



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Minutes of the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee Meeting

held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 @ 7:00 pm

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

### Present:

Councillors: Cllr. N. Kiley (Chairman), Cllr. J. Earl, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. P. Challis, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. A Richardson, Cllr. P. Wingfield.

Clerk: Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Parish Clerk

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

<b>Part I</b>		
<b>17/32</b>	<b>Public Questions:</b> None	
#	Proposed by Cllr. J. Earl, seconded by Cllr. N. Kiley, it was <b>AGREED</b> to move Agenda item 17/36 into a Part II session due to the commercially confidential aspects to be discussed.	
<b>17/33</b>	<b>To receive any apologies for absence:</b> Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Dennett and Cllr. M. Lock.	
<b>17/34</b>	<b>To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:</b> None	
<b>17/35</b>	<b>Matters arising from the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee minutes dated 31st August 2017:</b>  Cllr. C. Lewis raised a question regarding the Gorse maintenance program for the Fairground. The Clerk advised that a program of scheduled maintenance was now in place for 4 sections of the Gorse area and this would be circulated to Councillors.  Cllr. N. Kiley requested that A3 plans of the Fairground be printed and made available to Councillors.  Following on from Item 17/29 the Admin Assistant's report on the Tree Plaque, celebrating the Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, was received and discussed and it was <b>AGREED</b> to proceed with the wording agreed by Mr Newton on the bronze plaque.	Clerk  Clerk  Clerk
<b>17/37</b>	<b>To receive an update on the re-surfacing of the Fairground Car Park.</b>  Cllr. C. Lewis reported that the work done had been completed satisfactorily, but needs to be checked after heavy rain to check for puddling.  Next stage is to repair, clean and paint the surrounding iron work and gates.	CL  Clerk
<b>17/38</b>	<b>To decide on any special projects for the Special Projects Budget of £6,000 expenditure for this year:</b>  1 Repair of Conservation Area footpath crossings. This was discussed under 17/28 at the last Committee meeting. The Clerk was requested to discuss specification with WBC and offer to pay for and do the work ourselves.	Clerk

	<p>Then after discussion and a site meeting with Cllr. P. Wingfield, the Clerk was requested to obtain three quotes based on a maximum potential budget of £3,000.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Link the Conservation Area fencing and Hammonds Heath timber fencing together as a project. Site visit to determine specification.</li> <li>3 To provide a second picnic table on the Fairground in the area of the existing picnic table. The Clerk to obtain quotes. Site positioning to be agreed by Committee.</li> <li>4 To investigate creating a wild flower meadow between the top of the mown area around the Cricket outfield and The Street and Hammonds Heath gorse area. To hold until ecological study completed.</li> <li>5 Fitness Trail. Being actioned by the NDP Community Projects – Sports and Active Leisure project.</li> <li>6 Information boards on the Fairground. Out of date and need to be reviewed.</li> <li>7 Toilets on the Fairground. Need to obtain costs of installation and upkeep and then be put out for Public Consultation.</li> <li>8 Provide coat hooks and a bag hanging area for the players on the Tennis Courts. Cllr. A. Richardson to advise what is required.</li> </ol>	<p>NK/CL/ JB</p> <p>Clerk FT&amp;A</p> <p>FT&amp;A</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>AR</p>
17/39	<p><b>To receive an update on the ponds and the options available:</b></p> <p>Cllr. N. Kiley updated the progress on quotes for the pond work by saying that outcomes so far have been disappointing due to the overall costs being proposed and the lack of further explanation. As a result there was little further to report.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield summed up the potential options as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Do nothing – resulting in silting up and encroachment of tree growth.</li> <li>2 Cut back trees around ponds and put in place a scheduled clearance and management program.</li> <li>3 Deepen the ponds so that there will be water at all times. Corporate bodies looking for team building work under their Corporate Social Responsibility Program may well be interested in providing the necessary manpower. The Community and Mortimer Wildlife could well be interested in providing volunteers too. It was emphasised that SMPC need to find out what we can do before we committed to any particular path and The Freshwater Habitats Trust would be able to provide the advice needed and it was proposed that Cllr. N. Kiley should contact them – details at <a href="http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk">www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk</a> .</li> </ol> <p>This work would need to be done by end of February or later on in the year due to the Newts and other wildlife.</p> <p>The Clerk was requested to check the Eco Report for the Fairground to identify the trees that need to be cleared and circulate to Members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Develop more ponds on the Fairground, especially on the Conservation Area at the Hammonds Heath end. The Clerk was requested to investigate the use of Volunteers and put together a Policy document on the use of Volunteers for consideration.</li> </ol>	<p>NK</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

17/40	<p><b>To decide on the proposed motion “The Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee resolves that the ‘Biodiversity and Green Spaces Project Team’, on behalf of the committee, places and oversees a contract to update the ‘Fairground Ecological Survey and Conservation Plan (2008)’”.</b></p> <p>The report was received and discussed and it was noted that Mr T. Barber had already obtained 3 indicative quotes all around £2,500 for a refresh of the Survey.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. N. Kiley, seconded by Cllr. J. Bull, proposal was <b>AGREED.</b></p>	
17/41	<p><b>Minor Matters – for information only:</b></p> <p>Cllr. J. Bull raised the need to get the playground done as soon as possible and the Clerk advised that this was already in hand and quotes were being sought.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Challis raised the need to cut back the heathers in the Conservation Area once they have flowered to ensure healthy growth and the Clerk was requested to discuss this with the Custodian.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
17/42	<p><b>Matters for Communication:</b></p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield – Repairs to Fairground Equipment</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl – Outcome of Part II item, Ponds – once plan in place, Repair of Footpath crossings, Christmas Tree up and lit, Thanks to Mr. James Strang.</p>	
17/43	<p><b>Future Agenda items:</b></p> <p>None</p>	
#	<p>Proposed by Cllr. J. Earl, seconded by Cllr. N. Kiley, it was <b>AGREED</b> to exclude members of the public and the press due to the Commercially confidential information to be discussed under Agenda Item 17/36.</p>	
<b><u>Part II</u></b>		
17/36	<p><b>To receive Clerk’s report for approval regarding necessary fencing work on the Fairground:</b></p> <p>The Clerk’s Report was received and discussed.</p> <p>Concern was raised at the specification used and it was proposed that Cllrs. N. Kiley, J. Bull and C. Lewis should walk the fencing lines proposed for The Conservation area and the Hammonds Heath boundary to draw up the necessary specification document for the Clerk to use in seeking quotations in accordance with the Financial recommendations, using local contractors where possible but ensuring that the correct fiduciary duties were employed in obtaining the quotes.</p>	<p>NK/JB/ CL Clerk</p>

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.