



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

held on 8th July 2004 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), P Blagden, K Davies, T Barber, B Taylor, A Smith, A Thorpe, C Lewis, T Jones, Mrs A Philips, J Morden, P Challis, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk),

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs R Weiss, Ms S Harding, K Lock (District).

Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Philips declared an interest in item no 04/119(v).

04/107 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of Meeting of 10th June 2004 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: The Chairman reminded councillors that all correspondence etc must go through the Clerk and councillors must not act on their own without prior authorisation.

2. Cllr Davies reported that a letter had been sent to West Berkshire Council regarding the newly placed bollards outside Forbuoys which needs to be rectified as they are causing cars to park dangerously and causing a traffic hazard.

04/108 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock sent in a brief report which said that he has had a meeting with the officers of West Berkshire regarding the newly placed bollards outside Forbuoys and will come back with their suggestions and costs.

04/109 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 25th June and considered 5 applications:

04/10544/FUL Great Park Farm. Beef rearing and straw storage. No objections in principle but draw attention to the close proximity to the grade II listed buildings.

04/00961/FUL 7 West End Road (Nat. West. Bank) construction of external ramp and two lights to façade for D.D.A. compliance. No objections.

04/01176/HOUSE 32 Briar Lea Road. Extend kitchen by 1.2m single storey in line with existing boundary of single storey extension. Replace flat roof with sloping strengthened glass and PVC frame. No objection.

04/01310/HOUSE 12 Victoria Road. First floor extension, providing a bedroom over existing ground floor kitchen at rear of property. No objection.

04/01399/HOUSE 60-62 Victoria Road (Spratley's Garage). Rear single storey extension to provide new toilets. No objection.

Recommendation under delegated powers received from West Berkshire Council:

04/00974/FUL Aborn Parade, West End Road. Conversion of shop store to flat. The Parish Council and a number of parishioners have objected to this application which has been submitted and re-submitted in various guises over the past years. Additional parking and a new lock up garage are to be provided and the tree officer is now satisfied that any potential harm to the adjacent trees subject to TPOs can be overcome. Parking and trees are therefore no longer a valid reason for refusal. The ward councillors do not intend to call in the application and this eyesore will now be tidied up.

03/02729/HOUSE 36 Briar Lea Road. Side and rear extension. Approval

04/00086/HOUSE 20 The Crescent. Remove existing single storey extension and replace with a new 2 storey addition. Approval

04/00093/FUL 23 West End Road (Dad's Shop). New shop front and roller shutters. Approval

04/00148/HOUSE 17 Campbells Green. Conservatory. Approval.

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

04/00280/HOUSE 2 The Crescent. Conservatory. Approval.

04/01072/FUL Land adjoining 44 St John's Road. Demolition of garage and construction of 2 detached houses and garages. Approval.

Appeal Decision. – The 2m wall abutting the highway in front of 9 Mortimer Lane

The erection of this wall was objected to by the Parish Council and West Berkshire Council on the ground of road safety. West Berkshire Council refused retrospective planning approval and served an enforcement notice which was appealed. The Inspector's decision on the appeal is as follows:- "The Appeal is allowed and the enforcement notice is quashed." The Parish Council have written to the Inspector, Mr C.H. Johnson, FRICS, asking for further clarification as to why he apparently ignored road safety in reaching his decision.

Application from Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd to extract sand and gravel (830,000 tonnes) from land to the east of Rampton's Lane. The Parish Council's response to Hampshire Council was "The Log Cabin in Morgan's Slade, recently refurbished by the YMCA, accessed by a track off Rampton's Lane opposite "Woodland Cottage" is a much valued amenity used by youth organisations. This is within the site boundary. Continued access, use and all safety aspects during the entire period of quarry working must be addressed by the applicant before permission is granted. Only if this condition is met will Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council have no objection to the current proposal for further gravel and sand extraction. Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council wish it to be noted that any future application for further eastward extension of the quarry towards the heavily populated western fringe of the parish will be vigorously opposed on the grounds of noise and dust, landscape and visual impact.

04/110 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** Cllr Davies informed that he was elected Chairman for the year 2004/2005 of this committee at a meeting on the 14th June.

