



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 12th August 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, Ms S Harding, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk),

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

Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Philips declared an interest in item no 04/133(v), Cllr A Smith 04/127 (v).

04/122 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of Meeting of 8th July 2004 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

04/123 **Update from ES Pipelines on Extension of Gas Main to Mortimer:** Mr N Clark of ESP Pipelines Ltd and Mr J Birtwhistle of McNicholas Plc updated the Council on the extension of a gas main to Mortimer. Letters to all affected residents will be sent out in the next couple of weeks inviting them to a Information Road Show in St John's Hall in September/October. Work will commence on the 20th September and is scheduled to be completed within 34 weeks. It is estimated that the first connections will be made from February 2005. A set of plans will be held in the Parish Office.

04/124 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Harding reported that West Berkshire Council's accounts are now available, they had an underspend of £1.8m against an overall budget of approximately £150m. This is due partly to late and unexpected government grants which had not been budgeted for and means that reserves will not have to be drawn on this year. A survey by the GMB union has found that West Berkshire allocates more money direct to primary schools than any other LEA in the South East (at £3,997 per child). They are third in the national table. Locally Padworth Common has been declared a nature reserve attracting some government funding.

04/125 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the 15th July and 6th August and considered 9 applications:

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| 04/01389/HOUSE | Flat 6 Carpenters Court, 72 The Crescent. Change windows in 2 nd bedroom to French door. No objection. |
| 04/01428/HOUSE | 16 Victoria Road. First floor side extensions with tiled pitched roofs. No objection. |
| 04/01475/HOUSE | Woodside, Mortimer Lane. Replace existing rear conservatory with an extension. Conversion in loft space. No objection. |
| 04/01488/HOUSE | Wisconsin House, Loves Wood. First floor bedroom extension. No objection. |
| 04/01503/HOUSE | Robin Hill, Brewery Common. Erection of single storey extension. No objection. |
| 04/00192/HOUSE | Abbey Croft, The Street. Construction of 3 car garage, staff accommodation and pool changing room and sauna. No objection but subject to a condition that the staff accommodation is tied irrevocably to the main building and cannot be sold separately. |
| 04/01489/OUT | West End Lodge, Ravensworth Road. Erection of a new 2 storey detached dwelling with garage.
Object:
1. Earlier owners of West End Lodge received permission from Basingstoke and Deane D.C. 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. |
| 04/01757/HOUSE | 73 West End Road. Extension to form garage and kitchen/diner with bedroom above living room extension. No objection. |
| 04/01605/HOUSE | 70 Windmill Road. Two storey rear extension and replacement of flat roof with a pitched roof. Associated works. |

Object

1. Over development of site. The footprint of the propose4d doubles the area of the ground floor accommodation.
2. Bay window on west elevation would constitute serious overlooking of adjacent property.

Recommendation under delegated powers received from West Berkshire Council:

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| 04/00192/HOUSE | Abbey Croft, The Street – referred to Eastern Area Planning Committee but note that a revised plan was considered by the Parish Council’s Planning Committee on 6 August 2004. |
| 03/00687/HOUSE | 84 The Avenue. Extension over existing garage to provide bedroom and ensuite bathroom. Approval |
| 04/00807/FUL | 60-62 Victoria Road (Spratley’s Garage). Taxabri canopy with internal lighting. Approval. |
| 04/00974/FUL | Aborn Parade, West End Road. Conversion of shop store to flat. Approval. |
| 04/01006/LBC | Abbey Croft, The Street. Insertion of steel beam in the drawing room and replacement of defective lathe and plaster at 2 nd floor level with insulation and plasterboard. Approval. |
| 04/01016/HOUSE | Silverhaze, Ravensworth Road. Replacement garage and store. Approval |
| 04/01027/HOUSE | St Catherines, Sweetzers Piece. First floor side extension. Approval. |
| 04/01028/HOUSE | 79 Stephens Firs. Side and rear extension and proposed garage. Approval. |
| 04/01023/HOUSE | 28 Briar Lea Road. First floor side extension over existing garage to provide new bedroom and bathroom. Approval. |
| 04/01056/HOUSE | 40 Stephens Firs. Conservatory. Approval. |
| 04/01094/HOUSE | 33 Groves Lea. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension. Approval. |
| 04/01135/HOUSE | The Aviary, The Street. Conservatory. Approval. |
| 04/01137/HOUSE | The Laurels, Ravensworth Road. Two storey rear extension to form garage, living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathrooms. Approval. |
| 04/01164/HOUSE | 3 King Street. Single storey rear and side extension. Approval. |
| 04/01189/HOUSE | 27 King Street. Demolish rear single storey together with various outbuildings and replace with two storey extension. Approval. |

04/126 Roads, Footpaths and Commons:

- i. **Update on BT Poles Windmill Road:** Nothing further heard from BT. Held over until next meeting and the Clerk will look into legal route.
- ii. **Update on Traffic Management:** Referred back to Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.
- iii. **Update on Brewery Common:** Clarks solicitors confirm that they have obtained some more background information on this and are now making headway with the Land Registry.

