



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 9th July 2015 @ 7.30 pm

at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, Mortimer

Present: Cllrs: M. Dennett (Chairman), P. Blagden, J. Bull, A. Butcher, N. Carter, P. Challis, A. Colaço, J. Earl, C. Lewis, M. Lock, A. Philips, A. Richardson and P. Wingfield.
Three members of the public and press.
Cllr. Lewis offered to take the minutes for the meeting and this was accepted.
The meeting commenced at 7.32 pm

15/140 **Public Questions:** There were no public questions.

15/141 **To receive any apologies for absence:** Cllr. N. Kiley.

15/142 **To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:** None.

15/143 **To resolve to approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 25th June 2015:**

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman referred to the 11th June 2015 Minutes at 15/125 and stated that a member of the public had written saying that 'Burghfield & Mortimer Action Group' should be 'Burghfield & Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group'. It was proposed by Cllr. Dennett and seconded by Cllr. Earl that the Minutes should be amended accordingly; this was carried unanimously.

15/144 **To receive Acting Clerk's update (for information only)**

1. Regarding 15/135 of the previous minutes Cllrs. Dennett, Lewis and Philips had responded to the Charity Commission regarding Garth Hall.
2. The Internal Auditor had signed off the accounts and these have been forwarded to the External Auditor.
3. The Election Notice had been posted on 9th July 2015, nominations must be received at West Berkshire Council by 17th July and the election will be on 13th August. The cost to the Council is likely to be around £3,800. Regarding the election there is an option to send Poll Cards to every household at a cost of £821. It was proposed by Cllr. Butcher and seconded by Cllr. Lock that the Council does not take up this option; the resolution was carried by eleven votes to two.
4. The Draft Housing Needs survey results have been returned from CCB. There has been a 31% return which is considered good. This will be discussed at the September meeting.
5. Two separate horse shows have been booked on the grazing area on 12th and 19th July 2015.
6. The June 2015 accounts are now up to date.
7. In the 11th June 2015 Minutes at 15/116, the Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee had agreed to accept the P A Construction option to patch the Fairground car park at a cost of £3,000 + VAT. This was within the budget figure. It was proposed by Cllr. Lock and seconded by Cllr. Bull that this should be accepted; this was carried by 12 votes with one abstention.

Cllr Dennett proposed from the chair to take item 15/ 152 next and this was agreed

unanimously

- 15/145 **To receive the Minutes of the NDP Steering Group of 12th June and 26th June 2015:** These have been previously circulated and were received and endorsed.
- 15/146 **To receive a progress report on the NDP, to endorse or comment on the draft plan and to resolve to allow the NDP document to go forward to formal statutory consultation subject to any changes from the present being agreed by the Acting Clerk:**
The draft plan is virtually complete with some minor blank sections to be inserted. Without an August meeting there was a danger that progress could slip by up to two months. No amendments were proposed. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Wingfield and seconded by Cllr. Richardson; there were eleven in favour and two abstentions with Cllr. Philips asking to be named as an abstainer.
- 15/147 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 22nd June 2015:** These have been previously circulated and relate to three applications. They are on the web site and were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 15/148 **To receive planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council:**
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15/00999/HOUSE | 14 Stephens Road. Side extension and garage conversion.
Granted |
| 15/00956/HOUSE | 61, Victoria Road. Rear Extension. Granted |
| 15/00891/HOUSE | Linden Cottage, Mortimer Lane. Rear extension and changes to ground floor. Granted. |
| 15/00907/COMIND | St. Mary's School Increase height of fence around games area.
Granted. |
- 15/149 **To receive Cemetery Committee Minutes of 26th June 2015:** These have been previously circulated. They are on the web site and were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 15/150 **To receive Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Minutes of 6th July 2015:** These have been previously circulated. They are on the web site and were received, endorsed and adopted. It was noted that the Financial Regulations allowed expenditure on revenue items up to the approved budget without further approval
- 15/151 **To receive Communications Committee Minutes of 7th July 2015:** These have been previously circulated. They are on the web site and were received, endorsed and adopted. In the 2015/16 budget there was a figure of £2,000 for 'software and web design' which includes tidying up the Council's web site. Cllr. Richardson proposed and Cllr. Earl seconded that this sum be transferred to the Communications budget; this was carried unanimously.
- 15/152 **To Receive District Councillors Reports:**
1. Cllr. Bridgman gave an update on the installation of high speed Broadband. There was frustration that despite the Council paying approximately £20k to West Berkshire Council, a significant proportion of the village were getting no benefit. The best commitment that could be given was that it should be complete by the end of 2017.
 2. The developers had successfully appealed the rejection of the Firlands project in

Burghfield, though the development had reduced from 129 dwellings to 90.

3. Cllr. Lock drew the Council's attention to the consultation form that had been sent out in respect of the current free home to school transport and urged parent to respond by 17th July 2015.

15/153 **Finance – To resolve to agree accounts for payment in July:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations the following items for payment were considered together. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Dennett, seconded by Cllr. P. Blagden and unanimously agreed that the following payments should be made.

1. Sita UK Ltd (Waste disposal Fairground) D/D £85.26 inc. VAT.
2. JR Secretarial Services (NDP support) £306.00.
3. Thames Valley Police (PCSO Quarter 1 2015/16) £1967.61
4. C&D Facilities (Grass cutting Fairground grass and hedge cutting Cemetery) £823.26 inc. VAT.
5. BT Phone and broadband (Quarter 1 2015/16) D/D £246.33 inc. VAT.
6. Vision ICT (Annual charge website hosting and support) £258.00 inc. VAT.
7. M. D. Dennett (Refuse sacks and postage) £15.83.
8. Clerk's reimbursable expenses £37.70.

15/154 **To receive correspondence:**

1. Readibus advised of its AGM on 3rd August.
2. St. John's School had asked permission to put bunting on the fairground fence to celebrate the retirement of Freda Batten (St John's School Crossing Patrol) after many years of excellent service. Cllr. Dennett had granted this permission...Cllr. Earl agreed to create a certificate for presentation to her.
3. There had been a request to hold a wedding on the Fairground. This was referred to Fairground Committee.
4. In two parts of the village there was a marked and unacceptable increase in the dog fouling and litter. Cllr. Lock undertook to deal with this at West Berkshire Council.

15/155 **To receive minor matters:** The lime trees on the Fairground are in need of watering. Acting Clerk to action

15/156 **To receive any future Agenda items:**

Cllrs Bull, Earl and Richardson are to meet and produce a proposal in respect of the Christmas tree and an associated event.

The Council is to consider an event to celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty.

The next meeting is on 10th September 2015

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm