



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 14th April 2016 @ 7.30 pm

at Mortimer Methodist Church, West End Road, Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: 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. L. Jones, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. M. Lock, Cllr. N. Kiley, Cllr. A. Philips and Cllr P. Wingfield.

Clerk: Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Parish Clerk

Public/Press: There were District Cllr. G. Bridgman (from 8.15 pm), 5 members of the public and no members of the press present.

16/334	<p>Public Questions:</p> <p>There were no public questions</p>	
16/335	<p>To receive any apologies for absence:</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr. A Richardson. The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Jones to her first meeting.</p>	
16/336	<p>To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:</p> <p>All Councillors present Declared a Personal Interest regarding items 16/346 and 16/347 as they are all users of Mortimer Library. The Clerk granted a 1 year Dispensation for any meeting which has a bearing on the future of Mortimer Library is being or is due to be considered on the basis that failure to grant would impede the transaction of the business because of the number of Councillors having the same Disclosable Personal Interest, which was received by the Council.</p> <p>Cllr. P Wingfield and Cllr. A Philips declared personal interests in item 16/351 as they both reside in Strawberry Fields.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Lewis, when questioned, stated that he would not take part in the discussion of item 16/337 as he was a supporter of Mortimer Football Club.</p>	
16/337	<p>To receive an update from the Trustees of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field and to consider and decide on the request that the Parish Council continues to cut the grass for the upcoming year.</p> <p>Rebecca Barker, Chairman of the Trustees of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field gave a brief report. All users of the field now did so via hire agreements. A grant of £6,000 to provide football equipment and storage for Mortimer Youth Football Club has been received from West Berkshire Council. Another development is to provide an area for Mortimer Scouts to undertake outdoor pursuits. At present, the general income was not sufficient to cut the grass areas outside the football pitch (which is cut by Mortimer Football Club). The trustees requested that the Parish Council continue the arrangement as last year in that the Council's contractors cut the APMF at the same time as the Fairground grass is cut with the Parish Council meeting the additional cost. The Chairman reported that provision for this had been included in the 2016/17 budget and proposed that this be AGREED. This was seconded by Cllr. Kiley and was carried</p>	

	with 13 votes in favour and one abstention.																	
16/338	<p>To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10th March 2016</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes subject to the inclusion of the following additional point (6) on item 15/323</p> <p>6 SMPC needs to be reactive in the early stages of the proposals put forward by WBC</p>																	
16/339	<p>To receive District Councillors' Report</p> <p>Both Cllr. M Lock and Cllr. G Bridgman had submitted written reports which were received. The issues of the library and public transport had not been resolved; free home to school transport for children living within three miles of the Willink school and without any special circumstances ends on 18th April. Some signage had been erected on the recommended walking route but the signs informing that pedestrians are crossing Goring Road had not been put in place. Cllr Bridgman's report raised again the issue of a meeting between parishes in Mortimer ward. Cllr. Dennett proposed this meeting should take place and this was carried unanimously.</p>																	
16/340	<p>To receive minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 14th March and 4th April 2016</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive and agree the minutes of both meetings</p>																	
16/341	<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>16/00241/HOUSE</td> <td>15, Briar Lea Road</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>16/03/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/00070/HOUSE</td> <td>Birch Cottage, Birch Lane</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>16/03/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/00146/FUL</td> <td>2, Carpenters Court, 72 The Crescent</td> <td>Approved</td> <td>24/03/16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Received and noted</p>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Date</u>	16/00241/HOUSE	15, Briar Lea Road	Approved	16/03/16	16/00070/HOUSE	Birch Cottage, Birch Lane	Approved	16/03/16	16/00146/FUL	2, Carpenters Court, 72 The Crescent	Approved	24/03/16	
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16/342	<p>To receive minutes of the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee meeting of 29th February 2016 deferred from Parish Council meeting 10th March 2016</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive and agree the minutes</p>																	
16/343	<p>Update report regarding the NDP submission progress</p> <p>Cllr Wingfield reported that West Berkshire Council had completed their six week consultation. It was understood there were only 19 responses to that consultation, most of which were from statutory bodies. The documents have now been sent to the appointed Examiner who is Richard Humphreys QC. It is expected that the referendum on the plan will take place either in July or September.</p>																	
16/344	<p>To appoint members to the NDP Implementation Committee and to receive and agree the draft Terms of Reference</p> <p>Cllr Wingfield spoke to a background paper outlining the purpose of the NDP Implementation Committee and to the proposed Interim Terms of Reference for that Committee. There was considerable discussion on both documents, particularly with respect to the relationship between this</p>																	

