

STRATFIELD MORTIMER

Parish Council Newsletter



February 2011

Contents

New Parish Council Chairman	2
New Grant Application Procedure	3
Parish Council Elections	4
Annual Parish Meeting	6
Stratfield Mortimer Community Award	8
No Increase in 2011/2012 Precept	9
PCSO Contract Renewed	9
Mortimer Hill – Adoption of Roads	9
Willink Leisure Centre	9
SMPC Budget 2011/2012	10
The Fairground	11
New Adventure Playground	11
Multi-Sports Walls	11
Junior Playground	12
Storage Shed	13
Hiring Charges	13
Enjoy the Fairground!	13
Fairground Diary	14
PCSO Diary	15
Parish Council Contact Information	16

New Parish Council Chairman

Following the resignation of Chairman, Tom Shorrock, from the Parish Council, the Vice Chairman Rebecca Barker has taken over the reins until the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.



At the Meeting held on the 13th January Parish Councillors expressed their appreciation for all the time and effort Tom put into the work of the Parish Council over the years.

New Parish Council Grant Application Procedure

The Parish Council has changed its Grant Application Procedure (a brief summary of which is outlined below) and is now inviting applications.

The Parish Council will consider applications only from non-profit making voluntary organisations or charities (not individuals) for items or projects which will directly benefit the parish of Stratfield Mortimer and its inhabitants. Priority will be given to smaller and more local organisations. Match-funding is not required. The total amount available for grants is fixed each year.

Applications for grants must be made by completing the Grant Application Form which is obtainable from the Parish Council Office or can be downloaded from www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk. Completed forms must be delivered (in hard copy format) to the Parish Council Office by noon on 31st March 2011. All applicants will be contacted following the Parish Council's decision and successful applicants will receive their grant money by 31st May 2011. The total amount the Parish Council has made available for grants for 2011/2012 is £5000, hence any successful application may receive only a proportion of the amount applied for.

A copy of the Council's adopted Grants Policy will be distributed with each application form so that all applicants can check whether they are eligible and what supporting documentation is required.

Why not consider standing for
election to your Parish Council?

Interested..?

To find out more drop into the

INFORMATION MORNING

At

St John's Hall

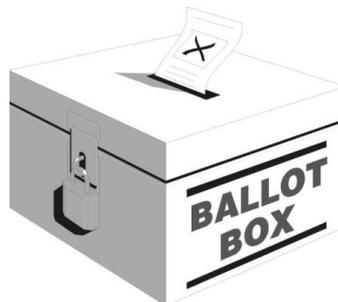
On

Saturday 12th March

Between 10 - 12 a.m.

Councillors will be present at the Open Morning to answer questions, and information and nomination packs will be available for anyone wishing to stand as a candidate.

On Thursday 5th May there will be an Election for all 15 Parish Councillor seats on the Parish Council. If you are 18, are on the electoral register (or live within 3 miles) you could be eligible. If elected you could take an active part in the decision making process of the Parish and would represent the interests of the whole Community.



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council has a wide range of powers and duties for the Village, but these are difficult to undertake unless the Council is up to strength (15 Councillors) with enough people to share the responsibilities. Your Council meets 11 times a year on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Methodist Hall.

If you are able to commit at least two evenings a month, feel you are able to make a contribution to the Parish of Mortimer or would like more information about the work it does, its responsibilities etc please drop in to the Information Morning on Saturday 12th March

or contact Jayne Kirk, Clerk on 0118 9331955 or the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

The timetable for this election is as follows:

Nomination Papers available	Tuesday 1 st March
Nomination Papers delivered to Returning Officer in Newbury (not later than)	Monday 4 th April (noon)
Polling Day	Thursday 5 th May

More details will be available at the above meeting or in the Information for Candidates pack which may be obtained from the Parish Clerk at the Parish Office after 1st March, but here are some brief points:

- Candidates need to be 18 years of age or over on the day of nomination and a UK, Commonwealth, Republic of Ireland, or EU citizen.
- Candidates need to be on the Electoral Roll for Stratfield Mortimer, or have lived or worked in the parish for a full 12 months immediately prior to nomination or have lived within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the parish for the full 12 months.
- Candidates will need to be proposed and seconded by two individuals on the Stratfield Mortimer Electoral Roll; their electoral numbers may be obtained from the Parish Clerk
- Certain classes of convictions disqualify from election; these are listed in the Information for Candidates

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2011

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Stratfield Mortimer Annual Parish Meeting.

