



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on 12th January 2017 @ 7.30 pm

at Mortimer Methodist Church, West End Road, Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: Cllr. M. Dennett (Chairman), Cllr. J. Earl, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. A. Butcher, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. P. Challis, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr M. Johnson, Cllr. L Jones, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. M. Lock, Cllr. A Richardson and Cllr P. Wingfield.

Clerk: Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Parish Clerk

Public/Press: There were 3 members of the public, no members of the press and District Councillor G. Bridgman present.

16/553	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Mrs. T. Audsley – Raised her concerns regarding Item 16/518 of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th November 2016 in that the route of the cycle/footpath between Mortimer and Burghfield did not reflect the true feelings of the community in that they are really looking for a better route and questioned the suspension of the project.</p> <p>A brief discussion then occurred during which:-</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield detailed the reasons why the project had been put on hold.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kilshaw commented on the fact that the footpath is seen as not being really used as parents are not happy with it, even though the present bus facilities are not ideal.</p> <p>Mrs T. Audsley then commented that this was perhaps not just a Mortimer project.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kilshaw posed the question asking if the community launched a project, would SMPC support it, to which Cllr. P. Wingfield said that a very positive response would be given at progressing it if this was the case and Cllr. P. Wingfield and Cllr. N. Carter offered to meet members of the public on this.</p> <p>Cllr. T. Butcher spoke, as the original motion to put on hold the project for 1 year had been his, to confirm that the project had been fully discussed and it had been felt that the project needed to be viable to go ahead.</p>	
16/554	<p>To receive any apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr. P. Blagden and Cllr. N. Kiley</p>	
16/555	<p>To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl declared a personal interest in Item 17/572 as he is Chairman of the Fairground Trust.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson declared a personal interest in Item 17/572 as he is Treasurer of Mortimer Tennis Club.</p> <p>All Councillors declared a financial interest in item 17/573 but were granted Dispensation by the Clerk in order for business to be completed.</p>	
#	<p>The Chairman proposed a motion to move Item 17/571 for consideration now and not to exclude the press and public so that Items 17/572 and 17/573 can be considered in public.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis strongly objected to this as, in his view, this may be unlawful as the public had not been given the details of the decisions to</p>	

	<p>be made, with the necessary 3 working days' notice as the Agenda items proposed in Part II related to the Council's precept request being raised by 20%, which the public and members had a right to know if it was being discussed in public.</p> <p>After some discussion, the Clerk advised that the agenda items were clear in stating that they referred to agreeing the 2017 -2018 budget and agreeing the 2017-2018 request for precept from WBC and had been issued giving the required 3 days' notice. This was also challenged, as possibly being unlawful, as the final decision on the amount of the budget and the precept had not been agreed by F&GP until the Tuesday evening before the Full Council meeting and therefore should not have been put on the agenda anyway, and the papers had not been received by Councillors until today as the agenda items had still been intended to be held in Part II up until later today.</p> <p>The Clerk again advised that, in his view, the Agenda had been properly called and the Agenda Items had been properly declared and the motion could be re-worded to allow them to be discussed in public.</p> <p>The motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Dennett, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl and AGREED by 9 votes for, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions.</p>																	
#	<p>The Chairman proposed a motion that the order of the Agenda be changed to allow Items 17/572 and 17/573 to be moved for discussion to after Agenda Item 17/563 this was proposed by Cllr J. Earl and AGREED by 12 votes for and 1 vote against.</p>																	
16/556	<p>To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th December 2016</p> <p>Cllr. M. Dennett proposed, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl to approve and sign the minutes, as a true record of the meeting, which was AGREED unanimously.</p>																	
16/557	<p>To receive Clerk's Financial Report on November & December 2016 Financial A/Cs</p> <p>The November 2016 Financial Report was received and noted. The December A/Cs were not completed yet.</p>																	
16/558	<p>To receive Committee Meeting minutes of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Planning Committee - 8th December 2016 & 20th December 2016 2 NDP Implementation Committee – 6th December 2016 & 9th January 2017 <p>Minutes for 9th January 2017 not completed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Finance & General Purposes Committee – 20th December 2016 & 10th January 2017 <p>Minutes for 10th January 2017 not completed</p> <p>All minutes presented were received and noted.</p>																	
16/559	<p>To receive planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Application</u></th> <th><u>Address</u></th> <th><u>Decision</u></th> <th><u>Date</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16/02774/HOUSE</td> <td>70 The Avenue Mortimer Common RG& 3QX</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>14/12/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>SMPC had no objections, but concerns were expressed about possible use of roof space.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/02909/HOUSE</td> <td>Braemar Lodge Loves Wood</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>22/12/16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>	16/02774/HOUSE	70 The Avenue Mortimer Common RG& 3QX	Approved	14/12/16		SMPC had no objections, but concerns were expressed about possible use of roof space.			16/02909/HOUSE	Braemar Lodge Loves Wood	Approved	22/12/16	
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	<p>Mortimer Common RG7 2JX SMPC had no objections</p> <p>16/02740/HOUSE 64 Windmill Road Approved 19/12/16 Mortimer Common. RG7 3UB SMPC had no objections</p> <p>16/03112/HOUSE 11 Bilberry Gardens Approved 05/01/17 Mortimer RG7 3WU SMPC had no objections</p> <p>Received and noted</p>	
16/560	<p>To receive a paper on the appeal against the West Berkshire Council decision to refuse planning permission for outline permission for residential development for up to 50 dwellings on the Monkey Puzzle Field, The Street, Mortimer and to agree a motion to make representations to the Inspector by the due date of 17th January 2017 in accordance with those proposed in the received paper.</p> <p>Cllr A. Butcher advised that the Newberry Weekly News had published details of 3 major appeals, including the Monkey Puzzle Field.</p> <p>The current Monkey Puzzle Field appeal would have been expected to be heard by end of 2017, but appeal date had been set for end of April 2017.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Butcher then presented his report which was discussed and commented on as follows:</p> <p>Cllr N. Carter felt that the points were too weak and should be strengthened.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Butcher responded by saying that the evidence should be given and that we needed to speak and give evidence at the appeal in order in order to show that SMPC stand firm on their initial position and stand alongside West Berkshire's initial refusal of the application.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl proposed that any further points should be passed to Cllr. A Butcher directly.</p> <p>The report was received and noted and the motion was AGREED unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr. M. Dennett proposed, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl, a vote of thanks for the work done by Cllr A. Butcher which was AGREED unanimously.</p>	
#	Cllr. L. Jones left the meeting at 8:30pm	
16/561	<p>To receive an update on the NDP</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield presented a paper on the minor recommendations put forward by the Examiner. Twenty five of the thirty one were very minor and of a typographical nature. Reasons for accepting the other six amendments were given.</p> <p>The paper requested that the Council accept the amendments and should agree that the NDP proceed to referendum. This was AGREED unanimously.</p>	
16/562	<p>To approve a motion to change the name of the NDP Implementation Committee to the Community Projects Committee</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield proposed that the motion be changed, on the recommendation of the NDP Implementation Committee, to the NDP Community Projects Committee, seconded by Cllr. N. Carter and AGREED by 10 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.</p>	

