue	
10 th October 2002	501152	Ian Philips	478.50
10 th October 2002	501153	Bridgewood Landscape Services	160.00
10 th October 2002	501154	British Telecom	194.12
10 th October 2002	501155	The Post Office	46.00
10 th October 2002	501156	BALC	42.00
10 th October 2002	501157	P Blagden	40.56
10 th October 2002	501158	R Weiss	36.30
10 th October 2002	501159	West Berkshire Council	760.00
10 th October 2002	501160	Spoiled Cheque	
10 th October 2002	501161	R & T Agricultural Ltd	93.59
10 th October 2002	501162	Clembins Skip Hire	135.00

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 22:20