



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), C Lewis, J. Morden, T Shorrock, P Challis, D Ives, A Philips, N Kiley (From 8:10), G Puddephatt, A Smith, Mrs J Kirk (Clerk), and K Lock (District). 3 Members of the Public were also present.

**Apologies:** Cllrs P Blagden, S Clark, G Parry, S Harding.

**Declaration of Interest:** Cllrs C Lewis & G Puddephatt 06/06 (iii).

06/01 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** None

06/02 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that in December he had presented a petition to WBC that he had received from Mortimer Age Concern asking for the travel token system to continue. The Government plans to introduce a free bus pass next April for anyone over 60 but he still does not know what the West Berkshire's share of the subsidy will be nor if it will be a national or local scheme. The Council will be able to continue with tokens for people without buses and he is still waiting for the Executive to say what they are going to do. Cllr Lock also advised that the Prudential are proposing to put in a planning application for a development for 7,500 dwellings on a 450 acre site in Burghfield Parish north of the M4 and west of the railway line. The 450 acres will be raised by 1 metre as it a flood plain. It is believed that this can be controlled by a system based on Theale Lake which will become a reservoir. The plan includes an integrated bus service and a new railway station and other amenities such as shops, schools etc. Prudential plan to apply for planning permission before West Berkshire Council has completed its proposals for the next Local Plan. If this is successful then this development will be in addition to any other houses which WBC has to take under the plan.

06/03 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2006 when 11 plans were considered.

05/02590/FULD The Fairground, The Street. Demolition of existing club house and erection of new sports and social community centre. The Parish Council, as applicant, is unable to comment but would wish to speak if this application is to be determined at an Eastern Area Planning Committee.

05/02603/FUL Mortimer St Mary's C of E Junior School. Erection of two new classrooms. No objection.

05/02692/FUL Mortimer St Mary's C of E Junior School. Temporary classroom January 06 to September 2006. No objection.

05/02620/HOUSE 43 West End Road. Single storey side extension plus tiled lean-to roof to existing flat roofs at rear and front porch.

**Object:**

1. Overdevelopment.
2. Adverse impact on street scene.
3. Out of keeping with adjacent properties.
4. Built right up to Croft Road pavement.

05/02637/FUL Wheats Farm, Nightingale Lane. Boarding kennel and cesspool. No objection.

05/02693/HOUSE 26 King Street. Demolition of one storey, reinstatement with two storey extension and conservatory. No objection.

05/02752/HOUSE 9 and 11 Victoria Road (adjacent to Budgens). Single storey pitched roof rear

- extensions to both properties.  
No objection subject to strict condition that no skips or materials whatsoever are deposited on Victoria Road (site is opposite a bus stop).
- 05/01768/FULD 26 Windmill Road. Change of use from shop/retail unit to residential and conversion of existing dwelling to two flats. No objection
- 05/02735/HOUSE 16 The Avenue. Roof amendment, widow and door alterations and internal changes. No objection.  
Garden House, The Street. Two storey extension to provide new study and additional bathroom and single storey extension to enlarge utility room.  
Object:  
1. Notwithstanding the reduction to extending the property to the west only rather than both east and west (05/00847). There will still be considerable overshadowing and loss of amenity to the property immediately to the north (Shambles).  
2. Any extension to this property should be made to the southern elevation in view of its close proximity to the northern boundary.
- 05/02728/HOUSE 23A Stephens Close. Erection of double garage. No objection.  
Recommendations under delegated powers received from West Berkshire Council:
- 05/02264/HOUSE 28 The Avenue. Two storey side extension and rear extension and demolition of existing garage.  
Refusal. Elevation details were inaccurate and officers unable to make a proper decision.
- 05/02410/FULD Land to rear of Victoria Arms, Victoria Road. Demolition of out buildings and erection of two dwellings.  
Refusal. Fails to provide mitigation measures in respect of local infrastructure, services or amenities.
- 05/02412/HOUSE 12 St John's Road. 2 storey side extension. Approval.
- 05/02420/HOUSE 12a Stephens Firs. Single storey rear extension. Approval.
- 05/02567/FULD 6 King Street. Demolition of house and workshop. Erection of one pair of semi-detached houses and two detached dwellings (change of house types from 05/00661). Approval.

Appeal decision from the Planning Inspectorate:-

Land to rear of 33-37 West End Road – demolition of No 33 and erection of 7 dwellings. The appeal against West Berkshire Council's refusal is dismissed.

1. The juxtaposition of the access road and the bungalow on plot no 1 would give a cramped appearance.
2. The dwelling proposed on plot No 7 is too close to the site boundary and has an overbearing impact on 34 Victoria Road.
3. Does not achieve the design quality sought by local planning policy.

Appeals pending:-

1. The appeal against West Berkshire Council's refusal for the extensions of the Mortimer Surgery is to be by Informal Hearing, date to be notified in due course.
2. A letter has been sent to the Inspectorate reiterating our objections to the proposal for the Mortimer Men's Club site.
3. The appeal in respect of refusal for development on the site of The Colt House, Sweetzers Piece will be heard on Tuesday 18 July 2006 in the Council Offices at Newbury at 10am.