16/563	<p>To receive District Councillors' Reports and ask questions</p> <p>Both Cllr. M Lock and Cllr. G Bridgman had submitted written reports, which were received and noted.</p> <p>Cllr. G. Bridgman advised that he would forward his comments to the Inspector on the Monkey Puzzle appeal to Cllr. A. Butcher and the Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield questioned Cllr. M. Lock on the WBC Housing Allocation Plan that had been challenged and was given the answer that it now had to go out for consultation.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis questioned Cllr. G. Bridgman on the effect of any Ward Boundary changes and was given the answer that this would not be known until the Inspector delivers his report.</p> <p>With regard to both Councillors reports on the St John's School Pedestrian Crossing proposals for The Street it was proposed, by 10 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention, that the Clerk should write to WBC to expressing its support for the scheme but to also express its disappointment at the lighting proposals.</p>	
#	<p>At 9:00pm it was proposed by Cllr. J. Earl, seconded by Cllr. M. Dennett and AGREED by 11 votes for and 1 vote against to continue the meeting after its due closing time of 9:30pm for at least ½ hour to complete any remaining business.</p>	
16/572	<p>To receive and approve the draft budget for 2017-2018 agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on Tuesday 10th January 2017</p> <p>Cllr. M. Dennett presented the Budget proposals for 2017 – 2018 by going through the presented Strategy and Explanation paper and the Clerk answered any further questions on the figures.</p> <p>Following this discussion Cllr. M. Dennett proposed, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl that the budget should be accepted and this was AGREED by 11 votes for and 1 vote against</p>	
16/573	<p>To agree the Parish Precept for 2017-2018 recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>Cllr. M. Dennett proposed, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl, that the proposed Precept request of £137,370 should be presented to WBC and this was AGREED by 11 votes for and 1 vote against</p>	
16/564	<p>To receive Clerk's Update (for information only)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Prepared 2017-2018 draft budgets 2 Prepared November and December 2016 A/Cs 3 Arranged and held meeting, together with the Library Working Group, with WBC representatives regarding WBC's Library proposals for 2017. 4 Arranged Song Sheet and Notice printing for the Community Carol Service 5 Received the Internal Auditor for the interim Audit 6 Dealt with break-in to Fairground Shed 7 Dealt with day-to-day public enquiries 8 Managed all the papers for Parish Council and Committee Meetings <p>The report was received and noted.</p>	
16/565	Garth Hall	