04/127 Fairground, Trees and Amenities:

- i. **To authorise repair work in Children’s Play Area:** It was confirmed that the purchase of urgent spare parts for the play equipment from Wicksteed Leisure at a cost of £189.97 was in order.
- ii. **Update on Lease to Parish Council from Fairground Trustees:** Still awaiting copy of the Lease from the Charity Commission.
- iii. **Update on Insurance Claim for Parish Council Lawn Mower:** The Clerk informed that a replacement lawn mower would cost approximately £559 but was insured for only £430 and would incur an excess of £100 (and an increased excess of £250 if a claim was made). It was agreed therefore not to proceed with the insurance claim.
- iv. **Update on Pavilion Project:** Cllr Smith reported that members of the working party had met with the Relief in Need Charity to gauge their level of support for the project. The original proposal from the charity was to donate £100,000 towards the project and £16,000 per annum towards the running costs (which would not now be possible under the rules of their constitution). It was felt that a project of £960,000 was too ambitious and the trustees suggested that this be

scaled down and was keen that the pavilion be used by the whole community and wanted to know the position of the relationship between the various factions contributing towards the project. The reply to this was any change would have to go back to the Parish Council to be agreed on. SMRIC would like to make a decision on whether they would be able to contribute at their October meeting and asked the pavilion working party to put together a formal proposal to include the position to the recurrent expenditure which could be considered by the trustees at this meeting. Cllr Smith confirmed that the working party are now to scale down the project and re-draw the plans.

- v. **To consider making a contribution towards security improvements at Mortimer Cricket Pavilion:** Due to the recent burglary at the pavilion the Cricket Club have had to install a security roller shutter at a cost of £764 and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council donate £250 towards the cost of these security measures. **Clerk** to action.

- 04/128 **Cemetery:** Cllr Thorpe reported that the rose bush had been planted in the Garden of Remembrance. Quotes are being obtained for cutting back the trees by the ditch and strimming. Cllr Thorpe confirmed that he and the Chairman had met with Thrive re the maintenance of the garden areas of the cemetery which would include the design and maintenance of the memorial flower bed, create and maintain new beds around trees, plant up and maintain planters at gate entrance, edge pathways and maintain, create compost area and maintain on a monthly basis at a cost of £45 plus cost of plants provided. It was agreed to accept this subject to a satisfactory work schedule being received. **Clerk** to action.
- 04/129 **Update on Warden/Police Schemes:** Cllr Taylor reported that a working party that met on 19th July to discuss the issues from the meeting on the 30th June. A priority approach was agreed at this meeting: 1. Support for the Thames Valley Police Community Reassurance Scheme, 2. Provision of youth facilities. 3. Further investigation of the warden scheme although there was a general feeling that it was an expensive solution to the issues. It was also agreed to take some pro-action and pursue the Neighbourhood Reassurance Group. The Chairman is to put together some points in a letter to Rachel Craggs at West Berkshire of the concerns over the Village Warden Scheme. Cllr Barber said that he and Cllr Blagden had been in contact with Thames Valley Police re the Community Reassurance Scheme and it would appear that the groupings would be 1 Sgt, 2 police constables and 2/3 support officers dedicated to each borough (a group of parishes). An action plan will be developed and taken out to Planning for Real (Charity) to get preferences. It is hoped the scheme will be in place and operational from March next year.
- 04/130 **Update on Appointing a Village Gardener:** See 04/128 Cemetery above.
- 04/131 **Parish Council Newsletter (September):** Cllr Blagden reported that the newsletter is scheduled for editing etc ready for printing on 13th September with distribution on the 18/19 September. A draft copy will be sent to the Parish Council for approval as soon as available.
- 04/132 **Audit Report from Hacker Young for year ended 31.3.04:** The Chairman advised that Messrs Hacker Young (the Council's external auditors) had returned the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2004 duly audited. A copy of the public notice advising of the conclusion of the audit and that the annual return is available to inspection will be advertised on the notice boards for 14 days. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her hard work in getting the accounts audited on time.
- 04/133 **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. 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 £160.08.
 - viii. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd –payment for Mortimer Link June £763.75.
 - ix. Butlers Lands Estate Services Ltd – grass cutting Grazing Area £323.13
 - x. Berkshire Record Office – documents Brewery Common £24.50.

- xi. The Post Office – purchase of stamps £28.00.
 - xii. Staples – stationery £71.15.
 - xiii. Dads Shop £55.01.
 - xiv. Wicksteed Leisure – spare parts play equipment £189.97.
 - xv. Confederation of Burial Authorities £40.00.
 - xvi. Clarks – Brewery Common Title & Rights of Way Issues £1,173.83.
 - xvii. Hacker Young – external audit fee for year-ended 31.4.04 £411.25.
- In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations all the items for payment were considered together. The Chairman proposed that they be paid; Cllr Thorpe seconded this. Carried unanimously.

04/134 Correspondence:

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

04/135 AOB/ Future/Agenda Items:

- The Clerk reminded Councillors that a representative from the Rural Housing Trust would be attending the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th September 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 10:05 p.m.