



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 11th February 2016 @ 7.30 pm

at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, Mortimer

Present: Cllr. M. Dennett (Chairman), Cllr. J. Earl (Vice Chairman), Cllr. P. Blagden, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. A. Butcher, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. P. Challis, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. N. Kiley, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. M. Lock, Cllr. A. Phillips, Cllr. A. Richardson and Cllr. P. Wingfield.

There were 4 members of the public and no press present.

15/279	<p>Public Questions:</p> <p>None</p>
15/280	<p>To receive any apologies for absence:</p> <p>None</p>
15/281	<p>To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield declared a personal interest, due to being a resident of Strawberry Fields, in Agenda Item 292 and a pecuniary interest, due to a cheque being made out to him for expenses incurred, in Agenda Item 293.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Phillips declared a personal interest, due to being a resident of Strawberry Fields, in Agenda Item 292.</p>
15/282	<p>To resolve to approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th January 2015:</p> <p>The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.</p>
15/283	<p>To Receive District Councillors Reports:</p> <p>Both Cllrs. M. Lock and G. Bridgman had submitted written reports which were received.</p> <p>Cllr. M Lock gave a verbal report advising that there had been a grant decision regarding a further £2.8 million over 2 years and that a decision on seeking a Judicial Review was being considered over revenue for services.</p> <p>Cllr. G. Bridgman gave a verbal report advising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning decision on Fairwinds was due to be made by the end of March following discussions on affordable housing. • The Monkey Puzzle field planning application was still under review. • His understanding on the Mortimer – Willink School Bus Service was still included in the WBC Budget savings. <p>Cllr. M. Lock advised that this was still under consideration as the risk assessment has been re-considered and at least £100K will be needed to allow the proposed safe route to meet the required safety standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortimer Library was still on the proposed consultation for closure and the Parish Council needed to prepare itself to strongly argue the case against closure. <p>Cllr. M. Dennett advised that an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting was being called for Thursday 18th February to discuss The Parish Council's response to the consultation, being issued on Monday 15th February, on the further budget savings being proposed by WBC.</p>

	<p>Cllr. C. Lewis raised the question as to whether funding expenditure is being fairly shared out by WBC between Newbury/Thatcham and the rural communities within WBC and the general feeling was that the Urbanised areas were getting priority over funding for services.</p>
15/284	<p>To receive an update report on the Neighbourhood Development Plan</p> <p>1 To receive and accept the NDP Progress Report:</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield gave a verbal outline as the contents of the documents being put forward and, following questions raised by Cllrs. N. Carter and M. Lock regarding funding and footprint of St Mary's School, which were answered in that if the school was not moved after 5 years a further review would take place.</p> <p>The report was received and accepted.</p> <p>2 To receive and accept the supplementary documents attached to the NDP Progress Report:</p> <p>The papers were received and accepted.</p> <p>Cllr A. Richardson proposed, seconded by Cllr. C. Lewis a vote of thanks for the hard work that Cllr P. Wingfield and the NDP Steering Group had done in getting the NDP ready for submission to WBC which was passed by 10 votes for and 3 abstentions.</p> <p>3 To receive and accept the revised NDP that is to be found on the website:</p> <p>The revised NDP was received and accepted.</p> <p>4 To agree to request the Clerk to make any necessary amendments to the various documents and submit them to West Berkshire Council:</p> <p>Agreed.</p>
15/285	<p>PCSO Contract.</p> <p>To receive an update report on the part-funded PCSO contract from April 2016 and resolve to Agree the recommendations of the PCSO Working Group.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Ives presented his report and latest crime figures and gave a verbal report on a Police PCSO who confirmed the conclusions of the report.</p> <p>Discussion then followed where:</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield expressed his concerns over the contract and its funding.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl expressed his view that the crime figures showed little reduction</p> <p>Cllr. T. Butcher expressed his view that the PCSO presence in the community showed little effect.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Phillips asked whether PCSOs got involved with school work, which was confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson commented that there seemed to be no metrics on how performance was providing value for money.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis commented that the Parish was getting value for money.</p> <p>Cllr. M. Lock offered to attend a proposed meeting between the three Parishes signed up to the contract and the Police to provide advice on security, especially for the elderly.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Carter asked whether Burghfield Parish Council were continuing with the contract and was told yes. Further comment was made that they were getting better value for money as they had more crime in their Parish.</p>

