



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Finance & General Purposes Meeting

Meeting held on Wednesday 7 January 2015 in The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer at 7:30pm

**Present:**

Councillors: M Dennett, (Chairman), D Ives, P Wingfield and P Blagden, J Earl and T Audsley.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public/Press: None

01. **To receive any apologies:** N Kiley
02. **To receive any Declarations of Interest and to consider any Applications for the Grant of a Dispensation from Committee Members and whether the Finance & General Purposes (F & GP) Committee grants itself a Dispensation in accordance with the Localism Act 2011:** The Clerk advised that all members present had applied for a Grant of Dispensation. Cllr Dennett proposed that the Committee grant itself a Dispensation. This was seconded by Cllr Audsley and carried unanimously.
03. **To receive a financial update from the RFO on the current position (as at 30.11.2014) for 2014/2015 and to consider any future expenditure on budgeted and non-budgeted items:** The previously circulated figures were considered and discussed. In addition to the items already identified the Committee agreed that monies from the 2014/2015 financial year could be used to:
  - a) repair or replace the broken storage radiator in the Parish Council Office
  - b) replace at least two of the public notice boards in the Parish.
  - c) replace the Parish Council Office telephone and printer/scanner.
  - d) A Parish Council Election Leaflet.
  - e) Extend hard surface around the car park barrier nearest to the Community Building.
04. **To receive update on the renewal of the SMPC Fairground Premises Licence for 2015/2016:** Cllr Audsley reported that further to Minute No. 8 of the F& GP Meeting held on the 03.11.2014 she had made enquiries with West Berkshire Council (WBC) regarding the licensing requirements for other (non-council) organisations hiring the Fairground for events. WBC have advised that the success of events on the Fairground does not depend on SMPC having a Premises Licence as groups can apply to WBC for a Premises Licence themselves. The process of applying for a Premises Licence takes approximately 2 to 3 months which can then be renewed annually.  
Cllrs Earl and Blagden declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and did not vote.  
Cllr Audsley proposed that a recommendation be made to the full council that it does not renew its Premises Licence in 2015. This was seconded by Cllr Dennett and carried by 3 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.
05. **To review the Fairground Hire Fees for 2015:**  
The Fairground Hire Fees were discussed and due to the refurbished tennis courts Cllr Dennett proposed that the tennis court fees increase by 5% (rounded) for both the Tennis Club and Business Use (with no change to the ad hoc hourly court fees). The remainder of the Fairground Hire Fees to remain the same.

Cllrs Earl and Blagden declared a DPI and did not vote.

This was seconded by Cllr Wingfield with 2 votes in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. The Chairman therefore used his casting vote in favour and the motion was carried. The revised fees are as follows:

1. Daily Hire Charges for businesses/profit making organisations, e.g. Fair/Circus etc remain at £100 per day.
2. Daily (event) Hire Charge for non-profit organisations to remain at £10 per day. With an addition of £25 for electricity usage (if used).
3. Annual Hire Charge for Business Use to increase from £325 to £340 per annum.
4. Annual Hire Charge Tennis Club increase from £850 to £890 per annum (including matches)
5. Annual Hire Charge Cricket Club to remain at £10 per annum
6. Ad hoc public tennis Adults from to remain at £5 per court per hour
7. Ad hoc public tennis Juniors from to remain at £2 per court per hour

**06. To review the Cemetery Fees for 2015:**

The Cemetery fees were discussed and Cllr Wingfield proposed that they be raised by 2% across the board (rounded), this was seconded by Cllr Dennett and was carried unanimously.

The revised fees are as follows:

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Non-Resident</b>
<b>Burial Plot</b>		
Interment of adults	640	1,875
Interment of children (up to age 16)	320	920
<b>Cremation Plot</b>		
Interment of cremated remains	485	1,455
<b>Memorial Permit</b>		
Permission to erect a memorial (full burial plot)	195	560
Permission to erect a cremation tablet	130	355
To add 2 <sup>nd</sup> inscription/replace memorial	50	155

**07. To consider whether to include any Committee or Councillor items for the 2015/2016 budget:** The Committee discussed amending and adding several projects to the draft Precept Budget and these were:

Fairground:

- a) To amend the item to re-surface the Fairground Car Park to refurbish it for the sum of £5,000.
- b) New Information Boards on the Fairground £2,000
- c) Work on the Pond £1,000
- d) Investigation of assistance in providing additional recreational facilities £1,000
- e) Provision of a Christmas Tree, new lights and a surrounding fence £1,000.

Roads, Footpaths & Commons:

- f) Bollards outside Café £3,000
- g) Replacement Public Notice Boards x 4 £4,000
- h) £2,000 for a Country Footpaths package to include a local information map/booklet, signposting of the rights of way, information boards and an investigation of new permitted paths.
- i) Include registration of commons £700.
- j) Bulbs for the village £500.

Administration:

- k) Increase the training budget to £2,000 due to the Parish Council Elections in 2015.
- l) Office expenses Budget amended to £4,575.
- m) Software/website design £2,000.
- n) The War Memorial WWI project £500 to pay for admin assistance.

08. **To discuss and agree a draft Precept Budget for 2015/2016 in order that a recommendation can be made to the full Council:** The draft budget sheet was carefully discussed, reviewed and updated taking all the above into consideration. Cllr Earl therefore proposed that the F & GP recommend to the full Council Meeting on the 15 January 2015 (and in order to meet the WBC deadline for Precept requests of 31.1.2015) a Precept budget requirement for the f/y 2015/2016 of £112,840, this was seconded by Cllr Dennett and carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 10:06 pm