- i. **Update on new Kissing Gates at Windmill Common:** Cllr Davies reported that the installation of all the kissing gates is now completed.
- ii. **Update on BT Poles Windmill Road:** The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Davies had a site meeting with Mr Clinton Gurr, a representative of the contractors working for BT, not with a representative of B.T. as requested but to check the location of the two telegraph poles under discussion. This was abortive and no agreement was reached. A further letter has been sent to BT asking for a reply to our previous letter.
- iii. **Update on Traffic Management and S106 Agreements:** Cllr Davies informed that 2 agreements had been received relating to the Mortimer Hill Development and that other agreements are being reviewed and West Berkshire will furnish these as soon as possible.
- iv. **Update on Car Park West End Road:** The Council is still awaiting replies from West Berkshire to letters regarding ownership.
- v. **Update on Brewery Common Ownership:** The Chairman advised that further to Minute No. 04/94(v) further advice from the Council's solicitors (Clarks) had been received recommending that registration of title is made and that the cost would not be as onerous as first thought. Cllr Davies proposed that the Council accept the solicitor's advice and make application to the Land Registry. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and unanimously agreed.
- vi. **Update on Brewery Common Gas Main:** Another letter has been sent to West Berkshire Council to take action on this.
- vii. **Update on Extension of Gas Network to Mortimer (ES Pipelines):** Invited to update the Council at the next meeting.

04/111 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

- i. **Report from Fairground Committee:** Cllr Blagden gave his report from the committee meeting on 13 July 2004. Around 15 children and their parents took part in the pond dipping activity arranged in conjunction with the Pang Valley Conservation Trust. The Play Area safety inspection has been received and has only highlighted a few items that require non urgent attention.
- ii. **Safety Inspection Report and Risk Assessment of Children's Play Area:** See 04/111(i) above.
- iii. **To Discuss Theft of Parish Council Lawnmower and Options Available:** The Clerk advised that the Cricket pavilion had been broken into between the 19th/20th June and the Parish Council's lawn mower had been stolen. A claim has been made on the Council's insurance and the grass areas affected have

- been sub-contracted out for the time being.
- iv. **To Consider Skateboard Petition:** Cllr Blagden reported that preliminary work on a proposal for a skateboard park has begun; this will be presented to the Council within the next two months.
- v. **Update on New Pavilion:** Cllr Smith reported that he had attended a fund raising training course, which had been very useful. The technical committee have re-valued the cost and presented this to the working party. The costing at present is £960,000 and they have decided to go ahead with the fund raising and a meeting has been arranged with the Relief in Need Charity.
- vi. **Update on Lease to Parish Council from Fairground Trustees:** Cllr Davies read out a letter from the Charity Commission (via the Council's solicitors in Birmingham) saying that they have agreed to grant an Order authorising the lease of the Charity's land to the Parish Council, which is being drafted and will be sent shortly.
- 04/112 **Cemetery:** Cllr Thorpe reported that the Cemetery Committee met on the 28th June and that he had been elected unopposed as Chairman of that committee. Following a site visit to the Cemetery the Committee went through the new draft Regulations (July 2004), Notice of Interment, Notice of Fees and Notice to erect a Memorial. These had been previously circulated to all councillors and were unanimously adopted. Cllr Thorpe also asked if he could obtain quotations for a new notice board for the Cemetery and this was agreed. Cllr Thorpe proposed that the Council join the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management at a cost of £40.00 per year. This was seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously agreed. **Clerk** to action. The Chairman wished to minute and thank the clerk for the effort and research carried out.
- 04/113 **Update on Warden/Police Meeting with WBC & TVP 30th June 2004 and Discuss Way Forward:** It was decided that a working party would be set up to analyse the information available to decide whether the scheme would be useful to the village and whether parishioners are willing to pay for this. If agreed an application would be made to West Berkshire Council. **Cllr Smith** to action.
- 04/114 **Report on Speed Indicator Device (SID) Operation:** Cllr Smith advised that he and Cllr Blagden over the course of a week had collected data via the SID Operation. This measures and stores the speed of vehicles travelling towards and the SID and data is down-loaded and analysed by West Berkshire Council who then compile a report of the breakdown for the Parish Council. Cllr Smith proposed that:
1. Given the highly visible nature of the survey, the Parish Council issue a notice outlining the survey and its aims (to be placed on the village notice boards, web site etc.).
 2. The whole exercise should be repeated and that West Berkshire Council should be approached for the training of two more councillors in the use of SID.
 3. The Parish Council reviews both the results of this survey and the sites studied so that any other sites requested by the public or coming from suggestions from the Parish Council could be included. This was seconded by Cllr Blagden; and it was unanimously agreed to carry out these actions.
- 04/115 **Update on New Car Park at Mortimer Station:** Discussions under way with Landlord, more information at the next meeting.
- 04/116 **Update on Appointing a Village Gardener:** Held over until next meeting.
- 04/117 **Report from Open Space, Sports and Leisure Assessment Meeting:** Cllr Davies reported that he and Cllr Blagden attended the "focus group meeting" at the Calcot Centre on the 28th June hosted by West Berkshire Council and its consultants P.M.P. P.M.P. asked for views and the general response was that all councils present wanted better financial resources plus encouragement from West Berkshire Council to provide additional facilities, also to carry out improvements to existing sports facilities and maintenance generally (including security, and dealing with litter and vandalism). As to resources all wanted more disclosure from West Berkshire Council about availability of Sec 106 money and the basis on which its distribution is decided, also acceptance that more can be raised by precept. West Berkshire Council has promised that the results of this consultation exercise will be summarised and made known to participants in due course.
- 04/118 **To Consider The Clerk Attending the 21st SLCC Annual Conference in Stratfield-upon-Avon 15-18 October at a cost of £317.00:** Cllr Jones proposed that the Clerk should attend the SLCC