Refreshments will be served halfway through the proceedings to give residents an opportunity to have an informal chat to their Councillors and District Councillors.

The meeting is to be held on:

**Wednesday 20th April 2011
at 7:30pm in
St John's Hall**

The Agenda will be posted on the public notice boards and Parish Council Website nearer the date.

What is the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting? All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish meeting at this time each year. The purpose of calling this meeting is so that the Parish Council (by Parish Council Chairman's report) can explain what it has been doing over the previous 12 months.

A Parish Meeting is for local government electors of that parish and the purpose of the meeting is to receive reports from the Parish Council Chairman, District Councillors, and other local Charities and Trusts, local Police etc plus an open forum session for electors. Such a meeting is an effective forum for the Parish Council to engage with the local electorate who may wish to discuss any local issue, activity, or subject matter which affects Stratfield Mortimer. Matters which affect all parishes in the country equally are excluded. A Parish Meeting may also include a presentation or talk by a speaker on a relevant topic.

Parish Meeting resolutions are not, however, binding on a Parish Council save in exceptional circumstances. Any resolutions of a Parish Meeting are persuasive only and the Parish Council will need to decide if it wishes to follow or disregard them. The purpose of Councillors' attendance and involvement in the Parish Meeting is to obtain and take account of local residents' views.

A poll may be demanded before the conclusion of a Parish Meeting on any question arising at the meeting, but no poll shall be taken unless either the person presiding at the meeting consents or the poll is demanded by not less than ten, or one-third of the registered electors (for Stratfield Mortimer) present at the meeting, whichever is the fewer. Please note that any resultant poll will cost approximately £2,000 which will have to be paid for by an increase in the precept (Council Tax).

Who can attend the meeting? Anyone may attend but only registered electors of Stratfield Mortimer may speak and vote.

Will I be able to ask questions and make suggestions? Yes, any registered elector may ask questions or make a suggestion of the Council in the Open Forum section. This will usually be answered by the Chairperson, designated Councillor or the Clerk. An elector may make a comment on anything pertinent to the people of Stratfield Mortimer; this will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.

Who will Chair the Meeting? The Chairperson of the Parish Council will chair the meeting.

Will Parish Councillors be there? Usually they do attend and will speak if need be. But the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.

How long will the meeting last? As long as need be within reason. It really depends on those present and the number of questions and the discussion that is raised. Generally, the meeting will last no longer than 2 hours. There will be a break for refreshments half way through.

Stratfield Mortimer Community Award 2011

The Stratfield Mortimer Community Award is an annual award given to a person who has devoted time and energy for the benefit of the community of Stratfield Mortimer irrespective of whether they live in the village or not.

The Stratfield Mortimer Community Award for 2011 has been awarded to Ellen and Barry Walklett in recognition of their dedicated contribution to the Mortimer and District Royal British Legion for almost 20 years. Barry has been Chair of the Branch and Ellen of its even more active Women's Section. Having given a valuable service to our village by organising the Poppy Appeal and supporting the ex-service community in Mortimer and its surrounding area. They have spent many hours helping the elderly, sick and disabled at home and hospital visits, in assisting with difficulties with claims and provision of wheelchairs etc.

Their promotion a few years ago to the County, Barry's subsequent election to County Chairman, and the presentation of the Royal British Legion Gold Award to each of them brought credit to Mortimer as well as them and the branch.

Ellen and Barry will receive a specially commissioned commemorative plate from the Parish Council Chairman at this year's Annual Parish Meeting on the 20th April and their names will be inscribed on the Community Award honours Board in St John's Hall.

No increase in 2011/2012 Precept

The Parish Council has agreed its budget for 2011/2012 and is pleased to announce that this year there will be no increase in the amount it requests as the Precept from West Berkshire Council. This is to remain at £88,000; this equates to £51.50 per band D household per year which is collected through the Council Tax.

The Parish Council's 2011/2012 Budget is shown overleaf.