	<p>committee and the Planning Committee. Cllr. Butcher stated that in his view the Chairman of Planning should not be a member of the Implementation Committee. It was decided that the Clerk should seek advice from West Berkshire Council regarding conflicts of interest and separation of the two committees. The interim terms of reference would then be revised and brought back to the next meeting. In the meantime, those members of the NDP steering group who are not members of the planning committee (Cllr Wingfield, Mr T Barber and Mrs D Morsley) were authorised to meet with the developers of the site regarding the progression of a design brief if such a meeting was essential before the next Full Council meeting.</p>	Clerk
16/345	<p>To receive Locum Clerk's Update (for information only)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Carried out New Councillor Induction with Cllr. L. Jones 2 Carried out Cemetery inspection walk with Custodian 3 Renewed Council contact list 4 Renewed Data Protection Registration 5 Updated issue of Deeds of Registered Ownership of plots in the Cemetery 6 Submitted SMPC Planning responses to WBC 7 Actioned the dimming of Strawberry Fields LED streetlights with WBC 8 Submitted preference for NDP Examiner request to WBC 9 Organised office cover and home working activities following my return to work after surgery and caught up with all outstanding matters 	
16/346	<p>To receive an update on WBC's Budget Proposal 2016-17 Phase 2 consultation and subsequent decisions.</p> <p>Cllr Dennett reported that with regard to these proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public transport cuts would proceed but £337,000 of transitional funding would be used to reduce the cuts thin 2016/17; 2. Wash Common and Theale libraries would shut but £475.000 of transitional funding in 2016/17 would keep the other libraries and services running in the short term; 3. Access to Smallmead Recycling Centre for West Berkshire residents is likely to be removed. 	
16/347	<p>To receive a report on the setting up of a Mortimer Library Working Group to investigate and report on options.</p> <p>Cllr Dennett reported that WBC would be providing information on how the community could contribute to the library service in the future. It was thought that SMPC should be proactive and identify what was really wanted in a community library. Cllrs. Lock, Carter and Jones agreed to join the library working group and it was suggested Marjorie McClure's expertise would be valuable and that Marjorie be contacted to see whether she would be willing to join the group.</p>	Clerk