The Parish Council have had a reply from Colin Chapman, Team Leader, Planning Policy, West Berkshire Council in reply to our letter of the 16 December (see minute no 05/190) regarding the article in the Newbury Weekly News saying that 'Mortimer is regarded as a development area by West Berkshire Council'. Mr Chapman writes that there have been no recent changes to planning policies affecting Mortimer. The settlement boundary is identified and beyond the 120 houses currently being built on Mortimer Hill Farm no other major sites has been identified.

06/04 **Update on Village Design Statement:** Cllr Shorrocks advised that the working party met in December and members of the working party with the help of members of the community are now drawing up the first draft. A further meeting is to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January and it is hoped that the first

draft of the Village Design Statement will then be presented to the Parish Council and the public at the open meeting to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in St John's Hall.

06/05 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**

**Report:** No report

- i. **Safer Routes to School Scheme:** It was agreed to delegate the response to this proposal to the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee when it meets on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

06/06 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

**Report:** In the absence of Cllr Blagden the Clerk read out a brief update on the monthly working parties.

- i. **Monthly Area Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported there are no problems with the play equipment.
- ii. **Update on Pavilion Project:** Cllr Smith reported that the next stage of the SEEDA application is to be submitted next week and a presentation is to be made to the Partnership in support of this application on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. An application is also to be made to the land fill tax scheme. The Lottery rules have changed and Parish Councils can now apply. No written objections have been submitted in relation to the planning application for the new pavilion. The planning department have said that the car park may not be large enough for the proposed new facility as it has to have 30 spaces and cycle racks will also need to be installed.
- iii. **Fairground Trust:** Cllr Lewis and Cllr Puddephatt declared an interest (as Trustees) and left the room for this item. The Chairman reported that following the proposal at the December Parish Council Meeting the Trustees and members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on the 9<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the proposed new lease for The Fairground and the proposed rent. Further to the resolution dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005 The Chairman proposed the following resolution:  
'All costs and incidental expenses incurred by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council and Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Trust in respect of setting up the lease shall be aggregated but the total shall not in any circumstances exceed the sum of £4,000. In the first instance these are to be met by the Parish Council, half to be refunded by the trustees when the lease has been set up and offset against the rent.' This was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and carried unanimously.

06/07 **Cemetery:**

**i. To consider installing a Deer Fence to western boundary of Cemetery:** In the absence of Cllr Clark the Clerk advised that two quotations had been obtained to install a deer fence on the western boundary. Cllr Shorrocks proposed that the quotation for £180 be accepted and Cllr Kiley seconded this and it was carried unanimously. **The Clerk** to put the work in hand.

06/08 **Communications Committee:** In the absence of Cllr Blagden the Clerk read out a short report which advised that after a lot of hard work over the copy and preparation during the Christmas period the Newsletter was delivered at the end of the first week in January. For the first time several dozen copies were delivered to the residents on the Mortimer Hill estate.

06/09 **Mortimer Link (mini bus to Station) Review:** Cllr Puddephatt volunteered to look into the question of new funding.

06/10 **Update Burghfield/Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group and Public Meeting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2006:** The Chairman referred to the remit of the Action Group and said that two initiatives of two Police lay-bys to deal with speeding along The Street and a definite police commitment to enforce double yellow line parking restrictions. These would be put forward to the Action Group at its forthcoming meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January. The next Public Meeting is to be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February in St John's Hall, with the Police in attendance. All councillors were asked to attend (wearing badges) if free to do so. In addition a Village Design Statement will be on display in the hall.

06/11 **To ratify change of broadband provider for Parish Office from British Telecom Plc to Caudwell Communications Ltd.** It was agreed to change the telephone provider for the Parish Office to Caudwell Communications Ltd (unlimited broadband plus free local and national calls any time) at a monthly cost of £24.99 per month inc VAT plus line rental which is considerably less than the current charges from British Telecom.

06/12 **Report from Internal Auditor:** The Clerk reported that Mr Feline, the Parish Council's Internal Auditor, has conducted a full six monthly audit of the Parish Council's Accounts and she read out a report which said he had completed checking the books of account, sample payments, invoices and VAT, the annual Precept Budget, income records, salaries, PAYE and Pension and bank reconciliations and found everything to be in order.

06/13 **Finance:** Further to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November and budget recommendations Cllr Puddephatt proposed that a multi laser printer costing £217 inc VAT be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Shorrock and unanimously agreed. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies proposed that they be paid; Cllr Smith 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. RBWM (Pension).
- vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £705.00 inc VAT.
- vii. Forbuoys (newspapers)
- viii. West Berkshire (quarterly photocopying charges) £51.23 inc VAT.
- ix. Staples (stationery) £153.08 inc VAT.
- x. Mr F Feline (internal audit fee) £75.00.
- xi. British Telecom Plc (quarterly telephone Parish Office) £188.52 inc VAT.
- xii. Burghfield Village Hall (hall rental BNAG) £16.50.
- xiii. Valuation Office Agency Administration (valuation The Fairground) £759.05 inc VAT.

06/14 **Correspondence:**

1. WBC. Confirmation that a new Lease for the Parish Office is to be renewed.
2. WBC. Draft Freight Strategy for West Berkshire.
3. WBC. Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Second Local Transport Plan.
4. OPDM. Discussion Paper on Standards of Conduct in English Local Government which sets out its vision for a future comprehensive conduct regime for local authority members and employees.

06/15 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

A question was raised as to whether the Police could let the Parish Council have a crime report for Mortimer. Cllrs Ives and Davies to raise this with the Police Inspector at the BNAG Meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 09:23 p.m.