	<p>The Clerk advised that arrangements are being made for inspection of the Garth Hall for next week with British Legion and 2 x builders.</p> <p>Cllrs. J. Earl and C. Lewis asked to be involved</p>																					
16/566	<p>To receive an update on meeting with West Berkshire Council regarding the Mortimer Library and to approve, subject to firm criteria having been agreed, in principle the proposal for an annual grant to WBC to support the maintaining of the Library services at Mortimer Library and providing support to WBC in finding Volunteers for the Library, both library based and home based for co-ordinating the Library based volunteers.</p> <p>The paper was received and noted and the Cllr. M Dennett proposed the above motion, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl and it was AGREED unanimously.</p>																					
16/567	<p>Finance - To resolve to agree accounts for payment:</p> <table> <tr> <td>1 Suez Recycling – Fairground Waste Collection – Dec. 2016 D.D. inc. VAT</td> <td>£97.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Oakdale Services – Printing of Christmas Carol Booklets</td> <td>£49.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Signwise – Correx Board – Community Carol Service inc. VAT</td> <td>£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Parish Online – ParishOnline Annual Fee inc. VAT</td> <td>£84.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 West Berkshire Council – Quarterly office rental</td> <td>£750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 Dads Shop – Nov/Dec Custodian sundries inc. VAT</td> <td>£21.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 J. Earl – Southern Tower Services for hire of fixed leg barriers for Fairground Christmas Tree inc. VAT</td> <td>£123.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 BT – calls up to 20/12/16 and charges up to 28/02/17</td> <td>£373.87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 HMRC – PAYE & NIGC – Month 8&9</td> <td>£1,206.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Claire Connell – Interim Internal Audit Fee</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The motion to agree the finances was AGREED unanimously.</p>	1 Suez Recycling – Fairground Waste Collection – Dec. 2016 D.D. inc. VAT	£97.66	2 Oakdale Services – Printing of Christmas Carol Booklets	£49.00	3 Signwise – Correx Board – Community Carol Service inc. VAT	£24.00	4 Parish Online – ParishOnline Annual Fee inc. VAT	£84.00	5 West Berkshire Council – Quarterly office rental	£750.00	6 Dads Shop – Nov/Dec Custodian sundries inc. VAT	£21.58	7 J. Earl – Southern Tower Services for hire of fixed leg barriers for Fairground Christmas Tree inc. VAT	£123.43	8 BT – calls up to 20/12/16 and charges up to 28/02/17	£373.87	9 HMRC – PAYE & NIGC – Month 8&9	£1,206.70	10 Claire Connell – Interim Internal Audit Fee	£240.00	
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16/568	<p>To receive Correspondence (for information only):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A notice of proposed Judicial Review regarding the Parish Council's handling of a NDP Submission Document mapping issue relating to a driveway off Kings Street. Interim WBC Library Review update documents. Notice of Appeal against WBC refusal of outline planning for the Monkey Puzzle Field Development Legal Topic notice from BALC regarding WBC proposals to charge Parishes for payments to make up the budget shortfalls on Library Services due to the proposed Budget Savings Copies of correspondence between a resident and David Cliff Property Services, Victoria Road regarding the illuminated signage being left on overnight, which was identified as being due to a switching fault and has now been rectified. Confirmation from WBC that S106 (CIL) payments can be used for resurfacing the Fairground Car Park. <p>Received and noted.</p>																					
16/569	<p>To receive Minor Matters (for information only):</p> <p>Cllr. J. Bull advised that the Community Boards in St John's Hall were being taken down to be updated and Cllr. J. Earl agreed to help.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Challis advised that King Street alongside the Budgens Store was</p>																					

	<p>still in a poor condition and Cllr. A. Butcher agreed to look into getting it sorted.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson advised that articles for the February edition of the Parish Newsletter were needed, together with a photo with snow for the cover.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson also requested that a formal meeting of the Communications Committee should be called in February 2017.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl reported how the Christmas Tree lights had been vandalised and destroyed.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis commented on the Graves in the Cemetery and the Clerk advised that this was in hand.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Carter commented on how the meeting times for SMPC Committees were not in-line with timings stated in the BALC Councillor Training Session that he attended. This was briefly discussed and Cllr. J. Earl advised that this should not be a problem for those working as most large companies allowed time off for Corporate Social Purposes to allow Councillors to attend Council meetings.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield asked about progress in finding an Office Assistant to support the Clerk and was advised that an advert was planned for the Parish Newsletter and all Village Notice Boards at the same time.</p>	
16/570	<p>To receive any future Agenda items</p> <p>Cllr. N. Carter requested that No Cold Calling Zones be placed on the Agenda for discussion.</p>	

The next meeting is on 9th February 2017.

The meeting closed at 9:52 pm.