16/348	<p>PCSO Contract</p> <p>To receive an update on the part-funded PCSO contract from April 2016.</p> <p>The new contract had just been received and it was agreed this should be scrutinised by the Clerk, with the help of some Councillors, if necessary amendments should be requested with the intention of signing as agreed at items 15/285 and 15/324.</p>	Clerk																		
16/349	<p>Garth Hall</p> <p>To receive an update on the consideration of the Charity Commission's letter dated 2nd October 2015</p> <p>A date for a meeting with the Royal British Legion had not been agreed.</p>																			
16/350	<p>Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Celebrations and Beacon Lighting</p> <p>To receive an update from the working party regarding the event to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty and the Beacon Lighting event</p> <p>Cllr Earl outlined the arrangements for the Beacon lighting event on 21 April. The Beacon would be lit at 8:30 pm following a short speech by Air Vice Marshall Barry Newton. The Hurst singers would lead patriotic songs and the National Anthem. The event on the 4th June for the 90th birthday would start at 4pm. The bar and toilet facilities would be provided by the Victoria arms and a full programme of entertainment was planned</p>																			
16/351	<p>To receive an update report on the over-night dimming of the lights in Strawberry Fields</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the Strawberry Fields Estate LED Lights had been reprogrammed on 31st March 2016 to operate at 40% of power between Midnight and 5:30am.</p>																			
16/352	<p>Finance - To resolve to agree accounts for payment:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Ltd – Waste disposal Fairground March 2016 D.D. inc VAT</td> <td>£93.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 BT - Telephone Bill – 25/3/16 – D.D. inc VAT</td> <td>£345.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. DD inc VAT</td> <td>£14.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. Plot 1 Fairground DD inc VAT</td> <td>£14.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. Plot 2 Fairground DD inc VAT</td> <td>£14.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 West Berkshire Council – Annual Grounds Maintenance Charges for clearing Dog Bins. inc VAT</td> <td>£634.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Funding Qtr 4 (01/01/16 – 31/03/16)</td> <td>£1,967.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 West Berkshire Council – Office rental January Qtr. 2016</td> <td>£750.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 C&D Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Ltd – Fairground Area 1 Gorse Clearance as per SMPC PO 1602. inc VAT</td> <td>£1,020.00</td> </tr> </table>	1 Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Ltd – Waste disposal Fairground March 2016 D.D. inc VAT	£93.79	2 BT - Telephone Bill – 25/3/16 – D.D. inc VAT	£345.55	3 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. DD inc VAT	£14.49	4 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. Plot 1 Fairground DD inc VAT	£14.46	5 SSE – Southern Electricity Dec 15 – Mar 16. Plot 2 Fairground DD inc VAT	£14.46	6 West Berkshire Council – Annual Grounds Maintenance Charges for clearing Dog Bins. inc VAT	£634.92	7 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Funding Qtr 4 (01/01/16 – 31/03/16)	£1,967.61	8 West Berkshire Council – Office rental January Qtr. 2016	£750.00	9 C&D Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Ltd – Fairground Area 1 Gorse Clearance as per SMPC PO 1602. inc VAT	£1,020.00	
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	<p>10 West Berkshire Council – Office Rental April Qtr. 2016 £750.00</p> <p>11 ICCM - Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management – Membership renewal 2016/17 £90.00</p> <p>12 Haydn Selwyn-Jones, T/A BMS Associates – Locum Clerk invoice March 2016 £1610.10</p> <p>13 Playsafety Ltd – Annual Fairground Play Area Inspection. inc VAT £184.80</p> <p>14 BALC – BALC Subscription 2016-2017 inc VAT £910.54</p> <p>15 BALC – Additional Copies of Local Council Review £165.00</p> <p>16 M D Dennett – Renewal of Parish Council Annual Licence for Survey Monkey inc VAT £299.00</p>	
16/353	<p>To receive Correspondence (for information only):</p> <p>1 Unity Trust Bank – Change to Terms and Conditions The Clerk reported that Unity Bank will no longer pay interest on the Council's current account and will introduce a monthly charge of £6 from 4th June. He would investigate possible deposit accounts.</p> <p>2 Post Office – Notice of consultation re proposed move of Mortimer Common Post Office to Budgens. The Clerk reported that this consultation was purely on services and facilities at the new site and there was no consultation on the decision to relocate.</p> <p>3 West Berkshire Council – Notice of WBC Governance and Ethics Committee Hearing Decision regarding Code of Conduct Complaint NPC4/15 brought by Cllr. M. Dennett against Cllr. C. Lewis. The Clerk informed the meeting of the Decision that Councillor Christopher Lewis had breached paragraph 3.1 of the Stratfield Mortimer Code of Conduct. The Committee accepted that Cllr Lewis was not motivated by bad faith and that he believed he was acting in the public interest. A letter will be sent to the Subject Member, Councillor Christopher Lewis by the Chairman of the Governance & Ethics Committee of West Berkshire Council. The letter would also advise the Subject Member that he needed to reflect on the tone of his letters and that the way that he presented his arguments could be perceived by others.</p> <p>4 West Berkshire Council – Notice of the decision by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, regarding the Code of Conduct Complaint NPC7/16 brought by Cllr. C. Lewis against Cllr. M Dennett. The Clerk informed the meeting that NCP7/16 concerns a complaint made by Cllr C Lewis against Cllr M Dennett regarding his declaration of interests for the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field at the Full Council meeting of 11th June 2015. The initial assessment of the complaint, by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person, on 31 March 2016 reached the decision that no action should be taken on the allegation.</p>	

16/354	<p>To receive an update on the review of the SMPC Business Continuity Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that this was in progress and would be submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.</p>	
16/355	<p>To receive an update report on the District Conference (for information only)</p> <p>Cllr. Wingfield reported that the theme of the District Parish Conference was devolution of duties from WBC to Parishes. Cllr Dennett stated that a proposal to set up a working group to look at this would be on the agenda for the May meeting.</p>	
16/356	<p>To receive Minor Matters (for information only):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The internal auditor's end of year visit would be on 9th May. 2. The implementation of the Clerk's contract would be postponed at least until 1st May. 3. The Community Award Committee had agreed to make the award to Freda Batten for her 34 years' service as School Crossing Patrol at St John's School 4. A reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting would be on Wednesday 27th April in St John's Hall. 5. Cllr. Earl stated that MVP had informed the Council that they wished to have a tethered hot air balloon at the Funday, sponsored by Spratleys. The proposal was to site this between the all-weather sports area and Victoria Road. The Clerk stated that he needed to check the insurance position with the Council's insurers, It was pointed out that the proposed site was near to residential properties and also that it would block the major pedestrian access to the Funday from Victoria Road. The Clerk to investigate. 6. Costing of the proposed power supply to the grazing area had yet to be obtained and Cllr. Kiley agreed to investigate. 7. Cllr Challis stated that much of the work required re the clearing and levelling of plots in the Cemetery agreed last August had not been done. The Clerk would follow up on these actions; he also stated that a substantial amount of waste wood at the cemetery had been burned. 	
16/357	<p>To receive any future Agenda items</p> <p>Cllr Butcher requested an item on Community Speedwatch.</p>	

The next meeting is on 12th May 2016.

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm.