



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 14 August 2003 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), Mrs A Philips, P Challis, C Lewis, A Thorpe, K Davies, T Barber, T Jones, B Taylor, P Blagden, J Morden, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk) and 3 Members of the Public

**Apologies:** Councillors: L Picking, Mrs R Weiss, A Smith, Ms S Harding, K Lock (District)

**Declaration of Interest:** Councillor Philips declared an interest in items 03/142 and 03/149(v).

03/137 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2003 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** (03/127) Cllr Puddephatt advised that Mr Mayes had sent in a report regarding the flooding, which said that he had still not received replies from Thames Water and the Environment Agency. West Berkshire Council have rebuilt the brick culvert and put through the CCTV camera. They have jetted the culvert and pipe uphill from Foudry House and cleared the gully pipes. They are currently building a chamber in Mortimer Lane so that they can put the CCTV camera through from Mortimer Lane to the open ditch. Mr Mayes recommends that the Parish Council press Thames Water (Mr Taylor) for a technical reply and pursue the Environmental Agency regarding the sewerage pollution and bund heights. **Clerk** to action. Mr Mayes sent a further report, which said that Mr Peter Taylor of Thames Water had telephoned him that day to discuss sewerage problems in The Street and to convene a meeting between Thames Water, The Environment Agency, West Berkshire Council and the Parish Council. G Mayes, Cllrs Philips, Morden or Lewis will attend the meeting.

03/138 **Report from District Councillors:** No Report.

03/139 **Planning:** Cllr Morden said that the Committee met twice since the last Council Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and the 25<sup>th</sup> July:.

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|----------------|---|
| 03/00176/HOUSE | 44 Stephens Close – Front Porch. No objection   |
| 03/01322/HOUSE | 46 Windmill Road. Two Storey side extension and single storey rear extension.<br>Object: The two storey side extension is to be built right up to the boundary and within 1m of the adjacent property's main entrance. It will result in loss of light and amenity to No. 48  |
| 03/01342/HOUSE | 3 King Street. Single storey timber framed glazed conservatory upon a dwarf wall.<br>No objection.  |
| 03/01354/HOUSE | 61 The Avenue. Addition of first floor to existing bungalow (re-design of earlier internal arrangements already approved 00/01216. No objection.  |
| 03/01451/HOUSE | 3 Groves Lea. Conservatory to rear of property. No objection (The Public Right of Way was diverted when this estate was built in 1993).   |
| 03/01456/HOUSE | 32 Windmill Road. First floor bathroom and bedroom extension over existing flat roof extension to the rear. No objection.   |
| 03/01480/HOUSE | 11 The Avenue. Front extension to lounge and dining room, demolish existing garage and construct new garage at side. Provide new bedroom and granny annexe extension at rear. Object:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over development of the site. The proposed development nearly doubles the footprint. Existing footprint 88 square metres, proposed 170 square metres (excluding garage in both cases).</li> <li>2. Out of keeping with neighbouring properties.</li> </ol> |

**The Following Planning Decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 03/01044/REM   | House adjacent to 14 The Avenue. Detached chalet dwelling with integral double garage. – Approval |
| 03/00751/HOUSE | 2 The Avenue. Demolish existing garage and out buildings 0 rebuild new garage - Approval          |
| 03/01153/HOUSE | 54 The Avenue. Alterations and extension to provide additional living accommodation – Approval.   |

- 02/00176/HOUSE 44 Stephens Close. Front Porch - Approval  
 03/01259/HOUSE 2 The Avenue. 2 storey extension. – Approval.  
 03/01354/HOUSE 61 The Avenue. Addition of first floor to existing bungalow, redesign of earlier scheme approved 00/01216 – Approval.

Cllr Morden advised that the Eastern Area Planning Committee met on the 16 July 2003 and considered the application to extend Trunkwell Mansion House Hotel by a further 43 bedrooms. This is in addition to a 21-bedroom extension already approved. Councillor Morden accompanied by Mr G Mayes spoke against this application on the grounds of increase in sewage to be pumped up The Street to the Mortimer Sewage Farm. The extent of the problem of raw sewage in the road way and the pollution of Foundry Brook during periods of heavy rainfall was explained and the Committee was urged to vote for the officer's recommendation of refusal. However, the Committee voted to approve subject to a Section 106 agreement to meet at least part of the cost of upgrading the pipe work. Although we technically lost we have at last got both West Berkshire Council and more importantly Thames Water to admit that a serious problem exists and remedial work is required.