Annual Conference and this was seconded by Cllr Philips and unanimously agreed.

04/119 Finance – To Agree Accounts for Payment:

- i. Clerk's Salary.
- ii. Clerk's/Custodian's Tax and NI.
- iii. Clerk's Expenses Nil.
- iv. Custodian's Salary.
- v. Ian Philips – grass cutting Cemetery & Churchyard £638.85.
- vi. Bridgewood Landscape Services – grass cutting Alfred Palmer Field £160.00.
- vii. R M Weavers – grass cutting Fairground £137.17.
- viii. SPISE Housing Demand Workshop £10.00.
- ix. West Berkshire Council – quarterly photocopying charges £171.55.
- x. D.G. Nickless – update of community award board £22.50.
- xi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd –payment for Mortimer Link June £763.75.
- xii. Wicksteed Leisure – play area safety inspection £64.63 inc VAT.
- xiii. J Clarke – repair to vandalised play area fence £95.00
- xiv. J Clarke – welding bolts on kissing gates Windmill Common £82.00.
- xv. BT – telephone bill Parish Office £159.41.
- xvi. Dads Shop Ltd £123.60.
- xvii. Bridgewood Landscape Services – cutting trees on Fairground £120.00.
- xviii. St John's Hall Management Committee – hall rental £50.00.
- xix. A Smith – expenses for attending Training Day £33.21.
- xx. Staples – stationery £78.78.
- xxi. Wicksteed Leisure – payment for new slide £7,839.79.

In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations all the items for payment were considered together. Cllr Thorpe proposed that they be paid; Cllr Morden seconded this. Carried unanimously.

04/120 Correspondence:

- i. A number of Circulars/Newsletters were distributed to councillors

04/121 AOB/ Future/Agenda Items:

- It was noted that a van (possibly belonging to the cleaner) is parking on the double yellow lines outside TA Fisher on the junction of Windmill Road and Victoria Road. The Clerk is to write to T A Fisher.
- Cllr Blagden informed that a couple of members from the Co-Ordination Group have visited businesses in the village and given them a copy of the Parish Plan, this will be followed up with a further visit.
- The Chairman noted that The Oaks After School Club at St John's School is looking for a new leader if it is to continue.
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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th August 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10:25 p.m.