



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting

held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

**Apologies:** Councillor: K Davies

**Declaration of Interest:** Cllr A Smith (10/52 (ii))

10/51 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

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

**Matters Arising:**

**10/41:** The Clerk reported that the Council had been successful with the Parish Plan Grant Application and had received a cheque for £1,593.15 and the items have been ordered.

**10/35:** Cllr Morden confirmed that the Core Strategy Letter to WBC had been sent and this was then read out. It was agreed to put a copy of this on the notice boards and the web site and a vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Morden for putting together an excellent letter.

10/52 **Report from Finance & General Purposes (F & GP) Committee Meeting of non agenda items:**

The Chairman reported that the Finance and General Purposes Meeting met on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and the main items discussed that are not reported below were:

- A meeting has been arranged with Mr David Appleton, Head of Cultural Services in June to discuss the situation regarding the Parish Office.
- To revise the Grants Policy for grant applications for the financial year 2011/2012 was held over.
- To consider changing the SMPC Standing Orders in the light of the new Model Standing Orders: Draft Standing Orders are to be drawn up for consideration by the F & GP in the autumn.
- To consider the number of members on Committees: The concept of restricting members on Committees was discussed and it was decided that it would be difficult to administer so it was therefore agreed to leave it as is.
- To consider whether SMPC should have a Core Values Policy: It was agreed to consider this after the new Standing Orders have been adopted.
- The Committee also considered and up-dated their Parish Plan Refresh Actions.
- The RFO (Clerk) advised that the end of year internal audit is to be carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. The Council's External Auditors, Mazars, have advised that the new statutory deadline by which the Council must approve the Annual Return is the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (which for SMPC will be at the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010). The Annual Return must be submitted to the Auditors by the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

**i) To adopt Tennis Club Agreement:** The draft document was previously circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. Cllr Shorrocks moved that further to the F & GP recommendation that SMPC adopt the Tennis Club Agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Ives and carried by 11 votes in favour with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Smith and Challis asked for a recorded vote).

**ii) To agree response to the Cricket Club's letter:** Having already declared an interest Cllr Smith spoke on behalf of the Cricket Club. Cllr Smith decided to stay in the room. The Chairman gave an overview of the F & GP recommendation where the response from Mr Adrian Smith, Secretary, Mortimer Cricket Club dated the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010 had been discussed. The recommendation of the Committee was to instruct the Clerk to respond to the Cricket Club (by

recorded delivery) asking for a response by the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 along with the requested documents. A further letter was subsequently received from Mr Smith of the Cricket Club dated the 31<sup>st</sup> March stating their reasons for not agreeing to the proposed Agreement sent to them on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The Chairman read then read this letter out.

*8:05 pm Cllr Smith left the room.*

The whole issue was then debated. Cllr Blagden proposed that the Council's Fairground, Hiring and Charging Policy and the Cricket Club Agreement remain and the Council require the Cricket Club furnish the Council with the payment, insurance details and signed Agreement by the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in order that they can continue to use the facility. The Council, will once this has all been received be prepared to meet with them to discuss any minor changes that may be required for the next year (2011). This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and carried by 8 votes in favour with 5 abstentions.

*8:30 pm Cllr Smith returned.*

**iii) To send letter to Mrs Hill re continued commercial use of the Fairground:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that following the Council's letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 Mrs Hill had that day sent in all the requested paperwork and cheque to be able to continue to use the Fairground for commercial use.

**iv) To agree that up to £40,000 of S106 Open Spaces Money (ring fenced) be added to £50,000 Play Builder Grant Monies towards the proposed provision of a new Playground:** Cllr Morsley gave an overview of the S106 Agreements available for Open Spaces (Fairground). Some of the agreements are restricted to play areas and equipment. Cllr Morsley moved that the Council agree to the F & GP recommendation that up to £40,000 of these monies be available to be added to the £50,000 Play Builder grant amount for the new playground on the Fairground. This was seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously carried.