	<p>Cllr. M. Dennett advised on the structure of the PCSOs across the area.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis cautioned that even if we are not happy with the contract, we don't want to 'jump of the cliff'.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield proposed an amended resolution, seconded by Cllr. N. Kiley, that the Parish agrees to continue with the PCSO for a further year but are mindful to terminate the contract in 2017 unless there is solid evidence of value for money for continuing with the contract.</p> <p>This was AGREED by 9 votes for and 4 votes against.</p>												
15/286	<p>To receive Locum Clerk's update (for information only).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Costings obtained from C&D Facilities for urgent Fairground work 2 Costings obtained from Oakdale Printers for the Newsletter 3 Update meeting with TVP Neighbourhood Sergeant on 4th February 4 Fairground asset walk 4th February with Cllrs Dennett and Blagden 5 Submitted SMPC's Precept request to WBC 6 2016 Tennis Bookings Diary now in Budgens 7 Wrote to WBC Enforcement Officer concerning the illuminated fascia and advertising at David Cliff – Estate Agents, Victoria Road following complaints from a resident and a business 8 Submitted the Quarterly Vacancy Survey to the Office of National Statistics. 9 Completed the December and January A/Cs and submitted the VAT Return due 31st January. 10 Posted Casual Councillor Vacancy notice on the notice boards and the website – closing date for applications 29th February. <p>Cllr. A. Richardson raised the issue of 2015 Tennis Court booking fees.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that incorrect figures had been posted in the Diary in Budgens. The fees posted in the 2016 Diary are correct.</p> <p>The Clerk also advised that some booking fees from October had been lost in the burglary from Budgens.</p> <p>The report was received and noted.</p>												
15/287	<p>To receive planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council.</p> <table border="1"> <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>15/03212/HOUSE</td> <td>Clifton, The Street</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>25/01/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15/03300/HOUSE</td> <td>55, Windmill Road</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>01/02/16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The planning decisions were received and noted.</p>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>	15/03212/HOUSE	Clifton, The Street	Approved	25/01/16	15/03300/HOUSE	55, Windmill Road	Approved	01/02/16
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15/288	<p>To receive minutes of Communications Committee meeting of 2nd February 2016</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson presented the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 2nd February 2016, which were received and AGREED as correct and signed by the Chairman.</p>												
15/289	<p>To receive minutes of the NDP Steering Group meetings of 23rd December</p>												