PCSO Contract Renewed

The Parish Council, in partnership with Burghfield and Sulhamstead Parish Councils has signed a further two year contract (until the 31st March 2013) for the partial funding of a PCSO. The PCSO, currently Steve Innes is contracted to work exclusively within the three contributing parishes.

Mortimer Hill – Adoption of Roads

West Berkshire Council has informed the Parish Council that the Section 38 Agreement for the Mortimer Hill development was completed on 28th January 2011. Under the terms of this Agreement the roads on this development become Highways maintainable at public expense under the Highways Act 1980.

Willink Leisure Centre



The Parish Council will continue to contribute £9000 in the financial year 2011/2012 towards the costs of running Willink Leisure Centre on behalf of the residents of Mortimer.

The Parish Council would make use of this facility is available with a West Berkshire Library card can also be used.



like to encourage parishioners to and reminds them that 10% discount Berkshire Leisure Card or a West

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Budget 2011/2012
Adopted 13.1.2011

Income	Budget 2010/ 2011	Budget 2011/ 2012
Cemetery (fees)	£1,500	£1,500
Fairground (fees for hire of and hire of tennis courts)	£2,000	£2,000
Bank Interest	£500	£400
Roads/Footpaths & Commons (wayleave payment)	£85	£85
Mortimer Link Mini Bus (grant from WBC)	£6,000	£6,000
Precept Figure	£88,000	£88,000
Newsletter (partial sponsorship)	£150	£150
TOTAL INCOME	£98,235	£98,135

Expenditure	Budget 2010/ 2011	Budget 2011/ 2012
Administration	£46,215	£47,655
(includes insurance, office/admin/general expenses, rates, utility bills, PC annual subscriptions and membership, room hire, audit fees, salaries, PAYE, Chairman's allowance, training/courses etc.)		
Cemetery	£3,900	£3,500
Communications (Newsletter)	£1,700	£1,500
Fairground	£11,000	£12,500
(includes maintenance, play area, new projects etc and annual freehold rental of £2,000)		
PC Contribution to Willink Leisure Centre	£8,500	£9,000
Roads/Footpaths & Commons	£2,800	£2,000
(includes new projects, maintenance, legal fees etc)		
Grants (including S137)	£7,420	£5,280
Mortimer Link (mini bus to/from station)	£8,700	£8,700
PCSO Partial Funding	£8,000	£8,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£98,235	£98,135

The Fairground

New Adventure Playground

The new adventure Sunday 27th February – your newsletter may be been paid for using Grant and Section 106 has been used from the village amenity.



playground is being opened on this is the same weekend as delivered. This playground has combination of a Playbuilder (developer) money; no money precept allocation for this new



The equipment in this playground does not have an upper age limit and so is open to all. The Playbuilder scheme encourages the creation of playgrounds which are physically challenging and provide opportunities for cooperative play. The Parish Council hopes that the young people of the village will appreciate and be proud of this new facility.

Multi-Sports Walls

The two multi-purpose sports walls have been moved to a new location and a 25 metre x 15 metre porous macadam surface laid between them. In a few weeks time a green acrylic coating will be applied to the surface to provide increased slip resistance and to help it blend into the grass visually. Additional side fencing panels have been erected on either side of the western sports wall (the sports wall nearer the footpath) so as to reduce the possibility of balls going beyond the goal. The ground where the walls were is being reinstated and grass sown.

As was reported in the last newsletter this work has been necessary because of the dangerous state of the ground at the previous location. The provision of the new surface has been carried out using Section 106 (developer) money and so has no direct cost to residents

Junior Playground

The seesaws in the junior playground have been replaced. One of these is called the Cobra and looks like this:



A Musical Orb has also been installed in the junior playground.

Both the seesaws and the musical orb were funded with a Community Planning Grant from West Berkshire plus a small amount of Section 106 money.

The Parish Council hopes children will enjoy the new physical and sensory opportunities!

Storage Shed

The Parish Council will be installing a green coated galvanised steel storage shed on part of the hard standing inside the tennis courts. This area will be self-contained, fenced off from the tennis courts and accessed via an external gate on the east side.

