



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 11th March 2004 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), Mrs R Weiss, P Blagden, K Davies, T Barber, B Taylor, P Challis, J Morden, A Smith, T Jones, A Thorpe, C Lewis, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), K Lock (District) and 5 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillors: Ms S Harding and L Picking, Mrs A Philips,

Declaration of Interest: There were no Declarations of Interest.

04/36 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12th February 2004 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

(Minute No. 04/05) Byway No. 7: A request from West Berkshire Council had been received saying that they are considering placing a Traffic Regulation Order on the byway to allow a gate to be installed and closed at night. The Parish Council discussed this and felt that this was not necessary as it would reduce the use of the byway for legitimate use and that they could not support this. **The Clerk** to reply.

Minute No. 04/22(i): Cllrs Davies, Morden and Thorpe asked that their vote against Minute No. 04/22(i) Resolution 1 (Scheme for the Grazing Area) be formally recorded. Councillor Davies promised to provide councillors with further information about the legal position.

04/37 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that the District Council now has an arrangement in place with the Police for dealing with the occasional problem of untaxed vehicles so if there is no success in getting an owner to move a vehicle the Police will tow it away to a compound for two weeks. If there is still no response from the owner the vehicle can then be disposed of. On planning matters he has called a site visit (on the 31st March) to the application at Serena, Birch Lane and has also called in the application at The Colt House and he is unhappy about two more entrances on the bend in Sweetzers Piece and that two separate dwellings in over development. The Legal Agreement for the Mortimer Hill development has been signed so work should commence soon. West Berkshire Council now have extra staff in place to deal with planning applications which should reduce the time in dealing with applications. Cllr Lock said that West Berkshire have included £100,000 to their budget to expand the Community Warden Scheme and that it should be possible to proceed with a joint funding arrangement between Burghfield, Mortimer and Sulhamstead Parish Councils.

04/38 **Planning:** Cllr Morden said that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the 19th February and 10th March:

04/00192/HOUSE Abbey Croft, The Street. Construction of 3-car garage, staff accommodation and pool changing rooms, plant room and sauna. No objections but wish to see a condition that the staff accommodation is tied irrevocably with the main building "Abbey Croft" and cannot be sold separately.

04/00145/HOUSE 17 Campbells Green. Conservatory. No objection.

04/00280/HOUSE 2 The Crescent. Conservatory. No objection.

04/00258/OUT Garden of West End Lodge, Birch Lane. Erection of new 2 storey detached house with garage. Object:

1. Earlier owners of West End Lodge received permission from Basingstoke and Deane District Council to erect "Oakhurst" in the garden some 15-20 years ago. A further property would be over development of the site.
2. Birch Lane is unsuitable for further traffic movements.
3. Out of character with street scene.

04/00327/HOUSE Robin Hill, Brewery Common. Demolition of cottage in curtilage and erection of two storey extension. No objection.

The application 03/02414/FUL for a 4 bedroom dwelling and detached garage on and to the rear of Serena, Birch Lane was due to be determined by the Eastern Area Planning Committee on the 25th February but was called in for a site visit which will take place on the 31 March 2004 at 9:30am. As this is a controversial application to which the Parish Council has objected Cllr Morden will attend the site visit.

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

03/02586/HOUSE Hollybank Cottage, St Mary's Road, two single storey extensions, porch and new garage – approval.
 03/02705/HOUSE 10 Groves Lea. Single storey rear extension - approval
 04/00148/HOUSE 17 Campbells Green. Conservatory – approval.

