



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting

held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: T Shorrocks (Chairman), R Barker, P Blagden, P Challis, S Clark, A Colaço K Davies, D Ives, N Kiley, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, A Thorpe and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Councillor: A Smith

**Declaration of Interest:** None

10/34 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:**

**10/16:** The Clerk reported that Mr Nick Carter, Chief Executive WBC had replied saying that a meeting is to be arranged with Property and Library Services.

**10/23:** The Clerk reported that the £5,700 S106 monies had now been 'put back in the pot' for use by SMPC.

**09/180(ii):** The Clerk reported that as no response had been received from the Cricket Club to the Parish Council's letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> January a gentle reminder was sent on the 5<sup>th</sup> March to the Cricket Club Chairman regarding the signing of the new Agreement for use of the Fairground. The Members then agreed that if the Parish Council does not receive a reply within 2 weeks the Clerk be authorised to send an escalation letter asking the Cricket Club whether they wish to use the cricket pitch in 2010.

**09/168 (iii):** Electricity supply to the Fairground. This is still in hand.

10/35 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee met once in the last month on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010:

10/00040/HOUSE Oakfield Cottage, The Street. Two storey rear extension. No objection.

10/00107/HOUSE 31 St Mary's Road. Single storey side extension to kitchen, first floor side extension. New garage with room above. No objection.

10/00136/HOUSE 26 Leighfield. First floor extension above existing rear extension and ground floor porch extension. No objection

No decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council this month but an Appeal decision has been received from the Planning Inspectorate.

09/00364/FULD Erection of new detached property on land adjacent to 37 Stephens Close. The appeal has been allowed but the appeal for costs has been dismissed.

**West Berkshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy:** The Core Strategy has now been published and comments are to be returned to WBC no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Mortimer falls within 'The East Kennet Valley' and together with Burghfield is identified as a rural service centre and between them will be the focus for development in this area. Location and detail of this will be set out in the 'site allocations' and Delivery Development Plan Document, the Parish Council do not therefore know 'how many or where?' But are expected to make meaningful comment. The saving grace is that the Development Plan Document in a statutory document which is required to undergo public testing (inquiry or examination before an independent inspector or panel). Despite WBC refusing permission to improve parking and access to Mortimer Railway Station the Core Strategy states: 'Improvements to the accessibility of Mortimer Railway Station will be sought.' It was unanimously agreed that because of the deadline date of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010 for responses Cllr Morden (in conjunction with the Clerk) would formally respond to the consultation on behalf of SMPC.

**Affordable Housing:** Cllr Morden reported that the Rural Housing Enabler for Berkshire has written with an update on a number of schemes currently in hand, mainly in West Berkshire. Part

- of the hand out states ‘small developments to provide housing to people with local connections to a village and reserved in perpetuity for local people.’ Cllr Morden advised that the Housing Enabler, Arlene Kersley, has offered to speak to the Parish Council and this was agreed. Clerk to action.
- 10/36 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Report:** Cllr Ives reported that there has not been a committee meeting. The work on raising the pavements etc outside the dentists and the Bank has now been completed. West Berkshire Council has been asked to look into whether an additional bollard could be added outside the Bank. The pot holes have been roughly patched and Councillors were asked to feedback whether these works have been successful.
- 10/37 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee has not met and the planting of the hedge has now been carried out.
- i. Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:* No report.
- 10/38 **Cemetery:** Cllr Smith reported that the Committee has not met but the tree work has now been carried out.
- 10/39 **Communication Committee Report:** Cllr Morsley reported that the March issue of the SMPC newsletter was produced in A5 format as agreed at the last council meeting. The whole origination, editing and production process went very smoothly with one exception. The SMPC Newsletter was delivered to all households in the Parish over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March. The SMPC lion logo only exists in a very low resolution format that is unsuitable for enlargement to provide the front cover main graphic. The recommendation is to have a new, larger graphic drawn professionally which could potentially include something more than the lion. A solution is required by early June 2010 before the next issue of the newsletter. It was agreed to continue to produce the newsletter in A5 format. Cllr Morsley proposed that the Clerk obtain quotes for professionally drawn graphics for the next meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Blagden and unanimously agreed. Clerk to action.
- 10/40 **Update on the Playbuilder Funding Application:** Cllr Morsley reported that further to Minute No 10/22 an expression of interest application had been submitted to West Berkshire Council. 19 applications were submitted and 11 were successful and WBC has written advising that SMPC’s bid was successful. West Berkshire Council will support a project of £50,000 subject to a number of points. These include:
1. Clear details of the proposed play facility and evidence of having considered 3 quotations.
  2. Details of consultation with local residents, children and young people.
  3. Confirmation that the work will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
- Cllr Morsley advised that the process is fixed with a timetable and as the project has to be in commission by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, by the end of June 2010 SMPC will need to have obtained 3 quotations and carried out the consultation. Some areas of the consultation have already been covered in the Parish Plan but it was agreed to gather further evidence of public consultation by having a display showing the proposals at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> April in St John’s Hall. As further evidence of youth consultation the young people attending the Youth Club and St Mary’s School would be asked for their comments. Other similar parishes have added S106 funding to their Playbuilder project fund and Cllr Morsley suggested that SMPC consider adding in some of their S106 money that is earmarked for this purpose to the project. It was agreed that this will be considered at the same time the quotations are considered. In order to be able to continue the process Cllr Shorrocks proposed that members of the Fairground Committee in conjunction with the Clerk continue to put together a number of proposals for consideration at the May Parish Council Meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously agreed.
- 10/41 **Update on the Community Plan Fund Grant Application:** Further to Minute Number 10/24 Cllr Morsley advised that she had spoken to Mrs J Naylor at West Berkshire Council who advised her that it was unlikely that any fund money would be available if the application was submitted after the March Parish Council Meeting. After consultation with the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman it was understood that because of the 15% match funding the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) could not apply on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Morsley advised that she, as the Chairman of MVP, took a decision to independently apply to WBC on behalf of MVP for a bid amounting to £1,913 for MVP items. Following a representation from the SMPC Chairman it emerged that approximately £1,593 of funding would still be available for the Parish Council to

