



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 9th March 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), C Lewis, J. Morden, A Thorpe, P Challis, D Ives, A Philips, P Blagden, S Clark, T Shorrock, N Kiley, S Harding, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), and K Lock (District).

Apologies: Councillors: G Puddephatt, G Parry and A Smith.

Declaration of Interest: Councillors: None

06/30 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 9th February 2006 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: None

06/31 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that West Berkshire Council voted through at its budget meeting for 2006-7 a tax rise of 2.9%. The Council tax charges for Band 'D' for Mortimer will be £1,094.15, Parish Council £50.99, Police £132.58 and Fire Service £47.94. The travel tokens are to continue as an alternative to the over 60's bus pass and the value for this area will increase to £65 p.a. Due to a Government refund there will also be an extra £1.2 million funding for road repairs and resurfacing.

06/32 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the on the 17th February and 2nd March 2006 when 17 plans were considered.

05/02901/HOUSE 6 Church Farm Barns. Single storey extension to provide disabled person's bathroom and day space accommodation. No objection.

06/00113/HOUSE 3 Windmill Road. Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. No objection.

06/00179/HOUSE St John's House, Loves Wood. Demolition of conservatory and single storey building to enclose existing swimming pool to be erected.

Object: The size and design is inappropriate for a residential village situation and could set a dangerous precedent. Irrespective of whether or not the proposed building is to cover a swimming pool the size of the footprint is out of all proportion to this and neighbouring houses.

06/00193/EM The Colt House, Sweetzers Piece. Approval of reserved matters to 03/02576/OUT – demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 new dwellings. No objection.

06/00331/HOUSE Oak Tree Cottage, 88 The Avenue. Single storey sun room to replace existing garage and store. No objection.

06/00280/HOUSE 60 Stephens Firs. Conservatory. No objection.

06/00288/FUL Mortimer Surgery, 72 Victoria Road;

a) Removal of existing Section 106 agreement and condition 3 of application 143793.

b) Demolition of existing flat roof; addition to front of building; erection of new single storey extension and internal reorganisation to improve staff facilities and records storage; external reorganisation of car parking.

Object:

1. There has been no material change since 1998 to warrant the removal of the Section 106 agreement and condition 3 of application 143793; it was accepted at that time that the site had been fully developed and no further external additional would be considered.

2. Inadequate parking for staff and visitors causing congestion in Victoria Road and Leighfield.

3. When car park is in use there is not sufficient space for on site turning of delivery vehicles and ambulances.

Building to the pavement boundary of Victoria Road would be an overdevelopment of