- i. **Update on 3 Hammonds Heath:** No update.
- 04/39 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**
- i. **Update on Vehicle Access Across Brewery Common:** **The meeting was suspended at 8:00 pm to allow residents of Brewery Common to express views and ask questions regarding the Easements. The meeting resumed at 8:25pm.** Further to Minute No. 04/21(i) when it was agreed to go ahead in accordance with the 2002 Regulations, subject to review at the meeting on 11th March, a draft letter to Brewery Common residents from the Parish Council was considered and amendments made. It was agreed that the Council will now proceed to write to the Brewery Common residents who haven't applied for an Easement reminding them of the legal position and advising them of the Council's policy as outlined in Minute No 04/21(i). Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously agreed. Carried. **The Clerk** to action.
 - ii. **Update on Revised Parking Restrictions:** Cllr Davies reported that Andrew Garrett of West Berkshire Council had written and asked the Parish Council to reply regarding the revised parking restrictions, as West Berkshire wanted to implement the parking restrictions for road safety reasons. It was agreed that a reply would be sent saying we are awaiting the availability of information about Sec 106 money for extension of restrictions in Windmill Road because this would require further advertisement and consequent expense. **The Clerk** to action.
 - iii. **Update on new Kissing Gates at Windmill Common:** Cllr Davies reported to the Council that these gates had been installed in an unsatisfactory state. The suppliers had visited the site and have agreed that they will deal with this problem.
 - iv. **Footway Improvements 2004-2005:** Cllr Davies confirmed that a response to West Berkshire would be sent advising them of improvements highlighted i.e. continuous footway down The Street to the Station, cycle path to Mortimer Station, cycle path to Willink School, footway along Hammonds Heath and footway along St Catherine's Hill. **The Clerk** to action.
 - v. **Update on BT Poles Windmill Road:** Cllr Davies confirmed that a further letter had been sent to BT and this would be followed up if no response received.
 - vi. **Update on War Memorial Restoration and Payment of Invoice:** The Chairman confirmed that the restoration work on the war memorial had been completed and that a letter had been received from the President, Air Vice Marshal Newton, of the Mortimer Branch of the Royal British Legion thanking the Parish Council for a job well done. Cllr Thorpe proposed that the invoice for £1,131 to A F Jones be paid, Cllr Jones seconded and was unanimously agreed. Carried.
- 04/40 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**
- i. **Update on Slide and Tennis Courts on Fairground:** The Clerk reported that the new slide is scheduled to be installed at the beginning of April and it was agreed to ask for this date to be put back so the work would not be carried out

during the school holidays. She also reported that spray painting of the tennis courts was completed today and they will be out of use until the 20th March so that the paint can dry. The Clerk thanked Mortimer Cricket Club for their help by letting the contractor use their water supply. There has been a lot of vandalism to the tennis court fence, which has been badly cut in three places, and also the fence has been lifted along one side at the bottom. It was disappointing that having put a notice up to keep out as the paint was wet and hour later a boy was seen climbing over the top.

- ii. **To Agree Fees for Sports Facilities for 2004/2005:** Further to the Fairground Committee recommendation to increase the hiring of the tennis courts to £2.50 per hour for adults, children to stay at £1.00 (Returnable Deposit of £5 and bookable at Forbuoys). Junior Football Clubs £5 per annum. Councillors voted on this, 11 for 1 against, carried. **The Clerk** to action.
 - iii. **To Consider Purchasing Snowdrop Bulbs for Fairground at an Approximate Cost of £100:** Cllr Weiss proposed that some snowdrop bulbs be purchased for the Fairground at an approximate cost of £100 plus postage and packing. Cllr Challis seconded and was unanimously agreed. Carried. **Cllr Weiss** to action.
 - iv. **Update on New Pavilion:** Cllr Smith advised that eight new people have showed an interest in joining a new committee and he will arrange a meeting within the next two weeks.
 - v. **Update on Lease to Parish Council from Fairground Trustees:** Cllr Davies reported that the a letter had been received from the Parish Council's solicitors enclosing a letter from the Charity Commission who have said that in principle they will be willing to offer the order for the Lease but have asked for clarification on a couple of points. **Cllr Davies** to action a reply.
- 04/41 **Cemetery:** No report.
- 04/42 **Update on Extended Shuttle Bus Service to the Station:** The Chairman reported that the new Mortimer Link Bus Service started on the 1st March. A timetable and route has been sent to all houses in the Parish and copies are available at the station and library. He thanked Rebecca Kirk for her help with designing the route map in the newsletter.
- 04/43 **Parish Plan Update:**
- i. Funding of Future Parish Council/Parish Plan Newsletters/Forums: It was agreed that the Parish Council will fund 4 releases of a Parish Council Newsletter during the year (estimated cost £400) and two open forum meetings (estimated cost £100). The Newsletters are to be Parish Council based to include Parish Plan progress. The future role/responsibilities of the Co-Ordination team in the implementation phase was agreed and these are 1). To be a catalyst for action. 2) To Co-ordinate the strands of activity. 3 To be responsible for the Communications Action. Cllr Barber proposed this and Councillor Davies seconded this and was unanimously agreed.
- 04/44 **Eastern Area Forum 30 March 2004 Burghfield Village Hall:** 6:30pm. Cllr Barber advised councillors that the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan is to be presented at the Eastern Area Forum Meeting on 30 March at Burghfield Village Hall. It was agreed that Cllrs Barber and Puddephatt would highlight the process. All members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.
- 04/45 **Details for Councillor Training Day 13 March 2004:** The Clerk advised the details for the forthcoming Councillor Training Day.
- 04/46 **Annual District/Parish Conference, Newbury – Main Points Arising:** Cllr Barber outlined the main points arising from the Annual District/Parish Conference at West Berkshire Council these were: Crime Reduction – there are grants for Parishes to help with crime reduction. **Cllr Barber** to investigate this. Parish Plan: It seemed that the planning officers would not be influenced by the Parish Plan although the Director of Strategy would be. The current Structure Plan will finish in 2006 and West Berkshire Council are visiting each parish Council to get their views for the next Structure Plan, which will run until 2013. It has highlighted that parishes need to be pro-active as a forerunner to the Design Statement. **Cllr Morden** to action a working party to look into this.
- 04/47 **Update – Neighbourhood Warden Scheme (Three Parishes Security Warden):** Cllr Taylor reported that West Berkshire Council has allocated £105,000 for the expansion of community warden

schemes in the whole of West Berkshire. The Parish Council is now negotiating for our share of the new services and the indication is that we will get some form of warden scheme.

