



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 10th September 2015 @ 7.30 pm

at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, Mortimer

Present: Cllrs: M. Dennett (Chairman), P. Blagden, J. Bull, A. Butcher, P. Challis, A. Colaço, C. Lewis, M. Lock, A. Philips, A. Richardson and P. Wingfield.

16 members of the public and press; all members of the public had left after item 15/164.

Cllr. Lewis offered to take the minutes for the meeting and this was accepted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

15/157 **Public Questions:** The members of the public expressed concern that the School Crossing Patrol lady who had worked there for 34 years was not being replaced by West Berkshire Council ("WBC"). It was argued that the situation was a lot more dangerous now than it was 34 years ago. There was also concern that the footpath down to St. Mary's school was overgrown and unnecessarily dangerous. The issues were discussed in more detail later on in the meeting. The possibility of traffic calming measures, including 20 mph zones outside both schools, was suggested. Cllr Dennett reported that the Council had received eight communications from members of the public which supported the views expressed those attending the meeting.

15/158 **To receive any apologies for absence:** Cllrs. Carter, Earl, Ives and Kiley gave their apologies.

15/159 **To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:** None.

15/160 **To resolve to approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th July 2015:**
It was resolved that on the first line of 15/146 'or' should be amended to 'and/or'. It was also resolved that, for consistency, on the third line of 15/150 'Council's' should be inserted before 'Financial Regulations'. The minutes were then approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

15/161 **To consider appointing Cllr. Ives to some of the council's standing committees until May 2016.** Cllr. Ives had requested that he be appointed to the Planning Committee, the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee and the Burghfield and Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group. It was proposed by Cllr. Dennett and seconded by Cllr. Lock that the request was granted and unanimously approved.

15/162 **To receive Acting Clerk's update (for information only)**

1. There had been an election in August. There were three candidates and Cllr. Ives was duly elected.
2. The Clerk had resigned and it was agreed that Cllr. Dennett would continue in the role of Acting Clerk.
3. The Charity Commission had written regarding the Council's comments on the proposed trust instrument. Cllr Dennett had responded with further information on the Council's involvement with Garth Hall and that the trust should benefit the youth of the local community.
4. The September visit of the fair had been cancelled owing to bereavement.

5. Section 106 payments for £1,900 (re detached dwelling at the Frith, Drury Lane) and £3,251 (re detached dwelling at the rear of Greengates, The Street) have been received for improvements to existing public open space.
 6. West Berkshire Council has issued notice of making an order under the Highways Act 1980 to divert a footpath near the bottom of The Avenue. This is to be passed to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.
- 15/163 and 164 **To consider the situation regarding speeding in the Parish. To consider the situation following the retirement of the traffic control lady.**
1. Cllr. Butcher declared an interest in that his property is adjacent to the Street though the hedge is properly trimmed.
 2. There was a lengthy discussion on the subject with some well-considered statements from the public. It was agreed that traffic was going too fast and there was the potential for danger. Traffic calming, traffic lights speed checks and zebra crossings were all discussed. It was felt that if WBC were to do anything it would be resultant from a positive proposal rather than negative comments. The possibility of a zebra crossing would be discussed with WBC.
 3. The owners of the land are responsible for vegetation which grows onto roads and footpaths though the hedge at the rear of Orchard Road has been referred to as 'no man's land'. WBC has the power to give a notice to the owners and charge them if corrective work is not carried out. Cllrs. Dennett, Butcher together with possibly members of RFC should meet with WBC.
 4. WBC's failure to appoint a new School Crossing Patrol was also discussed. This was dealt with in Cllr. Bridgeman's report in 16/165 below. WBC are not obliged to provide a crossing patrol or indeed to carry out any improvements to the crossing point; that being said its main reason for not providing one is that there are insufficient applicants for a full commitment of two separate half hours per day. The school had not been prepared to take on the obligation. If a meaningful proposal were put forward it was thought that it would be considered.
- 15/165 **To receive District Councillor's Reports:** Cllr. Lock reported that there is a proposal that free transport for pupils to Willink entering after September 2016 shall cease. Both schools in Mortimer are now full and Willink is oversubscribed by 60+ applicants. Cllr. Bridgeman gave a detailed report and this will go on the Council web site.
- 15/166 **To receive minutes of the NDP Steering Group of 7th August, 21st August, 28th August and 4th September 2015:** The latter minutes have not yet been produced. The former minutes have previously been circulated. When NDP approves its own minutes it had made the comment of a 'minor amendment'; it was suggested that in future these minor amendments should be detailed. The minutes were then received and endorsed.
- 15/167 **1 To receive a progress report on the NDP and to endorse or comment on it.** The draft NDP had been produced ten days ago and WBC had changed its position since then. A site design brief must now be incorporated and not just referred to. There is to be a public meeting on 21st September in St John's Hall.
- 2 To agree the principle of expenditure on professional assistance to prepare a site design brief:** This was unanimously agreed in principle.
- 3 To agree to reapply for a government grant to help defray the costs of the NDP:** This was again unanimously agreed in principle.
- 4 To agree the setting up of a NDP implementation steering group:** After the

