



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 10 February 2005 @7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), P Blagden, K Davies, C Lewis, J. Morden, Mrs A Philips, T Shorrocks, A Smith, Ms S Harding, P Scrase, G Parry, A Thorpe Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), K Lock (District), 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press.

Apologies: Councillors: P Challis, T Jones and S Clark.

Declaration of Interest: None

05/17 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of Meeting of 13 January 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- The Clerk advised that confirmation had been received from the Co-operative Bank regarding the change of signatories and that all councillors are now signatories on the Council's bank account (any three to sign).
- The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Hanson's saying that the Lorries spotted in the village were not Hanson lorries from the Mortimer Quarry and that all drivers have been warned about not driving through Mortimer.

05/18 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock gave his report to the Parish Council.

05/19 **Report from M Hillyer Governor St Mary's School:** Mr Mark Hillyer, Governor at St Mary's School came to advise and liaise with the Parish Council on a number of issues of mutual interest. The main topic was that the school are producing a travel plan using the S106 money from the Mortimer Hill development; the areas that they are looking at are a continuous footpath down The Street so the children can walk safely to school. The other area is the provision of a school car park and Englefield Estates have agreed to let the school use the land next to the church for a school/church car park for up to 90 vehicles, which will need planning permission before going ahead. They are at present obtaining costings for surfacing the car park and looking into how the car park can be gated so that it is only used at school times. The school governors have invited members of the Parish Council to a meeting to discuss the travel plan on the 8th March. Mr Hillyer was asked to find out why the new extra classroom is being paid for by the S106 money from the Mortimer Hill Development when it was agreed that diocese would provide this when the school went to church aided status.

05/20 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 24th January 2005 when 5 plans were considered.

04/00523/LBC

Listed Barn, Great Park Farm. Previously approved reinstatement now amended to ensure no supports are introduced to interrupt the main void. No objection.

Amended

04/02723/FULMAJ

Mortimer Mens Club, The Street. Amendment to earlier application, which was deferred, to retain the cherry tree and bay tree.

Object: Although the Parish Council has earlier supported this application in principle this amendment is merely cosmetic and does not address the main concern regarding the dangerous access to and from the proposed development onto the Street. There were two further accidents in The Street on the 10th and 11th January 2005 requiring the closing of the highway for two hours.

04//03064/HOUSE

Redwoods (formerly St John's March) The Street.

Proposed single storey extension to form garage with stores in roof space, greenhouse link, rear porch/garden room and change of use of buildings to accommodate elderly disabled relative. First and second floor alterations.

No objections in principle but would question the desirability of the integral green

- 04/03077/OUTD house not being in keeping with the existing building.
Land adjacent to 29-30 The Bevers (old lock up garage spaces). Four 2 and 3 bedroom houses with parking spaces (for Sovereign Housing Association). No objection.
- 04/00033/FUL St Catherines, Sweetzers Piece. New 3 bedroom house.
Object:
The new proposal has removed the conservatory and the garage but the living accommodation remains unchanged from 04/02628 (withdrawn).
Once built future applications for a conservatory and double garage will almost inevitably follow and would result in 04/02628 being approved in stages.
Therefore still
1. Overdevelopment of site.
 2. Out of keeping with street scene.
- If the council is minded to approve it should be conditional on withdrawal of future development rights.

Recommendations under delegated powers received from West Berkshire Council: None received this month

The Parish Council have received notification that the applicants for the extension of Sunnybanks, Kiln Lane are appealing against the decision of West Berkshire Council to refuse permission. The Parish Council had no objection (04/02372/House).

The Parish Council sent a letter on the 22nd December 2004 to British Telecom regarding the excessive height of the replacement poles in King Street (10m). They have now replied saying the reason for the taller poles is to meet current standards for clearance on public highways.

05/21 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**

- i. **Update on Brewery Common Title:** No update
- ii. **Update on Brewery Common gas main:** West Berkshire Council is pressing Transco for an urgent decision on this. Clerk will chase again and report back at the next meeting.
- iii. **Update on TRL Traffic Survey & WBC Road Markings The Street:** Cllr Davies advised that TRL will be giving a presentation on the traffic survey at the Roads Footpaths and Commons Committee on 21st February. There will also be a special meeting of that committee on the 10th March at 6:30pm in the Methodist Hall. to discuss with West Berkshire and look into all the traffic issues in the Street, i.e. traffic calming, speed limit reduction and the proposed continuous footpath.
- iv. **SID Training (Speed Indicator Device):** West Berkshire Council is to run a SID training session on 16th March for councillors. Cllr Shorrock is to attend and Cllr Clark is to be asked if he would like to attend also. **Clerk** to action.
- v. **West Berkshire Council Stile Project:** West Berkshire Council has informed the Parish Council that WBC have a statutory duty to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), which will identify improvements to countryside access and also the accessibility of local rights of way to those with mobility problems. It is concentrating on the stile project at present and have asked councillors if they wish to suggest any stiles in the parish even if they are not in a state of disrepair are particularly difficult to negotiate and the replacement of a stile with a gate would be a significant improvement on a well used local footpath. This has been referred to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.

05/22 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

Report: Cllr Blagden gave an update on the monthly maintenance programme for the Fairground. After the last monthly maintenance session a large amount of waste has accumulated and it was agreed to ask Butlers Lands to collect this at the contract price of £75.00 plus VAT. It was also noted that the Fairground working party has reverted to the original methods. It was agreed to allow the fairground working party could burn the small residual amounts waste under carefully controlled conditions. Cllr Blagden asked that a proposal to purchase a brush cutter be put on the next Agenda.