10/53 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee met once in the last month on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010:

10/00084/HOUSE 16 Stephens Road. Extent first floor front dormer. No objection.

10/00200/HOUSE Hedgerows, The Street. Change of use from turning circle to garden. No objection.

10/00271/HOUSE 10 Asparagus Close. Two storey side extension to provide enlarged kitchen, reposition garage and enlarge bedroom over; single storey rear extension for utility room. No objection in principle. Some concern was expressed that this may impose on the street scene of this recently completed carefully designed estate which may create a precedent.

10/00311/HOUSE Knotmead Lodge, Brewery Common. Single storey rear extension. No objection.

10/00343/HOUSE 89 Victoria Road. Two storey rear extension. No objection.

The following decisions have been received from the Officers at West Berkshire Council under delegated powers.

10/00040/HOUSE Oakfield Cottage, The Street. Two storey rear extension. Approved.

10/00136/HOUSE 26 Leighfield. First Floor extension above existing rear extension, ground floor porch extension. Approved.

Certificate of 73 The Avenue.

Lawfulness Covered walkway.

09/02588

The application 10/00284 24 Briar Lea Road for a conservatory has been withdrawn.

Developer S106 contributions have been revised with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. These will now range as follows:

1 to 9 dwelling development:

1 bed unit £1,910 per unit

Up to 5 bed units £31,069 per unit

10 to 14 dwelling development:

1 bed unit £1,571 per unit

Up to 5 bed unit £28,014 per unit

Over 15 dwelling development:

Subject to negotiation but will broadly follow the above.

These contributions spread across Transport, Education, Open Spaces, Libraries, Health Care and

Adult Social Care with the bulk going to Education. The contributions are to be used within the Parish with the exception of Education where some of the monies will go the senior school (in SMPC's case The Willink School).

- 10/54 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee has not met since the last Parish Council Meeting. The kissing gates on footpath numbers 15 and 16 have now been installed although there is a fault with the hoops on one of the gates so a replacement has been ordered. West Berkshire Council have been asked to advise whether the two bollards outside the Bank are sufficient. The Clerk is to chase up the work to be carried out at the war memorial junction.
- 10/55 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Report:** Cllr Blagden reported the aerating has been completed and the spraying will be completed during May. Quotes are being obtained for waste removal.
- i. Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:* Cllr Smith reported that the play area painting has been carried out and some small holes in the grass filled in. The RoSPA annual inspection is to be carried out during April.
- 10/56 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that the work on the lychgate will be carried out shortly as the District Councillor's bid was successful.
- 10/57 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that the PCSO could not attend the monthly meeting and that Sgt Barry Walker attended instead. Sgt Walker advised that the PCSO had been used for work in Newbury and after some discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to express the Parish Council's concern. This decision was subsequently reversed and it was considered that it was agreed the matter would be raised jointly with the other parishes at the next monthly PCSO meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- 10/58 **Report from AWE Local Liaison Committee:** Cllr Ives advised that he attended the LLC Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The main points covered were:  
An overview of the 2009 restructuring programme. The main aim of the programme is to establish clear accountabilities and to reduce costs, while making absolutely certain that there is no degradation in AWE's ability to ensure enduring safety and security in delivering support to the UK nuclear deterrent. On the 10<sup>th</sup> February West Berkshire Council gave project Pegasus the go ahead. Pegasus will provide long-term capability for the storage and safe handling of enriched uranium replacing the buildings that are there now. The old buildings will eventually be decommissioned and demolished. Perfect Days. This is a measure to define AWE's performance relating to 'safe, secure and clean'. On a Perfect day, nobody is hurt, no community complaints are received and no loss of process safety controls. In January there were 21 Perfect days and in February 12. The running tally of consecutive perfect days was 8. The longest run of consecutive Perfect days since 1<sup>st</sup> October was 8. A sample of surface water discharges was taken by the Environment Agency which failed the discharge consent for pH and a warning letter was received. Aldermaston Sitex (a major emergency exercise) is due to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The full report will be held in the Parish Council Office.
- 10/59 **Further review of the adoption of services etc. on the Mortimer Hill Estate:** District Councillor Mollie Lock advised that there is no change to the remedial work since last month but that approx. 80% of the landscaping has been done. To be an Agenda item for next month.
- 10/60 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Mollie Lock reported that the progress on filling the potholes following the bad weather has been painfully slow although the Government has now given the Council an extra £400,000 to help cover the cost. West Berkshire Council has now agreed that surfacing work will be carried out this year (10/11) on Victoria Road, Stephens Firs and Stephens Road. Part of the Street and Station Road (below Mortimer Lane) is scheduled for 2011/2012. The Members Capital Bids for £700 for work at the entrance at the lych gate at St Mary's Church, £2,640 for work on the triangle at the entrance to byway 7 (road to St Mary's Church) and jointly with Royce Longton for £20,000 towards the Scout Hut near the Rising Sun were all successful. Cllr Lock confirmed that she continues to press WBC to clear up number 14 Longmoor Lane but they say that there is no longer a health hazard and it would cost £20,000. They are taking out another Section 215 Order against the owner which would be followed by a

- prosecution if he ignores it.
- 10/61 **Chairman's Statement:** The Chairman reminded members about the importance of complying with Standing Order No 27.1 during the forthcoming election of Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman. He also made a statement and expressed his opinion about other matters.
- 10/62 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for April:**  
In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all items for payment were considered together. Cllr Thorpe proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Lock 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. BALC (Standing Orders) £25.00 (09/10)
  - viii. Stratfield Mortimer CiC Community Centre (MVP lunch Club x 2) £35.00 (09/10)
  - ix. Stratfield Mortimer CiC Community Centre (MVP Family Walk 1.1.10) £17.50 (09/10)
  - x. Thames Valley Police Authority (part funded PCSO quarter 4) £1,879.25 (09/10)
  - xi. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) Direct Debit £27.29 inc VAT (09/10)
  - xii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £2.00 Service Charge
  - xiii. British Telecom (Direct Debit) £63.13 inc VAT
  - xiv. Engravaservice (Notice Board Sign, Signs for Fairground Fence, Sign for Tennis Courts and 2 new Replacement Locks) £162.15 inc VAT
  - xv. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying invoice) £42.30 inc VAT
  - xvi. BALC (annual subscription) £778.62
  - xvii. West Berkshire Council (Annual Contribution to Willink Leisure Centre) £8,701.20
  - xviii. T B Estate Services Ltd (repair to vandalised kissing gate on Fairground) £76.38 inc VAT
  - xix. Dads Shop Ltd £102.23 inc VAT
- 10/63 **Correspondence:**
- An email from Mr Mark Hillier advising that the Mortimer Village Partnership Green Group are planning to provide a community garden behind the Horse and Groom. The Group have also applied for external funding to help set up the garden. This is independent to any statutory allotment provision the Parish Council may provide.
  - The Clerk advised that an email had been received from West Berkshire Council asking for a Parish Plan progress update report on activity by 30<sup>th</sup> April covering Parish Plan Status; Achievements; Matters Arising for WBC and Funding Awarded.
  - An Email from Deborah Wyatt, Playbuilder Project Manager regarding a half day workshop for all Year 2 recipients of the WBC Playbuilder Grants. This is to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 9am to 1pm. It was agreed that Cllrs Barker, Lock and Morsley will attend.
- 10/64 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**
- Cllr Challis reported that the trees on the footpath behind Woodside Close need to be checked.
  - Cllr Morden reported that the advertising boards for Bewley Homes on the fence outside No 33-37 West End Road (building plot) breach the adverting regulations and that he has reported this to the Enforcement Officer.
- Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7:30 p.m. The Meeting closed at 9:31 p.m.