03/140 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**

- i. **Update on Vehicle Access Across Brewery Common:** Cllr Davies confirmed that Mr T Howell of Messrs Clarks solicitors have been appointed to represent the Parish Council. Cllr Davies and Cllr Puddephatt are to attend a meeting with Mr Howell on the 15<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the Easements and will report back at the next meeting. Cllr Davies read out a letter received from a Mr Garrard of Brewery Common and a draft reply. It was unanimously agreed that the reply letter should be sent. **Clerk** to action
- ii. **Update on Windmill Common:** A letter has been received from the solicitors acting for the owners of 15 Windmill Common asking for clarification of a few points regarding the vehicular access to this property over the Council's land. Cllr Davies read out a draft reply clarifying the position to solicitors. It was unanimously agreed that the reply should be sent. **Clerk** to action.  
 Cllr Davies informed that that the 6 "No Motorcycle" signs have been erected on Windmill Common (after a site meeting to decide on positions). Quotations now need to be obtained for three barriers (kissing gates and stiles) to try to prevent motorcycles gaining access to the common. West Berkshire Council is able to authorise a barrier on Footpath 26 at the junction of Windmill Road under Section 66(3) of the Highways Act 1980 providing that there are no owners/residents that would be adversely affected by a barrier. **Clerk** to obtain information on barriers and pass to Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.
- iii. **West Berkshire Council – Revised Parking Restrictions:** This has been passed to a working party who will meet on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August **The Clerk** will then reply to West Berkshire.

03/141 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

- i. **Children's Play Area Update:** Cllr Philips advised that following the Clerk's letter to Wicksteeds quotations for the repairs have now been received. Mr John Clarke has renewed the ramp to the multiplay unit with a steel ramp and has done an excellent job. Cllr Philips proposed that his invoice of £450.00 be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously agreed. **Clerk** to action and send letter of thanks. New footboards have been ordered for the Rocking Horse (at a cost of £88.00 plus VAT) and it was agreed that Mr Clarke be asked to fit them. Wicksteeds are unable to repair the roundabout because of its age and obsolete parts. Cllr Puddephatt proposed that a new roundabout be purchased at a cost of £2,984 and that a ceiling of up to £1,000 be set for a new safety surface in the area of the roundabout. Cllr Morden seconded this and was unanimously agreed. It was resolved that **The Clerk** arranges to purchase the roundabout and quotation for the wet pour.
- ii. **Parish Council Lawn Mower:** Cllr Smith has advised the Clerk that the Cricket Club are still happy to store the lawn mower in the pavilion and that they have a date in August to clear up the store shed to make room. Will report back at the next meeting. **The Clerk** was asked to ask the Cricket Club to remove the obsolete gas mowers stored on the Fairground before they become a hazard.

03/142 **Cemetery:** Cllr Thorpe reported that the seat has been cleaned and varnished. The Cemetery Regulations need replacing as the current ones have become tatty. A letter has been received saying that a couple of small plastic name plaques had been damaged Cllr Thorpe said that had spoken to the contractor and he will ask his men to be more careful in the future. A letter is to be sent to all grave