- subsequently submit a bid. Cllr Barker then gave various options and combinations of options for an inclusive play (for all children to include disabled) piece of equipment and a bicycle rack and these were discussed. It was agreed to apply for a grant for a laminate musical orb (set on a traditional spring) and a galvanised powder coated bicycle rest at a total cost of approximately £1,915 (including the Parish Council's match funding contribution of approximately 15%). Cllr Lock proposed the above and it was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and carried by 13 votes for and 1 abstention. The Clerk to complete and submit the West Berkshire Community Plan Fund Grant Application (2009/2010).
- 10/42 **Report on joint meeting with TVP re visibility of PCSO:** Cllr Shorrock reported that he, Cllrs Clark, Morsley, Ives and the Clerk attended along with representatives from Burghfield and Sulhamstead Parish Councils a joint meeting with Thames Valley Police representatives on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Representatives from TVP were C.I. Judith Johnson, Insp. Andy Ward, Sgt Barry Walker and PCSO Steve Innes. Cllr Shorrock reported that a united robust presentation was made by all three parishes regarding the progress of the subsidised PCSO post from the original conception to the present day and that the police uniform presence in the parishes had been diluted since an apparent change of Police Policy at the beginning of 2009. CI Judith Johnson, the Deputy LPA Commander for West Berkshire responded by giving a brief resume of the police establishment in the Newbury Division. It was expected that the PCSO's would be 'out and about' but a Home Office directive, Crime Attention, required all crime scenes to be followed up and Thames Valley Police policy had allocated that duty to the PCSO's within their area. During the last quarter of 2009 witnessed 90 house visits by PCSO Steve Innes and CI Johnson contended that there was still a police presence on the streets whilst these visits were undertaken. This view was not supported by the parish representatives who contended that this activity was not in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Contract Terms. CI Johnson agreed to review and monitor the situation and it was agreed that a follow up meeting would be convened during June when the objectives could be measured.
- 10/43 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that the monthly PCSO meeting took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and subsequent to the joint meeting above some new direction/changes had been seen. PCSO Steve Innes confirmed that he will not now be carrying out all the crime reports and now the fully funded PCSO (Robert Hubbard Clark) has now completed his training they can now operate independently. During February Mortimer has had slightly less of the PCSO's time but had more in the previous two months. Crime is down at the current time.
- 10/44 **Report from Burghfield and Mortimer NAG Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010:** Cllr Ives attended this meeting and reported that the only relevant part for Mortimer was regarding obtaining the SID Machines from WBC so they could be operational.
- 10/45 **Report from Willink JMC Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010:** Cllr Morden reported that he attended this meeting. This should have been the AGM but was not quorate and therefore became an informal meeting. The AGM will now be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 which will be the first meeting under the revised title of 'Joint Advisory Committee'. The informal meeting considered and approved the modest increases in charges averaging about 1.5%. These are now standard throughout al West Berkshire Leisure facilities.
- 10/46 **Update on the adoption of services etc. on the Mortimer Hill Estate:** District Councillor Mollie Lock reported that there had been a lot of delay on the part of Taylor Wimpey in starting any of the work associated with highways, drainage and landscaping on Mortimer Hill and eventually a public meeting was held in February 2009 at which certain promises were made, but the timetable envisaged had slipped badly. Drains and Sewers: The contractor had various problems mostly off site but the drains and sewers were finished in August 2009 and adopted by Thames Water on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Highways: Taylor Wimpey carried out various remedial works last Autumn but WBC refused to accept them so delaying the adoption of the roads, she understands that a new contractor has been appointed and materials needed are on order. Taylor Wimpey have been given full costings and the work is scheduled to begin after Easter. WBC has also asked Taylor Wimpey to sweep the roads. Landscaping: The landscaping is subject to a 5 year agreement with the Council, a list of planting has been agreed and the landscaping contractor has started work. Cllr

Lock stated that WBC cannot 'make' Taylor Wimpey do the work. Cllr Philips stated that the estate was finished 3 years ago and the residents are concerned about the situation as it took 14 months to adopt the roads and the play area needs to be adopted by West Berkshire Council as it does not appear to be receiving maintenance or safety checks. It was suggested that maybe the threat of legal action by WBC against Taylor Wimpey might be the way forward. It was agreed that the Parish Council should try and help the residents of Mortimer Hill and to have an Agenda item next month to review the situation.