- i. **To agree recommendation of a play area safety inspection provider:** Cllr Smith proposed that the annual independent risk assessment is carried out by RoSPA in 2005 at an approximate cost of £128 and this was unanimously agreed. **Clerk** to action.
- ii. **Update on proposal to set up a new trust:** Cllr Davies reported that the details of the proposed new Board of Trustees have been agreed with the Charity Commission. The

representative from the surgery has bowed out and the 5 new trustees will now be made up of 2 parish councillors, 1 from Clarke's Charity, 1 from Englefield Estates and 1 from the Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council are in discussion with the Charity Commission over the details of the proposed lease.

iii. **Fairground Refurbishment Project (pavilion):** Cllr Smith reported that the working party met 2 weeks ago and is currently seeking donations/grants from Taylor Woodrow, Hanson Trust, SEEDA and the sponsor money from the runner in the London Marathon. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should pay for the entry fee of £27.00 for the London Marathon.

iv. **Report re RoSPA Training Course:** Cllr Smith gave a report on the RoSPA Play Area Inspection and Risk Assessment Training Course he attended on 11th January 2005. This covered the legal aspects that Parish Councils are required to fulfil and how this should be achieved. Cllr Smith proposed and it was unanimously carried that the Parish Council should:

1. Minute reporting of inspections monthly.
2. Have independent risk assessment of play area carried out by RoSPA (see 02/55(i) above.
3. Write a new inspection procedure for the council to follow to be kept in the parish office.
4. Have instructions on what to do in the event of an incident.

05/23 **Cemetery:** Cllr Thorpe reported that Thrive have continued to do good work in the Cemetery and have planted the garden of remembrance. It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter of thanks.

05/24 **Communications Committee:**

i. **Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the current six week computer course (an extension to the earlier course) is well attended and is covering the internet and email. A further starter course is to be held later in the spring. The next Business Forum Meeting for local businesses is being held on Thursday 17th March and invitations and the meeting agenda will be sent out in the middle of the month. It has already been agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the hire of the hall and fund the refreshments.

ii. **Newsletter:** The February Newsletter was delivered to every house in the parish (1500) during the first week in February. It was a very large and informative newsletter (11 sides A4 long) which means that the printing costs were higher than anticipated. It was unanimously agreed to pay for the printing costs of £468.75 including VAT.

05/25 **Update on Leisure in the Rural Communities:** Cllrs Blagden and Smith met with Mary Spanswick from West Berkshire Council regarding their Leisure in the Parish Scheme (LIPS) and available grant funding of £2,000 over two years for leisure activities in parishes. It was resolved that the Parish Council apply for the grant for the following projects, tennis coaching, health walks, cricket coaching and multisport sessions. **Clerk** to action.

05/26 **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Update:** Cllr Davies reminded councillors that The Freedom of Information Act 2000 came in to effect from 1 January 2005 which gives everyone for the first time a general legal right to be provided, on request, with any information held by all public authorities subject to stated exemptions. The Parish Council adopted the model scheme for Local Councils (core classes only) on 12 December 2002. Notices are placed on the Councils notice boards and website stating that documents within the core classes are available to view, but all requests must be in writing giving 20 days' notice.

05/27 **Update on Transport Grant for Mortimer Link:** The Clerk reported that the first year of the grant is complete and that a claim for the agreed 64.73% (£4,799) of the grant is being submitted to the Countryside Agency at the end of the month. Confirmation has been received that a grant for 64.72% has been extended for a second year starting in March. From the 31st March the Countryside Agency are transferring their operation to the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA). Usage of the mini bus service continues to be steady with between 118 - 150 passengers per week although the mid morning and Saturday service is not well used.

05/28 **Stratfield Mortimer Community Award 2005:** The Chairman reported that the Community Award Committee met on the 26th January 2005. Nine nominations had been received and considered. The committee unanimously decided that the award be presented to Laurie and Val Drake (joint award) for their service to the village. It was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council fund the cost of the award £260 (from next year's budget). **Clerk** to action. The Stratfield Mortimer Community Award 2005 will be presented at this year's Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 7th April at 7:30pm

in St John's Hall.

05/29 **Finance:** The Chairman advised that telephone in the Parish Office had broken and it was unanimously agreed that a new one could be purchased at a cost of up to £80.00. **Clerk** to action. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Puddephatt proposed that they be paid; Cllr Lewis seconded this. Carried unanimously

- i. Clerk's Salary.
- ii. Clerk's/Custodian's Tax and NI.
- iii. Clerk's Expenses.
- iv. Custodian's Salary.
- v. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd - payment for Mortimer Link (Jan) £705.00 inc VAT.
- vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd - payment for Mortimer Link (Feb) £616.88 inc VAT.
- vii. Thrive - gardening contract Cemetery 77.29.
- viii. P Blagden - Reimbursement Printing Newsletter £468.75 inc VAT.
- ix. The Post Office - stamps £49.00.
- x. A Smith - Travelling Expenses £28.20.
- xi. Glasdon UK Ltd - purchase of litter pickers £51.65 inc VAT.
- xii. SPISE - subscription renewal 2005 £30.00.
- xiii. Simone Surveys Ltd - for auto traffic counters £750.00 plus VAT
- xiv. The London Marathon Ltd - £27.00.
- xv. Dads Shop Ltd - £18.30 inc VAT.
- xvi. Staples - Stationery £8.99 inc VAT.

05/30 **Correspondence:**

- Cllr Thorpe advised that West Berkshire Council had a consultation document relating to changes to the Concessionary fares scheme. It was agreed that Cllr Thorpe could action this on behalf of the council.
- Defra - introduction of Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill - to be placed on March agenda.
- Thames Valley Police - information about powered scooters i.e. users are subject to road traffic law and require insurance/licence etc.
- Calor Village of the Year Competition - Berkshire.
- CAWB - A village Car Scheme.

05/31 **Minor Matters to Report:**

None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10 March 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:10 p.m.