



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Extra Fairground and Cemetery Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2020 @ 7.30 pm at The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. J. Bull (Chairman), Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill.

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

Public/Press:

There was 1 member of the public and no member of the press in attendance.

Part I

19/46 Public Questions

Mr. A. Smith attended on behalf of Mortimer Cricket Club regarding the Club's request to have a batting cage/cricket nets on the Fairground and to provide additional information if required.

19/47 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs. S. Beard, Field, Johnson, Lock and Morsley.

19/48 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Bull declared an interest in item 19/52 (7) and (8).

19/49 Minutes of Last Meeting

To receive and approve the minutes for the Fairground and Cemetery Committee meeting held on 18th February 2020:

The minutes were received and **APPROVED** to be signed as a true record of the meeting.

19/50 Update from Previous Committee Meetings

To receive an update outlining actions taken following the meetings held on the 18th February 2020 not on the agenda and other updates.

A verbal update outlining actions taken following the meeting held on the 18th February 2020 was received and the following noted:

- Cemetery Extension: Due to the limited information available regarding whether the previous planning consent was implemented, West Berkshire Council's (WBC) Senior Planning Officer, has advised that a new application and not an amendment to 12/01366/FUL, would be the best way forward.
- Hammonds Heath/Windmill Road Ditch: The PO has been raised but the work has not yet been scheduled.
- Conservation Footpath: Due to weather the footpath renovation has not yet been undertaken.
- Fairground Tree 0567: WBC's tree inspector has looked at the tree and recommends keeping it but undertaking an annual inspection to note any significant changes. If needed, limited crown work can be carried out. If required, a detailed arboricultural report by an AA approved tree consultant would assess the risk that the tree poses. As this tree abuts the highway, WBC do inspect this tree. Cllr. Hill is meeting with another WBC tree officer on Friday 27th March to review the other tree work currently proposed.

19/51 Items to be taken into private session

To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

It was agreed that items 19/52 (6) of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

19/52 Items for consideration and resolution

As Mr. A. Smith was in attendance, it was agreed to discuss item 19/52 (9) first.

9) Cricket Nets

To review the information regarding the cricket nets and AGREE the action to be taken.

Further to a discussion, it was noted:

- At the Full Council meeting in October 2019, the Parish Council agreed in principle to the nets. Establishing the specification and formulating a plan was delegated to the Fairgrounds and Cemetery Committee.
- At the Fairground and Cemetery Committee meeting in November 2019, it was agreed that further information should be sought from Mortimer Cricket Club.
- Mortimer Cricket Club have provided the following information:
 - The nets would abut the tennis courts on the northern side and would be enclosed in a batting cage made from a fence the same as the fence of the tennis court. The fence of the tennis court would make up one side of the batting cage.
 - The batting cage would be 32m x 4m
 - The nets would open out towards the cricket outfield
 - When in use, the gates of the batting cage would be open to allow a run up for bowlers.
 - The restrictive height of the batting cage prevents balls from being hit high meaning balls being hit out of the nets should be low to the ground.

- The permanent artificial wicket comprises of two base layers with a total depth of 150 mm topped with a shock pad which is covered with artificial grass.
- The surface is an all-weather, porous playing surface.
- The table tennis table would need relocating.
- The tennis courts would be screened from the batting cage and nets by green canvas covering.
- Further to the recent public consultation, the project would not be funded from available CIL monies and the Cricket Club would need to seek grants/funding.
- Permission for the structure will be required from the Fairground Trustees.

Cllr. Dennett proposed that Mortimer Cricket Club should seek funding and then the project will be further reviewed by the Fairground and Cemetery Committee.

Seconded by Cllr. Bull

RESOLVED unanimously

ACTION: CLERK

1) Vice Chairman

To elect a Vice Chairman of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee.

It was agreed to suspend this until the May meeting.

2) Play Area

To review the maintenance required and AGREE the costs and work to be undertaken for the:

1) Multiplay scramble net

The replacement net has been ordered and it was agreed that quotes should be sought for the fixing.

2) Carousel resurfacing

It was noted that the two options are to 1) remove and replace the whole surface under the carousel or 2) remove and replace the “wear” area immediately next to the carousel.

Cllr. Hill proposed option 2.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett

RESOLVED unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

3) Ponds

To review the maintenance required and AGREE action and associated expenditure for the:

a) Connecting pipe

It was agreed to postpone this to a future meeting.

b) Highway/pond separators

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to WBC informing them of the issue with the pond as per the Acorn report and requesting advice re the need for separators. Cllr. Hill will provide the relevant information.

ACTION: CLERK

4) Hedging Plants

To receive an update on the hedging plants and AGREE a planting strategy.

With lack of manpower due to Covid-19, it was agreed that Cllr. Bull will confirm when the plants have been delivered and for available councillors to plant them when convenient, following the strategy in the Acorn report. Excess plants will be planted in the conservation area.

ACTION: JB

Due to a numbering error there is no 19/152 (5).

7) Information Panels

To receive a report on the Conservation Area panels and AGREE a budget for updating the information.

The information panel frames have been renovated and reconstructed. It was agreed for Cllr. Hill to investigate reproducing the information panels.

ACTION: SH

8) Nesting Boxes

To AGREE the number of boxes needed and associated budget.

Cllr. Bull had declared an interest in this agenda item and therefore the Committee was not quorate and a budget could not be resolved. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the prices of obtaining 4 bat boxes and 6 bird boxes and 2 robin boxes.

ACTION: CLERK

19/53 Items for information only

1) Minor Matters

- The Clerk confirmed that 6 regular grass cuttings are undertaken as part of the grounds maintenance contract.
- Cllr. Bull reported that the Benefice have requested assistance for the upkeep of St Mary's churchyard.

19/54 Finance

Fairground and Cemetery Budget

To consider the potential projects and maintenance spend for the Fairground and Cemetery for the financial year 2020-2021.

It was agreed to defer this to a future meeting.

19/55 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

- Carousel surface repair on completion.
- Renovation of information panels.

ACTION: CLERK

19/56 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items

- Cemetery bridge planning application.
- Mortimer Cricket Club batting cage and nets.
- Pond's connecting pipe.
- Review of Fairground and Cemetery Budget.

ACTION: CLERK

19/192 Exclusion of Press and Public

To pass a resolution to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, items identified at 19/184 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed:

It was **AGREED** unanimously to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting at Part II, item 19/52 (6) on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Part II

19/52 Items for consideration and resolution

6) Fairground Security

To consider the quotes received for the security works and AGREE the budget and work to be undertaken for approval by Full Council.

The quotes were considered, and it was agreed for the Clerk to clarify the details of one quote, including the cost of the bund for the Hammonds Heath gates.

From February's meeting, the aim was to install the gate and bollards by May, but the Covid-19 issues means the expenditure, from S106/CIL funds, is unlikely to be able to be agreed at Full Council in April as the meeting is likely to be cancelled.

Cllr. Dennett proposed 1) a budget of up to £15,000 for the installation of the security measures 2) amending the resolution on the agenda for the Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting on Monday 23rd March, regarding delegated powers to the Clerk, to include authority for the Clerk to approve expenditure of up to £15,000 (taken from S106 and CIL monies) on security bollards and a height barrier for the Fairground.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill

RESOLVED unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

Close

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

The next meeting – date to be confirmed.