



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on Monday 23rd March 2020 @ 7.30 pm

in the garden of The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. M. Dennett (Chairman), Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. K. Field, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Kilshaw, Cllr. C. Lewis.

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

Public/Press:

There were no members of the public and no members of the press in attendance.

Note:

Participants remained standing with at least 2 metres separation between each other for the duration of the meeting.

Part I

19/179 Public Questions

None

19/180 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. S. Beard, G. Bridgman, N. Carter, D. Ives, K. Johnson and L. Jones, M. Lock, D. Morsley, J. Wells.

Cllr. Dennett thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged that many councillors were willing to attend if needed.

19/181 To receive any declarations of interest

None

19/182 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 12th March 2020.

RESOLVED that these minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

19/183 Items to be taken in private

None

19/184 Items for consideration and resolution

1) Council Meetings

To RESOLVE that all Council meetings should be cancelled until at least the 14th May 2020 unless authority is given to hold virtual Council meetings.

Cllr Dennett proposed the resolution as above.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill

RESOLVED unanimously

2) Covid-19: Temporary Delegation of Power

To consider extending the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk during any period of restricted activity in respect of the Covid-19 virus and RESOLVE:

1. That the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council, only where such a decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline or to ensure the continuing function of the Council.

Decisions shall be taken in consultation with the Chairman, Vice- Chairman and appropriate Members. The Clerk will consult with the Chairman/Vice-Chairman for guidance as necessary. Decisions will be taken in accordance with legislation, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing, reported to the next Full Council meeting and published in accordance with any relevant regulations.

This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the Council after the Council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

2. That the Chair and two other members of the Planning Committee be responsible for reviewing applications after receipt and determine a suitable response and if deemed necessary, circulate comments to remaining Planning Committee members prior to the comments being submitted to the planning authority by their deadline.

Cllr. Dennett proposed two additions to the first part of the resolution as follows:

- a. The Clerk is also specifically given authority to approve expenditure of up to £15,000 (taken from S106 and CIL monies) on security bollards and a height barrier for the Fairground.
- b. In the event of the Clerk being unable to work because of illness the Assistant to the Clerk will become Acting Clerk with the above delegated

authority. If both officers are unable to work the Chairman will become Acting Clerk.

Seconded by Cllr. Lewis
RESOLVED unanimously

Cllr. Hill proposed that amendment b. should be further changed to read that if both officers and the Chairman are unable to work, the Vice Chairman will be Acting Clerk. If needed, other councillors will act as Clerk as required.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett
RESOLVED unanimously

Cllr. Kilshaw proposed the amended resolution as follows:

1. That the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council, only where such a decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline or to ensure the continuing function of the Council.

Decisions shall be taken in consultation with the Chairman, Vice- Chairman and appropriate Members. The Clerk will consult with the Chairman/Vice-Chairman for guidance as necessary. Decisions will be taken in accordance with legislation, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The Clerk is also specifically given authority to approve expenditure of up to £15,000 (taken from S106 and CIL monies) on security bollards and a height barrier for the Fairground.

Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing, reported to the next Full Council meeting and published in accordance with any relevant regulations.

This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the Council after the Council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

In the event of the Clerk being unable to work because of illness the Assistant to the Clerk will become Acting Clerk with the above delegated authority. If both officers are unable to work the Chairman will become Acting Clerk.

If both officers and the Chairman are unable to work, the Vice Chairman will be Acting Clerk. If needed, other councillors will act as Clerk as required

2. That the Chair and two other members of the Planning Committee be responsible for reviewing applications after receipt and determine a suitable response and if deemed necessary, circulate comments to remaining Planning Committee members prior to the comments being submitted to the planning authority by their deadline.

Seconded by Cllr. Kilshaw
RESOLVED unanimously.

3) VE Day 75

To review the event in accordance with current guidelines and AGREE further action to be taken.

Cllr Dennett proposed the VE Day 75 event on 8th May is cancelled but the Council will keep under review the possibility of the event taking place on the weekend of 15th (VJ Day) / 16th August in line with national guidance from the Pageant Master General.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill
RESOLVED unanimously

19/185 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

- Cancellation and process for Council meetings.
- Postponement of VE Day 75 Commemorations.

19/186 Future agenda items

None

19/187 Exclusion of Press and Public

To pass a resolution to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, items identified at 19/183 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed:

Not required

Close

The meeting closed at 7.32pm

The next meeting – date to be confirmed.