



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 09 January 2003 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: L Picking (Acting Chairman), Councillors: K Davies, Mrs A Philips, C Lewis, J Morden, A Thorpe, Ms S Harding, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies: Councillors: G Puddephatt, Mrs R Weiss, R Peters, J Mazillius, J Gosling, P Challis, M Loader, K Lock (District)

03/01 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12 December 2002 were approved as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Matters Arising:

There were no Matters Arising.

03/02 **Report from District Councillors:** Ms Harding reported that 612 signatures had been obtained on the petition re the continuous footpath on The Street. It is hoped that a decision would be made at the local Area Forum Meeting next week. The District Councillors are looking into the amount of water that will be produced from the new developments and have asked Thames Water for a more definite answer.

03/03 **Planning:** Mr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on Monday 23rd December 2002 to consider four applications:

02/02431/HOUSE 53 Victoria Road. Two storey front section containing porch with en-suite above. Two storey side extension containing garage and bedroom above. Single storey conservatory to rear.

Object

1. The very area and height of this proposal could be considered an over development of the site creating a terracing effect which would be detrimental to the street scene.
2. The close proximity to No 51, Victoria Road would be overbearing and provide limited ladder room for future maintenance.

02/02506/HOUSE Oakwood, St Catherines Hill. Conservatory – retrospective. No objection.

02/02531/HOUSE 32 The Bevers. Conservatory. No objection.

02/02420/COMIN Wokefield Park. New Golf Club House, replacement green keepers compound, new entrance lodge. We are invited to comment as the adjacent parish. No objection – the proposals are in keeping with the past development. The new lodge will be about 100m from the Bloomfield Hatch entrance and modest in size. No alteration to access is proposed.

The Following Planning Decisions have been received:

02/02401/HOUSE Holly Bank Cottage, St Mary's Road. Single storey extension with integral garage – approved.

02/02958/HOUSE 36 Stephens Firs. Double garage and domestic shed - approved.

Mr Morden reported that he has been sent a copy of the Berkshire County Local Plan, Joint Strategic Planning Unit, draft Landscape Character Assessment for comment. This covers future development within the County as a whole and Mortimer is assessed as two types:-

1. Woodland and Heathland Mosaic over a substrata of underlying sands, gravels and clays. This covers the western part of the parish from the Foudry Brook to The Common.
2. Open Clay Lowlands, which covers the rest of the parish towards Beech Hill.
There is no mention, as in other parts of the County, to river floodplains and Mr Morden is therefore going to comment that the area either side of The Foudry Brook should be so designated.

03/04 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No Report.

- i. Update on the use of Motorbikes on Windmill Common. Held over until next meeting.

- 03/05 ii. **To Consider Litter Bin for St Catherine's Hill:** Held over until the next meeting
Fairground, Trees and Amenities: No Report
- i. **To Consider Providing Extra Litter Bins on Fairground:** Held over until the next meeting.
- ii. **Mortimer Fairground Trust Report:** Professor Davies reported that he had received a further reply from the solicitors asking for more information about the Inclosure Award, which is held at the County Records Office in Reading. He said that he and Mrs Kirk are to visit the Records Office and he will report back at the next meeting.
- 03/06 **Cemetery:** No Report
- i. **Cemetery Package £125.00 + VAT:** Held over until next meeting.
- 03/07 **Report from Finance and General Purposes Committee and Precept for 2003/2004:** Mr Picking reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had met on 6th January and discussed the proposed Precept Budget, Contract of Employment for Village Custodian and the Financial Risk Assessment.
1. Mr Picking advised Councillors that the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended a precept of £50,236 (plus £20,000 from reserves), an increase of £2,446 on last year. This was proposed by Mr J Morden and seconded by Mr A Thorpe and unanimously agreed. The Clerk then filled in and signed the Local Government Finance Act Form to be sent to West Berkshire Council asking for a Precept of £50,236.
 2. Mr Picking advised that a Contract of Employment had now been drawn up for Mr O'Rourke the new Village Custodian and would now be signed by the relevant parties in due course.
 3. Mr Picking said that the recommendations made by Mr Mazillius on the Financial Risk Assessment had been discussed at the Finance and General Purposes Meeting and that most of these would be acted on in the near future.
- 03/08 **Flooding Update:** Mr G Mayes was asked to report on the Flooding in The Street on 1st/2nd January 2003. Mr Mayes said that he had written to West Berkshire Council on the 2nd January with his findings, which was that an inspection during the period of flooding had indicated that the water was from the overflowing surface water sewer and not from the Foudry Brook, which did not rise to critical levels, nor was the flood bund breached. He feels that the surface water sewer is either under sized or partially/completely blocked downstream of the manhole cover in the footpath to its outfall. There was also a pollution problem in the Grazeley Road from three manhole covers, which were discharging foul water along with the surface water. This pollution hazard indicates that there is a cross connection between the foul and surface water pipe systems in the area. He recommended that Thames Water, West Berkshire Council and The Parish Council meet to discuss these findings. Mr Picking thanked Mr Mayes for his report.
- 03/09 **Update on Parish Plan:** Mr Mayes reported that the Parish Plan coordination group had met twice on the 4th and 8th December and the analysis and communication groups had met separately to prepare the third newsletter which is now available in the village shops and had been delivered to every house, business, club society etc. in the parish. The newsletter invites all parishioners to drop in at the Forum Meeting to be held in the Methodist Hall on 25th January from 9.30 to 1.00. At this forum meeting a number of scenarios for the future of the village and surrounding area will be presented, these include Community Facilities and services, Housing and Development and Travel and Transport. Mr Mayes urged as many Parish Councillors as possible to attend to be on hand to help with questions. Mrs Kirk asked if the Parish Plan Group could advertise on the Fairground Fence and this was proposed by Mr J Morden and seconded by Mr A Thorpe and approved.
- 03/10 **Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:**
- i. **Clerk's Salary:** Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Mr C Lewis.
 - ii. **Clerk's Tax and NI:** Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Prof K Davies.
 - iii. **Clerk's Expenses:** Proposed by Mr A Thorpe and seconded by Mrs A Philips.
 - iv. **Custodian's Hours and Expenses:** Not submitted this month.
 - v. **The Post Office £46.00:** For Stamps. Proposed by Mrs A Philips and seconded by Mr A Thorpe.
 - vi. **British Telecom £193.83 inc VAT:** BT Bill. Proposed by Mr A Thorpe and seconded by Prof K Davies.

- vii. **T Barber £80.00:** Stationery (Parish Plan). Proposed by Prof. K Davies and seconded by Mr A Thorpe.

03/11 **Correspondence:**

- i. A number of circulars were distributed to councillors.

03/12 **Any Other Business:**

- The Clerk advised that the Parish Council Notice Board had been vandalised and an estimate to mend it was £126.00. Further estimates are to be obtained and reported back at the next meeting.
- Mr Morden said a resident of St Mary's Road has asked that the owners of the properties on either side of the entrance to St Mary's Road be approached to cut back their hedges as they are overhanging the pavement and obscuring the view. The **Clerk** to look into this.
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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th February 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

List of payments made:

Date	Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
09 January 2003	501186	Mrs J E Kirk	
09 January 2003	506487	Inland Revenue	
09 January 2003	501188	Mrs J E Kirk	
09 January 2003	501189	The Post Office	46.00
09 January 2003	501190	British Telecom	193.83
09 January 2003	501191	T Barber	80.00

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 21.00