10/47

**Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Mollie Lock reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met with WBC officers regarding the effectiveness of the Winter Service Plan. Various suggestions were considered including that WBC hold higher stocks of salt, get help from local farmers with snowploughs and that salt bins previously removed be reinstated. There will be a Council Tax increase of 1.9% (approximately £24 on a Band 'D' property). Savings of £3.3m are planned including £940,000 on elderly persons services which is hoped to be achieved by helping people to stay at home with more support rather than moving them to nursing homes. The Schools Capital Budget includes building a new school and community library at Willink School. The budget set for pot hole repairs has been increased to £655,000. WBC's Core Development Strategy is out for public consultation and Cllr Lock confirmed that the proposed developments at Pincet's Hill had been refused and Prudential have now abandoned their plan for 7,500 houses on Kennet Meadows. Locally Padworth Road will be closed for repairs between the Soke Road roundabout and Camp Road for 3 weeks from the 15<sup>th</sup> March. It is understood that repairs will be carried out on Stephens Road and Victoria Road. Due to the retirement of Mr Green, next Christmas the Governors of St Mary's School are interviewing for a new Head Teacher to commence in January 2011.

Cllr Lock confirmed that she has requested Members Capital Bids (agenda item No 10/25 refers) for the following:

- Work at the entrance by the lych-gate at St Mary's Church and on the triangle at entrance to this road (byway 7).
- Secondly a joint bid has been submitted with Cllr Royce Longton of Burghfield Ward for money towards work on the Scout Hut near the Rising Sun Pub in Burghfield Common.

These bids are to be considered at a Grants Committee Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

10/48

**Finance - To agree accounts for payment for March:**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Morsley and unanimously carried.

- i. Clerk's Salary
- ii. H M Revenue & Customs (Tax and NI)
- iii. Clerk's Expenses
- iv. Custodian's Salary
- v. RBWM BACS Payment (Pension)
- vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £900 inc VAT
- vii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) Direct Debit £25.41 inc VAT
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £1,000.15 (PC World (new computer, printer etc £900) Post Office (stamps) £69.00, Amazon (book) £21.70, Martin McColl £7.45, £2.00 Service Charge
- ix. Mr T Shorrocks £302.93 (reimbursement for part payment of SMPC computer equipment)
- x. Metrosigns (new Parish Council notice board at Post Office) £842.48 inc VAT and carriage.
- xi. T B Estate Services Ltd (cut hedge and ditch Hammonds Heath/Windmill Road and area in front of Badgers Croft on Fairground) £211.50 inc VAT
- xii. Mortimer Methodist Church (annual hall rental) £216.00
- xiii. APD Advance Printing (Newsletter) £410.00

- xiv. T B Estate Services Ltd (extension of post and rail fence line Hammonds Heath gates) £131.60 inc VAT
- xv. Viking Direct Ltd (stationery) £91.45 inc VAT
- xvi. SLCC (Cilca registration) £150.00
- xvii. BALC (health and safety training and risk assessment x 3) £87.50
- xviii. T B Estate Services Ltd (tree work at Cemetery) £317.25 inc VAT
- xix. Thames Water (water bill for trough on Fairground) £11.15 Direct Debit
- xx. SLCC (CPD training course) £111.62 inc VAT
- xxi. SLCC (Allotments training course x 2) £223.25 inc VAT
- xxii. T B Estate Services Ltd (installation of kissing gates on footpath No 15) £470 inc VAT
- xxiii. T B Estate Services Ltd (installation of kissing gate on footpath No 15) £554.65 inc VAT
- xxiv. T B Estate Services Ltd (purchase and installation of a tree for the Cemetery) £228.08 inc VAT
- xxv. Glasdon UK Ltd (replacement bin liner for litter bin) £42.67 inc VAT and delivery
- xxvi. Andrew Hazelden (community award plate) S137 £180.00
- xxvii. Dads Shop Ltd £20.85 inc VAT

10/49

**Correspondence:** None

10/50

**Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- Cllr Thorpe advised that the extension to the Budgens store has been delayed because of bats.
- Cllr Blagden queried the restoration agreement for the Welshman's Road gravel extraction site. Cllr Morden confirmed that the site is at present still operational and was subject to a legally drawn up restoration agreement and contract with Basingstoke and Dean District Council (as the site is in Hampshire). It is his understanding that until such time as the restoration of the site is finished and signed off it will not be handed over for public use.
- Cllr Barker advised that the MVP are organising a litter picking day, picnic and family walk on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:31 p.m.