- 06/00285/FUL the site and detrimental to the street scene.
Field adjacent to St Mary's Church, The Street. To formalise and extend use of existing field used as church car park and to include joint use by school for school events and for limited use, for half hour beginning and end of school day.
Object:
1. There would dangerous road traffic implications. The sight lines in both directions are limited. Alternative options should be reconsidered.
 2. No proper case can be made for a permanent car park of 62 spaces. Drop off facilities are more appropriate.
 3. A hard surfaced and formal car park for limited use is an inappropriate development of a green field site.
 4. The proposal does not encourage a "Walk to School" ethos. West Berkshire Council is preparing a "Safe Route to School" Scheme with a controlled crossing. The outcome of this should be assessed before considering alternatives. This application will be further considered at the full Parish Council Meeting on the 9th March 2006.
- This application was discussed again at the full council meeting and The Chairman proposed that the full council unconditionally accepts the Planning Committee recommendations. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously agreed.
- 06/00283/HOUSE 12 Orchard Road. Side extension at 1st floor level above existing and alterations to dormers. No objection.
- 06/00408/HOUSE 15 West End Road. Conservatory. No objection.
Recommendations under delegated powers received from West Berkshire Council:
- 05/02359/FULD Land to rear of Serena, Birch Lane. One detached 4 bedroom dwelling and parking bay. Approval.
- 05/02692/FUL Mortimer St Mary's C of E Junior School. Temporary classroom. Approval.
- 05/02728/HOUSE 23A Stephens Close. Erection of double garage. Approval.
- 05/02735/HOUSE 16 The Avenue. Proposed roof amendment, window and door alteration and internal changes and re-location of the oil tank. Approval.
- 05/02752/HOUSE 9 and 11 Victoria Road. Single storey pitched roof rear extension to both properties. Approval.
- 05/02764/HOUSE Garden House, The Street. Two storey extension. Refusal.
Cllr Morden reported that an appeal decision has been received for Mortimer Men's Club, The Street (04/02723/FULMAJ). This application was for the existing building to be converted into 6 flats with a further 6 dwellings to the rear. This was refused by West Berkshire Council and the Inspector has dismissed the appeal. The Parish Council's objections and West Berkshire Council's refusal was based almost entirely on road safety. The Inspector has ignored this aspect and his dismissal is based on inadequate school provision within Mortimer bearing in mind the 120 houses currently being constructed at Mortimer Hill.
- i. Shaping the Planning Policy Consultation:** Cllr Morden reported that nothing in the Local Development Framework for West Berkshire Council affects Mortimer.
- 06/33 **Update on Village Design Statement:** Cllr Shorrock reported that the Village Design Statement is now at the first draft stage and members of the public advised at the public meeting on the 25th February that it is crucial that the whole Parish has the opportunity to contribute to the production of this important planning aid and are now seeking comments and opinions with regards to this outline draft and to please write to the Clerk by Friday 31st March 2006 with any comments. Four members of the committee are attending a workshop sponsored by the CCB and Planning Aid South on 11th March. Following the meeting the draft Village Design Statement document will be referred to West Berkshire Council for comment.
- 06/34 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**
- i. **Update on continuous footpath/pedestrian crossing The Street:** Cllr Shorrock reported that the head of Highways from West Berkshire Council advised at the public meeting on 25th February that improvements will be made to existing footpaths and as it has become impossible for practical and financial reasons to provide a continuous footpath along The Street. It is intended that a pedestrian crossing will now be installed in a location east of Kiln Lane.
 - ii. **Update on Speed Limit Review The Street:** The Chairman advised that the date for West Berkshire Council's Speed Limit Review Meeting is the 17th March 2006 when the

replacement of the 40mph speed limit with a 30mph speed limit is to be considered. As previously agreed Cllr Harding is to address the meeting. Cllr Lock advised the Parish Council that he had received a letter from West Berkshire Council regarding proposed new gateway signs for Mortimer in four new locations. This was discussed and it was agreed to go ahead with the proposals. The Clerk is to write to Cllr Lock accepting this proposal.

- iii. **Update on Car Park West End Road:** The Chairman reported that the Fire Authority had taken down the Parish Council's newly erected car park disclaimer sign and replaced it with one of one of their own. The issue of ownership of the car park is being dealt with by West Berkshire Council and it is hoped to give an up-date at the next meeting.

06/35 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

Report: No report.

- i. **Monthly Area Play Area Inspection Report:** In the absence of Cllr Smith the Clerk read out a report which said that no damage has been caused in the last month and the equipment is in good condition. The motorcycle rocker has been twisted out of alignment and needs to be re-aligned. The remaining three cradle swings need to have replacement chains to match the one trial one. The Clerk to action.
- ii. **Update on Pavilion Project:** In the absence of Cllr Smith the Clerk read out a report which said that the presentation to SEEDA by Cllrs Davies and Smith had been positively received. SEEDA have come back with a few final minor questions to clarify. Once this has been completed it is understood that SEEDA will make the £40,000 grant available in two tranches of £20,000 one to be spent during 2006/07 and the second during 2007/8. Cllr Smith is to meet with CCB and WBC (who have assisted and supported the bid) to draft the answers to SEEDA. The questions raised are minor and are dealt with in the Pavilion Business plan so that there should not be a problem. The working party is also pursuing grants through the Land Fill Tax Scheme, Greenham Common Trust, Vodaphone Trust, The English Cricket Board and The Lottery. These grants are at different stages of the process.
- iii. **Fairground Trust:** This item was moved to Part 2/confidential section of the Parish Council Meeting.

06/36 **Cemetery:** Cllr Morden proposed that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council by virtue of its powers under the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 adopt the Regulations (dated 1st April 2006), already circulated to all members. This was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and unanimously accepted. The Clerk to action. Cllr Clark reported that the new seat and deer fence had been installed but the extension to the pipe was on hold until the weather improves.

06/37 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Computer Course is under way and that it is having a three lesson extension. The next edition of the Parish Council Newsletter is scheduled for distribution on the 6th/7th May with the last date for entries scheduled for 21st April.

06/38 **Mortimer Link (mini bus to Station) Review:** The Clerk reported that the final grant payment from SEEDA had been received. Following a letter sent to West Berkshire Council of 12th September West Berkshire Council have since confirmed that they will part fund the Mortimer Link. The costs for operating the mini bus have risen so additional funding is still being sought to cover shortfall.

06/39 **Update on Public Meeting held on Saturday 25th February 2006:** The Chairman reported that approx 120 people attended. Insp. Cartwright addressed the meeting and made the following points. Extra funding has been obtained which can be used in Mortimer. It will make it possible to bring the Police house back into use at least part time, volunteers are to be invited to lend their services. A traffic warden is being engaged to deal with infringements. Everyone in Mortimer is urged to give information about vandals and other trouble makers especially identification of individuals to be forwarded to Sgt Barry Walker and Const. Gary Seymour. All those present were invited to vote (as in the May public meeting) on major policing concerns, and the two top priority concerns will be confirmed by the Police. Concerns voted on were speeding and parking on double yellow lines, anti-social behaviour, car racing at night, dumping rubbish, poaching, vandalism, caravan site abuse and intimidations and the school run.

06/40 **Renewal of Lease for Parish Office:** The Chairman reported that West Berkshire Council have offered to renew the lease for five years for the Parish Office at the Library. The existing lease is due to expire on 23rd March. WBC has sent a draft lease and although no rent will be payable the Parish

Council will have to pay a fair proportion of all bills (10% based on floor space). Cllr Clark proposed that the Parish Council take up the new lease and Cllr Thorpe seconded this. The Clerk to action.

06/41 **Finance:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies proposed that they be paid; Cllr Shorrocks seconded this. Carried unanimously.

- i. Clerk's Salary
- ii. Clerk's/Custodian's Tax and NI
- iii. Clerk's Expenses
- iv. Custodian's Salary
- v. RBWM (Pension)
- vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £705.00 inc VAT.
- vii. Forbuoys (newspapers) £3.80
- viii. Caudwell Communications Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £24.38 inc VAT.
- ix. Thames Water (water trough Fairground) £5.55
- x. West Berkshire Council (annual contract for emptying dog bins) £418.34 inc VAT.
- xi. Butlers Lands (installation of deer fence Cemetery) £211.50 inc VAT
- xii. Butlers Lands (repairs to tennis court fence £117.50 inc VAT
- xiii. Butlers Lands (install new bench Cemetery) £171.55 inc VAT.
- xiv. Butlers Lands (cuttings disposal Fairground) £88.12 inc VAT.
- xv. Butlers Lands (cut gorse etc by boundary wall with Badgers Croft) £141.00 inc VAT
- xvi. Staples (stationery) £75.55 inc VAT
- xvii. Dads Shop Ltd £62.37 inc VAT
- xviii. Viking Direct Ltd (stationery) £60.13 inc VAT
- xix. The Post Office (stamps) £51.00.

06/42 **Correspondence:**

1. Annual District Conference at WBC on 28th March 2006. Cllrs Davies, Philips and Ives to attend.
2. Details of the Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition.
3. A number of circulars and newsletters.

06/43 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:** The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 5th April at 7:30pm St John's Hall Mortimer to include presentation of Stratfield Mortimer Community Awards.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th April 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:20p.m.