Fairground Hire Charges

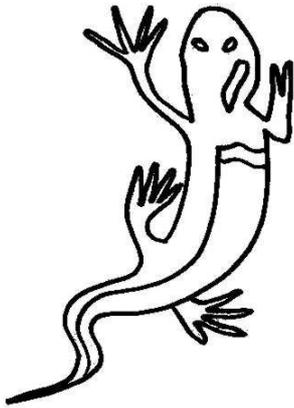
The Parish Council has agreed that there will be no increase to Fairground hiring charges for the year 2011/2012. The hire charge for the tennis courts will therefore remain at £3 per hour for adults and £1 per hour for under 16s per court and the daily hire charge for the Fairground itself at £75 per day. Tennis court bookings and to obtain a key to the courts (£5 refundable deposit required) are at McColls, West End Road.

Charges to the Tennis Club, Cricket Club and for commercial tennis court bookings also remain unchanged.

To enquire about booking the Fairground contact the Parish Clerk (details on back cover).

Enjoy the Fairground!

It's very easy to forget that most of the Fairground, much like our own gardens, is covered in vegetation and needs persistent attention! You will have noticed the exciting developments in the play areas and these will provide healthy activity for a wider range of young people. The sports walls were always popular and their relocation and resurfacing will allow for active use in almost any weather.



Elsewhere on the Fairground, the ponds have filled nicely ahead of the newt-breeding season in early spring.

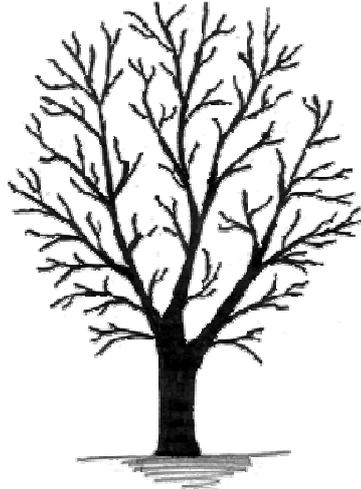
The extreme weather over the past several months has made working on the Fairground all but impossible, hopefully as the weather becomes more mild, maintenance work on the trees and shrubs can resume and we will be able to get the overgrown boundary and shrub-covered areas cut back into shape. There are several trees on Hammonds Heath along Windmill Road and on the western boundary of the Fairground that need further trimming to keep them in good heart and this work should be completed in the next two months.

Do go out onto the Fairground when weather permits and you are bound to enjoy all the varied aspects of this wonderful village environment

Fairground Diary

The Fairground is already booked

Burnett's Fun Fair	4 th
Mortimer Fun Day	2 nd
Mortimer Fun Run	25 th



for the following dates:

May – 8 th May 2011
July 2011
September 2011

PCSO Diary Spring 2011



Welcome

Good news prevails for crime rates in our area as successive quarter.

they have fallen for the third

Crime Snapshot Mortimer Area

For the quarter September - November 2010 the average number of crimes in the area has decreased by 38% versus the same period in 2009. This continues a marked trend of declining crime rates that has been evident since January 2010. There were 58 recorded crimes for the quarter this year versus 79 the previous year (2010).

Community Visits

The team are always happy to visit any local organisations to talk about our role and to receive feedback from our local Parishioners. Recently we have attended the British Legion and local Scouts and Beaver groups in the area. Do call 0845 8 505 505 and leave a message if you would like us to attend your events.

Volunteers For Mortimer Police Office

We are still actively recruiting for volunteers to staff the front counter. If you are interested please post your details at the office on Victoria Road. On average you will be working one 4 hour shift per month. Those volunteers who would be available on a Saturday morning are our first priority for training.

Looking Ahead

The PCSOs will be making the first of their school visits in early Spring. We will also be attending the third Mortimer Fun Day. We will also be keeping an eye on the excellent range of Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) activities and assessing where our support would be beneficial.

Do have an excellent Spring and Summer in our village and I look forward to the next correspondence in the Autumn.

Steve Innes.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Jayne Kirk, Parish Clerk
Parish Council Office
The Library
27 Victoria Road
Mortimer
RG7 3SH

Tel: 0118 933 1955 – Fax: 0709 2310443
(Mail can be left in the Library post box)

Email: the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Website: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

Minutes and Agendas of Council meetings, as well as other Council information can be viewed on the above website or on the Parish Council notice boards which are located outside the Post Office and the Library. The Parish Council Office is open: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.