	<p>2015 and 22nd January 2016.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield presented the minutes which were received and noted.</p>										
15/290	<p>Garth Hall</p> <p>To receive an update on the consideration of the Charity Commission's letter dated 2nd October 2015.</p> <p>Cllr. M. Dennett advised that the Royal British Legion had been in contact requesting a further meeting which was being set up ASAP.</p>										
15/291	<p>Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Celebrations</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl reported that a meeting of the working group had been held on 20th January and 9th February and plans were progressing well.</p> <p>The "Picnic in the Park" event planned for 4th June 2016 would be from 4:00pm to 10:45pm.</p> <p>The event would be a patriotic and nostalgic event free to the community, full of activities, music and fun for all with food and drink available for purchase and was to budget.</p> <p>Cllr. G. Bridgeman asked if the event was to be ticketed, to which the answer was no.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Earl advised he had received a communication from the Pageant Master for the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon Lighting proposing that Beacons would be lit on 21st April to mark the Queen's birthday.</p> <p>Gas fired beacons would cost £299, which was not in the budget, and it was proposed that a beacon should be purchased to be lit at a similar event as the Christmas Tree lighting event led by the Church with songs and bells. The beacon then again being used at the "Picnic in the Park" in June.</p> <p>This was proposed by Cllr. M. Dennett, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl and unanimously AGREED.</p>										
15/292	<p>The upgrade programme of Mortimer's existing street lights to low energy (LED)</p> <p>Cllr N. Carter reported that the consultation leaflet was now ready for delivery to Strawberry Fields Estate and Cllr. P. Wingfield agreed to deliver on behalf of the Parish.</p>										
15/293	<p>Finance – To resolve to agree accounts for payment</p> <p>In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, the following items for payment were considered together and it was unanimously AGREED that the following payments should be made:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 SITA UK Ltd – Waste disposal Fairground January 2016 D.D. inc VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£93.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Funding Q3 – Oct-Dec 2015</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,967.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Cllr Pat Wingfield – Landford Trees – Tree, stakes & ties for Fairground – Queens 90th Birthday. inc VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£59.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Viking Direct – Stationery and Toner for Parish Office inc VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£148.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Fees for Locum Clerk work</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,851.30</td> </tr> </table>	1 SITA UK Ltd – Waste disposal Fairground January 2016 D.D. inc VAT	£93.79	2 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Funding Q3 – Oct-Dec 2015	£1,967.61	3 Cllr Pat Wingfield – Landford Trees – Tree, stakes & ties for Fairground – Queens 90 th Birthday. inc VAT	£59.88	4 Viking Direct – Stationery and Toner for Parish Office inc VAT	£148.75	5 Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Fees for Locum Clerk work	£1,851.30
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	<p>January 2016</p> <p>The following items came in after the Agenda was published:</p> <table> <tr> <td>6 The Information Commissioners Office – Data Protection Registration fees – March 2016 - 2017</td> <td>£35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 DHP Legal Admin Fees on Employment Issue Jan 2016. Inc. VAT</td> <td>£168.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 SLCC – Missed VAT payment on Inv. 118865 paid 14/1/2016 Cheque No. 300293</td> <td>£60.00</td> </tr> </table>	6 The Information Commissioners Office – Data Protection Registration fees – March 2016 - 2017	£35.00	7 DHP Legal Admin Fees on Employment Issue Jan 2016. Inc. VAT	£168.00	8 SLCC – Missed VAT payment on Inv. 118865 paid 14/1/2016 Cheque No. 300293	£60.00
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15/294	<p>To receive an update report on the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Cllr. T. Butcher advised that there was nothing to report, but made comment that the grant is an agreed long term agreement and looking at reports appears to be value for money.</p>						
15/295	<p>To receive an update report on the Burghfield and Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Ives gave a verbal update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime figures • The NAG being more accessible to the public • The Mobile Police Van manned by volunteers. 						
15/296	<p>To receive Correspondence (for information only)</p> <p>1 Received Internal Auditor's Report</p> <p>Received and noted</p> <p>The Clerk also gave a verbal report on the receipt of the notice of consultation from the Fire Brigade on "Helping to shape the future" closing on 4th April 2016 and the need for Councillors to respond, which was noted.</p> <p>A unanimous vote of thanks was given to Cllr. M. Dennett for his work in ensuring the satisfactory Internal Auditors Report.</p>						
15/297	<p>MVP funding proposals</p> <p>To agree a response to the MVP funding proposals for:</p> <p>1 Funding the a Defibrillator for the centre of Mortimer</p> <p>This was discussed and the Parish Council expressed their appreciation and approval of the MVP's funding proposal to install a Defibrillator at Budgens.</p> <p>2 Dog Litter bins for the Fairground</p> <p>This was discussed and the Parish Council, again, expressed their appreciation of the offer, but it was felt that there were enough dog bins on the Fairground already and better options could be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Installing Bin bag dispensers on the Fairground, although they would need to be maintained and kept filled. Seek other areas where further Dog Bins might be needed. To install a buried power line for events on the Fairground with easy plug-in access via a secure box. <p>Cllr. P. Wingfield expressed concern at taking money from a charity when there was already capital project funding in hand for the Fairground from S106 grants received.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Installing a commemorative plaque for the Queen's 90th 						

	<p>Birthday Celebration Tree on the Fairground.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to reply to the MVP's proposals.</p>
15/298	<p>Locum Clerk</p> <p>To agree to extend the appointment of Haydn Selwyn-Jones as SMPC's Locum Clerk for a further period of 3 months from the end of February or less, subject to the appointment of a new Clerk.</p> <p>This was proposed by Cllr. M. Dennett and seconded by Cllr. M. Lock and agreed by 13 votes for and 1 abstention.</p>
15/299	<p>To receive Minor Matters (for information only)</p> <p>Cllr. N. Kiley asked how matters were progressing with filling the Casual Vacancy and the Clerk advised that the Casual Vacancy was being advertised with a closing date of Monday 29th February and candidates would be brought before the Parish Council on the 10th March 2016.</p> <p>Cllr P. Challis raised the progress being made on the hedge bordering the Monkey Puzzle field. Cllr. M. Lock and the Clerk advised that the matter was in hand with West Berkshire Council and the Clerk advised that the matter would be brought up at the proposed Extraordinary Council meeting on 18th February 2016.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis asked what the available options were regarding the closure of Mortimer Library and was advised that this would be fully discussed at the proposed Extraordinary Council meeting on 18th February 2016.</p> <p>Cllr G. Bridgman advised that he would circulate financial figures for WBC libraries.</p> <p>Cllr. M. Lock advised that a meeting was due be held with Network Rail regarding the railway bridge at Upton Village Hall on 15th February at 7:30pm.</p> <p>Cllr P. Blagden advised that the licensee of the Horse & Groom was changing, which may change some of the current relationships with the Parish.</p>
15/300	<p>To receive any future Agenda Items</p> <p>Cllr. A. Richardson asked that an Agenda Item be added regarding Facebook and a decision as to whether to continue following the trial period.</p> <p>Councillor J. Earl asked that an Agenda Item be added for an Update on the Beacon Event for the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.</p>

The next meeting is on 10th March 2016

The meeting closed at 9:28 pm