- 04/48 **Flooding Update:** No report.
- 04/49 **To Agree Purchase of Scoreboard for Mortimer Cricket Club:** Cllr Smith reported that a local carpenter has been appointed to make the scoreboard at a cost of approximately £600.
- 04/50 **Report Affordable Village Housing Seminar 3 February 2004:** (Previously Circulated). Cllr Barber reported that the Rural Housing Trust build/manage homes for people who are in need and build on land bought at agricultural rates.. They will carry out and pay for a survey of need in the parish (without commitment). Cllr Barber proposed that the Parish Council ask the Rural Housing Trust to visit the Parish Council Meeting with a view to carrying out a survey of need, Cllr Smith seconded this. Seven votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention. Carried. **Clerk** to action.
- 04/51 **Clerk's Training (Update):** The Chairman reported that the Clerk had submitted her last assignment for the Working With Your Council Course and was waiting for it to be returned. She will now undertake the Portfolio as part of the Qualified Clerk for the Quality Parish Council status.
- 04/52 **Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:**
- i. Clerk's Salary.
 - ii. Clerk's/Custodian's Tax and NI.
 - iii. Clerk's Expenses.
 - iv. Custodian's Salary.
 - v. Rolfe Cleaning Services – Window Cleaning Parish Office £10.00
 - vi. N Taylor – Installation of Kissing Gates Windmill Common £240.00 Not paid as work not yet completed to a satisfactory standard.
 - vii. T Barber – Reimbursement for printing Parish Plan 355.00.
 - viii. Viking Direct – Stationery £59.70
 - ix. Staples – Stationery/Printing Transport Flyer £314.58
 - x. Thames Water – Water Trough Fairground £4.64
 - xi. EIS Gas-Elec Ltd – PAT Testing Parish Office £36.95 inc VAT
 - xii. West Berkshire Council – Dog Bin Emptying (Annual) £399.74 inc VAT
 - xiii. Andrew Hazelden – Community Award Plate £160.00.
 - xiv. NALC – Renewal of DIS Subscription £106.93 inc VAT
 - xv. Spraycourt Paint Services – Tennis Courts £2,361.75 inc VAT.
 - xvi. Wicksteed Leisure – New Slide - Held over.
 - xvii. West Berkshire Council – Willink Leisure Centre Contribution £7,075.70. Held over until May (after receipt of Precept)
- In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations all the items for payment were considered together. Cllr Barber proposed that they be paid; Cllr Taylor seconded this. Carried unanimously.
- 04/53 **Correspondence:**
- i. Annual General Meeting for Sane Planning in the South East 1.4.04
 - ii. The Berkshire Communicator – Newsletter for Berkshire Association of Local Councils.
 - iii. WBC – Chairman's Afternoon Reception and Long Service Awards
 - iv. Letter re anti-social behaviour by someone riding a scooter on Fairground.
 - v. A number of Circulars/Newsletters were distributed to councillors
- 04/54 **Any Other Business:** Cllr Morden reported that he had attended a meeting of the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Board held on 9th March 2004. The Roads and Highways Department of West Berkshire Council are still adamant that guidelines prohibit the erection of a direction sign to the Leisure Centre from Mortimer. Both Cllr Royce Longton and Cllr Keith Lock (District Councillors) are pursuing the matter further. Cllr Morden reiterated the Parish Council's decision that unless a sign at the College Piece corner was included Stratfield Mortimer would not contribute to the cost of the updated signage. A proposal that the astro turf tennis courts, also used for hockey and football training be properly floodlit is being pursued and estimates sought. This would increase the Autumn, Winter and Spring usage by an estimated 900 hours and the income generated would recoup the expected cost in

approx 2.3 years. £18,000 from a section 106 agreement from 48 new houses at Aldermaston amounting to £18,000 has been ring fenced for sporting facilities at Willink. The attendance figures for the period April to December 2003 were 75,547. This did not include usage by the Willink School or spectators.

The Clerk was asked to write to T A Fisher about dangerous parking outside their building.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th April 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 15th April 2004 8:00 p.m. St John's Hall. Refreshments from 7:30pm

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10:35 p.m.