- referendum and on the assumption that there is approval it will be necessary to have an implementation steering group. Cllr Butcher proposed that this should be a Council committee. This was seconded by Cllr Dennett and unanimously approved.
- 15/168 **To receive a précis of the results of the Housing Needs Survey:** It was agreed that this should be considered more fully after the NDP referendum.
- 15/169 **To receive minutes of Finance and General purpose Committee of 8th September 2015:** These had not been published and the matter is deferred to the next meeting. For information [1] there were no problems with the External Auditor, [2] the internal auditor will be reappointed [3] the finances for the year to date appear broadly on track and [4] progress on the major policy documents will be considered at monthly intervals.
- 15/170 **To agree procedure for recommended by Finance and general purposes Committee for the appointment of the Parish Clerk:** Cllrs. Dennett, Earl, Butcher and Kiley are to consider the broader issues of the role. In the meantime it was reconfirmed that Cllr. Dennett has the power to appoint temporary administrative assistance as required.
- 15/171 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 5th August 2015:** These have been previously circulated and relate to four applications. They are on the web site and were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 15/172 **To receive planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council:**
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| 15/01203/FULD | Adjacent to 72 The Avenue, erection of detached 2 story house Conditional approval |
| 15/01198/HOUSE | 23 King Street, variation of condition for rear extension. Approved |
| 12/00068/FULD | Turning Point and land adjacent Birch Lane, erection of new 3 bed chalet-style detached dwelling. Approved |
| 15/01006/FULD | Flat 3 Carpenters Court, to change a window into French doors with a Juliet balcony. Approved |
| 15/01214/HOUSE | Calleva Longmoor Lane, erection of single storey kitchen/breakfast room. Approved |
| 15/01183/HOUSE | 8 Groves Lea, variation of condition for single story rear extension. Approved |
| 15/01129/CERTE | Land to rear of 36 and 38 Victoria Road, lawful development certificate for four small commercial storage uses and one lock up garage (B8 use class). Lawful |
| 15/01785/MOMAT | St Mary's C.E.School, non-material amendment to approval for fence around the games area. Approved |
| Appeal decision
14/02686/HOUSE | 20 Strawberry Fields, two storey rear extension. Appeal dismissed. |
- 15/173 **To receive minutes of Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee meeting of 1st September 2015:** These were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 15/174 **To receive minutes of Communication Committee meeting on 28th July 2015;** It was proposed by Cllr Richardson and seconded by Cllr. Butcher that the Council would proceed with the Facebook project on a trial period of six months. The vote was 8 for, 2 against with 1 abstention.

- 15/175 **To receive minutes of Burghfield and Mortimer NAG:** The minutes were received. Cllr. Butcher expressed reservations about the effectiveness of the body and is seeking improvements. He will report back in the future.
- 15/176 **To consider a proposal for the Christmas tree on the Fairground:** this is in hand and will be dealt with by the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee. New lights will have to be purchased.
- 15/177 **To consider whether the Parish Council wishes to hold an event to celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty:** In the absence of Cllr. Earl it was agreed to defer this to the October meeting.
- 15/178 **To agree to set up a working group to consider the part funded PCSO contract from April 2016:** It was agreed that Cllrs. Ives and Lewis should be this group.
- 15/179 **Finance – To resolve to agree accounts for payment in July:** Cllr. Dennett declared an interest in item 21. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the following items for payment were considered together. It was proposed by Cllr. Philips, seconded by Cllr. Lock and unanimously agreed that the following payments should be made:
1. Sita UK Ltd (waste disposal Fairground July) D/D £85.26 inc VAT
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 3. Dads Shop (May June) £40.57
 4. Rialtis Business Solutions (Accounts entry 3 months April to June) £252.00 inc VAT
 5. Claire Connell (Internal Audit) £235.00 inc VAT
 6. West Berkshire Council (Photocopying) £46.44 inc VAT
 7. Burghfield Parish Council (Hall hire for BMNAG) £30.00 inc VAT
 8. C&D Facilities (Grass cutting Fairground, Grass cutting Cemetery July) £686.05 inc VAT
 9. CO-OP Credit card Fee D/D £2.00
 10. Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Trust (annual lease rental Fairground) £2,000.00
 11. J Kirk (Clerk's reimbursable expenses July /August) £35.85
 12. Sita UK Ltd (waste disposal Fairground August) D/D £85.26 inc VAT
 13. JR Secretarial Services (NDP Administrative Support July/August 2015) £256.00
 14. Oakdale Services (September newsletter) £416.00
 15. The Benyon Trust (Cemetery extension rent Sept to Dec 2015) £62.50
 16. Southern Electric D/D (standing charge for meter 1 on Fairground) £15.28
 17. Southern Electric D/D (standing charge for meter 2 on Fairground) £15.28
 18. Southern Electric D/D (standing charge for meter 3 on Fairground) £12.71
 19. Thames Water D/D (Water supply to Fairground May to August 2015) £7.79
 20. C&D Facilities (Grass cutting Fairground, Grass cutting Cemetery August) £686.05 inc VAT
 21. M D Dennett (Expenses – Refuse sacks Fairground £19.90, Postage £2.52, Flowers and Basket for Morden Close naming £17.00, Custodian Mobile phone top up £20.00, Petrol for SMPC Strimmer £5.50, Fence rails for Fairground Fence £24.77) £89.69 (inc £8.37 VAT)

15/180 **To receive correspondence:**

1. A very pleasant letter of thanks had been received from Mrs. Pam Morden.
2. There is more correspondence in respect of dog fouling. Cllr. Lock will arrange for leaflets urging the prevention of dog fouling to be delivered to nearby residents.
3. There was a request for a bus shelter. It was agreed that this was not a matter for the Council but the bus company.
4. There was a request for CCTV on the Fairground. There was a feeling that this was not desirable at this time.

15/181 **To receive minor matters:** Cllr. Lock advised that thirteen school-leavers had received £500 each from Clarke's Charity. Cllr. Lock has raised the state of the footpaths in King Street with WBC.

15/182 **To receive any future Agenda items:** The possible purchase of Garth Hall should be on a future agenda.

The next meeting is on 8th October 2015

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

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