



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee held online on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.30pm.

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. J. Bull (Chairman), Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. K. Field, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. M. Lock (arrived 19.55),
Cllr. D. Morsley.

Officers:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

Public/Press:

There were no members of the public and no member of the press in attendance.

Part I

20/001 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None

20/002 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Beard

20/003 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Bull declared an interest generally as he occasionally undertakes work on behalf of the Council.

20/004 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Minutes of the Fairgrounds and Cemetery Meeting of the 19th March 2020.

It was noted that under 19/50 the tree referred to under Fairground Tree 0567 is Fairground Tree T567.

RESOLVED that these minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

20/005 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

1. To receive an update outlining actions taken following the meeting held on the 19th March and other updates.

The report was received and the following noted:

- The plans for replacing the information boards for the Conservation Area are on hold until the Fairground tree work has been undertaken. To be discussed under agenda item 20/006 4, it is proposed that laminated A3 information sheets will be used as a temporary measure.
- Permission needs to be sought from WBC prior to C&D continuing with the ditch and vegetation work as per the PO that has been raised. Cllr. Bull is arranging a meeting with WBC. Cllr. Hill suggested that the leaf mulch from the Hammonds Heath ditch could be used to condition the new trees, which may negate the need for a contractor to deepen the ditch to its original depth. Due to its size, deepening the Windmill Road ditch may require a contractor.
- The 7m scalloped edges on the grazing area have not been maintained as per the grounds contract. The Clerk will raise this with the contractors.

20/006 Items to be taken into private session

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

None

20/007 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Fairground Ditches – Hammonds Heath and Windmill Road

To review the work required and AGREE actions and associated expenditure.

Permission needs to be sought from West Berkshire Council (WBC) prior to any work being undertaken on ditches alongside a highway. The outstanding PO for the cutting back of the vegetation of the Hammonds Heath and Windmill Road ditches has therefore been placed on hold. It was agreed that once permission from WBC has been received, the ditch vegetation work will proceed and quotes will be sought for deepening the ditches, where required, back to their original level. Due to the delay in getting the work done, from when the original quote for the vegetation clearance was received, there may be additional costs. Cllr. Bull proposed an additional expenditure for the vegetation clearance of up to £100

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley

RESOLVED by majority vote

2. Batting Cage and Cricket Nets

To receive an update on the cage and nets and AGREE the location and any required actions.

It was agreed that the location for the cage and nets will be considered by the Fairground and Cemetery Committee at a site meeting on the Fairground. The proposed size of the structure - approximately 5m x 30m - can then be considered along with other aspects of the Fairground.

3. Cricket Outfield

To review the current cutting regime and AGREE any changes required and associated expenditure.

At the beginning of the season, the north west corner of the cricket outfield is often very boggy making it difficult for the cricket club to cut with their equipment. This cut is

something that could be undertaken as part of the SMPC grounds maintenance contract. It was agreed that this will be reviewed at a site meeting on the Fairground, in consideration with the Acorn report and the current cutting schedule. The Clerk will provide copies of the Acorn report, the grounds maintenance contract and Fairground plan to members of the Committee. **ACTION: CLERK**

4. Conservation Area Information Panels

To review the options for replacing the information panels and AGREE the associated budget.

It was agreed for A3 laminated information sheets to be placed on the conservation panels on a temporary basis. Cllr. Dennett will proofread the suggested written material. The commissioning of the permanent replacements will be considered once the Fairground tree work around the ponds has been undertaken. **ACTION: CLLR. DENNETT**

5. Community Centre Path

To review the need for paving a path between the Community Centre entrance gate and patio area and AGREE actions to be taken.

The Community Centre are willing to pay to have the area paved. It was agreed that permission will be sought from the Fairground Trustees. A site meeting may be required.

ACTION: CLERK

6. Community Centre Water Pressure

To review the issue of the low water pressure at the Community Centre and AGREE actions to be taken.

As this is caused by pipe size it was confirmed that Thames Water would need to undertake any required work which the Community Centre would be willing to pay for. Cllr. Bull has attempted to contact Thames Water.

7. Cemetery Bridge

To receive an update and to AGREE actions to be taken and associated expenditure.

Prior to proceeding with the installation of the bridge leading to the Parish Council cemetery extension, confirmation is needed to clarify that development is deemed to have started within three years of receiving planning approval. The options for achieving this were discussed.

Cllr. Bull proposed that an Application of Details Reserved by Condition should be sought at a cost of £58.00

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley

RESOLVED unanimously **ACTION: CLERK**

20/008 Items for information only

1. Minor Matters

- Cllr. Bull suggested that a disabled toilet could be put on the Fairground for a trial period. As the Council agreed in March not to proceed with sourcing toilets for the Fairground this cannot be considered under the 6 month rule as per Standing Orders but will be reviewed in the future.
- Cllr. Bull proposed that a digger should be hired once a year to manage the spoil from graves which is being left in the wrong area. It was agreed that this would be reviewed at a site meeting at the cemetery. The Clerk will provide a plan of the cemetery. **ACTION: CLERK**

- Cllr. Hill suggested asking the Custodian if he would be willing to undertake some of the maintenance work currently contracted out. This could be considered but would be dependent on health and safety and the Custodian having the correct equipment.

20/009 Finance

1. Fairground and Cemetery Budget

To review the 2020/21 budget and expenditure.

The reports were reviewed.

20/010 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

None

20/011 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items ACTION: CLERK

1. Cricket cage and nets
2. Annual cut of the north west area of the cricket outfield
3. Information panels
4. Fairground toilets

20/012 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 20/006 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Not required

Part II

Close

The meeting closed at 21.05

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th November, 2020