

## ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND COMMONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Unapproved Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

SPMC Office

<p>Those present:</p> <p>Tony Butcher (TB)          Angie Phillips (AP)          Chris Lewis (CL)          Phil Challis (PC)          John Bull (JB)</p> <p>Two members of the public were present</p>	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Nick Carter (NC)          Austin Calcao (AC)          Julian Earl (JE)          Mike Dennett (MD)</p>
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Meeting Commenced: 7.30pm

#	Agenda Item	Update	Action Required	Responsibility (initials)
1.	To receive any Apologies	As above		
2.	To receive any Declarations of Interest and applications for Dispensations	MD declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 on the agenda and said he would leave the meeting for that item.		
3.	Minutes of last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the last meeting were shown by TB and MD;</li> <li>• TB said he had not circulated minutes because</li> </ul>		

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		<p>he was not sure of their status. It was unclear whether they had been received by the full Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were some obvious omissions including recording the attendance of TB and AP at that meeting;</li> <li>• As the purpose of the current meeting was to review the situation on all open matters, it was agreed that the minutes would stay unapproved so far as the Committee was concerned but all the relevant points would be picked up and included in the minutes of the current meeting.</li> </ul>		
4.	Currently open and unresolved issues from any member of the committee	<p>TB explained that as this was the first meeting of the new Committee, he wanted to identify open points relevant to the Committee's responsibility which might not be known to all members;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The footpath between Croft Road and West End Road was mentioned as continuing to have problems with overhanging bushes and dog mess.</li> </ul>	<p>Footpath to be monitored and:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Berkshire or Custodian to be asked to trim back the overhanging bushes;</li> <li>• Cost of warning notices for fines for leaving dog mess would be explored and reported back to next meeting</li> </ul>	TB

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration of commons was mentioned. This has appeared in the previous minutes;</li> <li>• There had been some correspondence with Solicitors and £700 had been allocated in the current year budget to complete registration of the two commons thought to be unregistered at Heath Elms and Five Oaken;</li> <li>• No progress had been made since December</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review to be made of previous correspondence with Solicitors;</li> <li>• Summary report of the commons registration progress and action needed to be prepared for next meeting;</li> </ul>	MD  CL
5.	Issues with parking and vision at the junction of Mortimer Lane and The Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP expressed her continuing concern about the junction and safety issues on emerging from Mortimer Lane;</li> <li>• When the yellow lines had been created at that end of The Street, West Berkshire had agreed to undertake reviews of their effect. One review had apparently taken place. A second review was probably due about now.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Berkshire to be asked to complete a further review and as part of that review, to consider specifically any safety aspects of the parking and yellow lines at the junction of Mortimer Lane and The Street.</li> </ul>	TB
6.	The proposed bollards outside the Café on Victoria Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD left the meeting at this point;</li> <li>• There was a thorough discussion of the proposal included in the current year budget for the installation of bollards on Victoria Road outside the Café. It was decided that the project to install bollards would not go ahead;</li> <li>• In previous discussions with West Berkshire (Andrew Garrett), the possibility of a raised curb had been covered with concern expressed about possible services under the pavement. It was also decided not to pursue that possibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that West Berkshire be asked to put in some road markings to discourage parking (although they would have no legal effect). These might consist of a white line or possible hatching – to be discussed with West Berkshire.</li> </ul>	TB

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		<p>primarily as it was felt that with dropped curbs available at either end of where cars might park, the same problem would continue;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was concern expressed about simply displacing parking issues to elsewhere by any measure taken but on balance, some action should be taken to try and improve the situation for pedestrians.</li> </ul>		
7.	<p>Current position on the CROW Act (Countryside Right of Way) and any effect on Mortimer / the footpaths project included in the budget for the financial year 2015 / 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD rejoined the meeting</li> <li>• TB explained briefly the effect of the 2012 Countryside Rights of Way Act on designation of footpaths not already identified on the definitive maps held by West Berkshire;</li> <li>• There was discussion of previous reviews of footpaths where maps were held and the importance of footpaths to the village as evidenced in the neighbourhood development plan questionnaire responses;</li> <li>• A budget allocation had been provided within the 2015 / 2016 Parish precept for improvement for footpaths, signage, possible production of new leaflets on recommended walks etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that a project should be put in place to review current footpaths, improve their maintenance and to consider what more should be done as a project over the coming year;</li> <li>• A map based on the definitive map held by West Berkshire for footpaths in the Parish would be produced and circulated with proposed allocation between Committee Members to undertake a review of the footpaths in that area prior to the next meeting of the Committee;</li> <li>• The review would be against set scales including</li> </ul>	TB



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		<p>land through which the footpath ran was in private ownership, in this case believed to be the Englefield Estate. Notification as should be the standard for footpaths issues would be to notify West Berkshire who would approach the owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hedge / vegetation / trees along the non-footpath side of the S-bend in The Street remained heavily overgrown. The vegetation had encroached even further onto the tarmac of the road at an already potentially dangerous point. This issue had been outstanding for some years. Discussion had previously taken place with West Berkshire. No action had yet been taken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that direct action to cut back the vegetation was not appropriate as the area was dangerous and may well require partial road closure;</li> <li>• A more formal approach will be made to West Berkshire requesting specific action. Initially there would be a discussion with Molly Lock about what, if anything, had been said recently at West Berkshire about the issue.</li> </ul>	TB
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The meeting closed at 8.40pm