



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 @ 7.00 pm

at The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. D. Ives (Chairman), Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. K. Johnson, Cllr. D. Kilshaw, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. P. Wingfield.

Clerk: Lynn Hannawin – Deputy Parish Clerk

Public/Press: No members of the public and no members of the press present.

18/28	Public Questions: None	
18/29	To receive any apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Co-opted Member Mr. G. Bridgman.	
18/30	To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations: Cllr. M. Dennett declared a personal interest in Item 18/36 item 3) as he lives next door and is himself affected by the issue to be discussed. It was decided that he would not take part in the discussion on this item.	
18/31	To consider any outstanding matters from the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee minutes dated 3rd October 2017 not dealt with below: None.	
18/32	To receive update of the Footpath Project: This is the proposed footpath between Mortimer and Burghfield Common. Cllr. D. Kilshaw reported that £5000 has been agreed by Full Council to investigate the actual costs involved of providing the footpath. Questions have been raised as to whether the current preferred route is the best route. It has been confirmed that West Berkshire Council and Englefield Estate own two sections of the route, both of which are crucial to the feasibility of the project. Currently, it is not known where the funding for the footpath will come from, but several options will be explored. Once the full cost of the project is known, it will then be a case of deciding the next step.	
18/33	To receive an update on the Commons Registration Project and decide on action to be taken: In order to move it forward, this project requires plans of the commons. It was AGREED for Cllr. C. Lewis to contact Michelle Sherman, at West Berkshire Council, to obtain copies of plans of the commons, up to the value of £200.00.	CL
18/34	To receive an update on the Footpath Registration Project and decide on action to be taken: Three potential footpaths have been identified as potentially needing to be registered under this scheme. The first step is to establish proof of usage by at least twelve people over a considerable period. It was AGREED for Cllr. C. Lewis to draft an email for the Deputy Clerk to send to West Berkshire Council to obtain the necessary forms to establish use over a period of time.	CL/Deputy Clerk

18/35	<p>To consider and decide on action regarding overgrown footpaths:</p> <p>In addition to the overgrown APMF footpath and the footpath leading from Windmill Road to The Bevers, Cllr. D. Ives raised the issue of the poor sight lines for pedestrians crossing the Hammonds Heath Road. The wooden gate on the Fairground side of Hammonds Heath also needs attention, but this is included in the specification for the Hammonds Heath fence replacement.</p> <p>It was AGREED for the Deputy Clerk to obtain quotes for cutting back the growth on the footpaths leading from Windmill Road to the Bevers and Stevens Close to the APMF. The Deputy Clerk will refer the quotes to Cllr. D. Ives or The Clerk for approval to proceed.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis had previously agreed to undertake a survey of overgrown footpaths. As part of this, he will take photographs of the footpath from Aborn Parade to Spratley's and the overgrown foliage alongside Hammonds Heath. These he will send to West Berkshire Council to establish ownership, so the correct bodies can be approached to ensure any necessary work is carried out.</p>	<p>Deputy Clerk</p> <p>CL</p>
18/36	<p>To receive an update on current issues regarding roads and decide on action to be taken:</p> <p>1) Speeding:</p> <p>a. West Berkshire concealed camera deployment and outcomes: Cllr. D. Ives presented the reports from the concealed camera deployment and confirmed that a similar exercise will probably be undertaken once the new development has been built.</p> <p>b. 20mph speed limit on The Street between Victoria Road and Hammonds Heath: From the recent SID/concealed camera deployment, there is no justification to lower the speed to 20mph. From recent feedback and social media comments, speeding is seen as being an issue in the village. The Communications Committee is proposing to run a series of forums addressing current issues. The first opportunity to host one, would be at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 30th April and if agreed, would consist of a programme on speed awareness and information. It was AGREED for Cllrs. D. Kilshaw, P. Wingfield and K. Johnson to formulate ideas for content for the speeding programme. Cllr. D. Kilshaw will prepare a paper on the forums/APM for presentation at the Full Council meeting on the 8th February.</p> <p>2) Improper use of the St John's Car Park as cut through between The Street and West End Road: West Berkshire Council do not perceive this to be a major safety issue and since the crossing has been in place, it seems to be happening less. It was DECIDED that no further action is necessary at present.</p> <p>3. Parking blocking the pavement outside Mortimer Café, Victoria Road: Following discussion, it was PROPOSED to investigate installing a kerb at the same height as the surrounding paths. As a first step, Cllr. D. Kilshaw will speak to the owners of Mortimer Café and David Cliff to explain what the Parish Council would be trying to achieve.</p>	<p>DK/PW /KJ DK</p> <p>DK</p>

18/37	To consider the need for a new SID Co-ordinator: Cllr. D. Ives explained the process and Cllr. D. Kilshaw agreed to take over as SID co-ordinator.	DK
18/38	To consider and decide on action regarding the path alongside St John's School and grassy area close to the pedestrian crossing: West Berkshire Council have been informed of the issue with the path alongside St John's school and have agreed that additional drainage can be provided but the timing will depend on available finances. It was AGREED for the Deputy Clerk to establish if the Village Custodian can help ease the issue in the short term by keeping the path free of debris. Following discussion about the grassy area, it was AGREED for Cllr. D. Ives to clarify with Chris Vidler, at West Berkshire Council, if the trip hazard has actually been located in the correct place.	Deputy Clerk DI
18/39	To consider potential Community Projects for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: The projects identified for 2017-2018 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the village noticeboards and it was AGREED for the Deputy Clerk to obtain like for like quotes. • Replacement of the bollards in the West End Road car park and it was AGREED for the Deputy Clerk to approach Volker Highways to undertake this job. 	Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk
18/40	To decide on communications following on from this meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SID Co-ordinator • Publication of concealed camera results including a simple explanation • Update on St John's car park cut through 	DK/DI
18/41	Minor matters for information Cllr. K. Johnson reported that he will be meeting with the headteacher at St John's school on Wednesday 24 th January to discuss educating parents and children on the safe use of a zebra crossing. Cllr. K. Johnson enquired as to whether it's possible to close St John's car park. DHL have a programme where they provide an articulated lorry for activity/educational purposes for school children and if it could be parked in the car park this could be made available to St John's School. This would be a West Berkshire Council decision and would require long term notice. Cllr. N. Carter acknowledged Mr Lambton had arranged for the hedge along The Street near The Avenue to be cut and this was a vast improvement.	
18/42	Future Agenda items None	

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.