- owners reminding them of the regulations. A draft letter was read out and agreed. **Clerk** to action.
- 03/143 **Application for a Transport Grant update:** The Clerk informed that there was no response yet and that she will report at the next meeting. Cllr Puddephatt said that he had heard that the present mini bus to the station may be discontinuing at the end of the month.
- 03/144 **Update on Parish Plan:** Cllr Barber gave an up-date on the Parish Plan 58 people attended the Open Forum to discuss the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and he outlined the main topics discussed. The Winners of the prize draw for completed questionnaires returned by 7<sup>th</sup> June 2003 were £100 to the Qualters family and £50 to the Martin family. The Parish Plan group are now putting together the first draft of the plan and will present it to the Council **on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 8:00 pm in St John's Hall.** There will be an Open Form on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October for villagers to have their final say on the plan.
- 03/145 **The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003:** This was held over until next month.
- 03/146 **New Ethical Framework Regulations (Government Consultation Paper on Indemnities):** Cllr Davies circulated a Consultation Paper on Indemnities prior to the meeting recommending that the Parish Council set up a standards committee. Cllr Davies proposed that a standards committee comprising of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and one other (Cllr Barber) be set up. Cllr Lewis seconded this and it was unanimously agreed so it was resolved that the standards committee be set up to meet as and when necessary.
- 03/147 **To Consider Renewal of Domain Names stratfield-mortimer.org and stratfield-mortimer.com for a Period of 1 to 5 Years:** Cllr Puddephatt informed that the above domain names are due to expire in October and asked whether the Council wished to retain the exclusive rights to them on the web. Cllr Puddephatt proposed that ownership be maintained for a period of five years at a cost of £60 each (£120.00)., Cllr Barber seconded and was unanimously agreed **The Clerk** to action.
- 03/148 **To Agree Payments for Polycarbonate Window for Parish Council Notice Board £105.75 inc VAT and Carriage:** Following the vandalism to the Parish Council's Notice Board at the Library in December. Cllr Philips proposed that a replacement polycarbonate glass be ordered from Metrosigns 2000 (the manufacturer of the board) at a cost of £90.00 plus VAT, Cllr Thorpe seconded this. **The Clerk** to action.
- 03/149 **Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:** Cllr Philips declared an interest in item 03/149(v).
- i. Clerk's Salary.
  - ii. Clerk's/Custodian's Tax and NI.
  - iii. Clerk's Expenses – None.
  - iv. Custodian's Salary.
  - v. Ian Philips – Grass Cutting Cemetery & Churchyard £497.85 inc VAT.
  - vi. Bridgewood Landscape Services – Grass Cutting Alfred Palmer Field - £160.00.
  - vii. R M Weavers – Grass Cutting Fairground - £131.88 inc VAT.
  - viii. Cardiff Conference Bureau – Deposit for NALC Conference Accommodation £9.79 inc VAT.
  - ix. Butlers Lands Estates Services Ltd - Erection of Signs W/Common and Seat F/Ground £289.34 inc VAT.
  - x. R Weiss – Reimbursement for Parish Plan Expenditure £5.63.
  - xi. G Mayes – Reimbursement of Expenses £66.65.
  - xii. BALC – Fee for New Councillors Course (4 x £5) £20.00.
- In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations all the items for payment were considered together. Cllr Puddephatt proposed that they be paid; Cllr Lewis seconded this. Carried unanimously.
- 03/150 **Correspondence:**
- i. Cllr Morden said than an email had been received from The Recreation Service of West Berkshire advising that they are producing a Customer Charter for Willink Leisure Centre which will be displayed in the reception area of the Centre,. The wording will be "Managed by Courtesy Leisure Ltd on behalf of West Berkshire Council, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council and Sulhampstead Parish Council". They asked for a copy of the Parish Council's Logo. **The Clerk** to action.

- ii. Thank you letter from Mr B Cole regarding flooding issues in The Street.
- iii. Letter from West Berkshire Council outlining reasons for not organising the Summer Playscheme this year, which was mainly due to financial implications.
- iv. Eastern Area Forum Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2003. Cllrs Blagdon and Barber to attend.

03/151 **Any Other Business:**

- The “To Let” Sign outside entrance to Mortimer Hill has been damaged and is across pavement. **The Clerk** to contact estate agents Chilvers Page.
- Cllr Thorpe suggested that we should send a card/flowers to Mollie Lock who is in hospital following a car accident. **The Clerk** to action.
- **The Clerk** is to contact the Enforcement Officer re the wall in Mortimer Lane.
- No 3 Hammonds Heath. **The Clerk** is to chase Bryant Homes for a reply to her letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> June re The Covenant on this property.
- The Clerk has been approached asking if the Grazing Area could be used for parking for a private party on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August. It was felt in view of the short notice, the security of the Fairground and the setting of a precedent that the Council was unable to help. **The Clerk** to action.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9:40pm