



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 13th April 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), C Lewis, J. Morden, P Challis, D Ives, A Philips, P Blagden, S Clark, N Kiley, S Harding (until 8:15pm), G Puddephatt, G Parry (until 8:55pm) and A Smith Mrs J Kirk (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors: A Thorpe and T Shorrocks.

Declaration of Interest: Councillors: G Puddephatt and C Lewis (part II Fairground Trust)

06/44 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 9th March 2006 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: The Clerk advised that the new 5 year Lease from West Berkshire Council for the Parish Council Office at the Library has now been sealed.

06/45 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Harding reported that the raised surface to the roundabout outside the Mortimer Hill development has now been installed. She said that she had received a few complaints about extra noise from lorries passing over the roundabout from some residents in Orchard Road and The Avenue. The draft policy on vehicle activated signs is with the relevant portfolio member of West Berkshire Council. During next week a letter and copy of the draft policy will go to all parish councils. They will be asked to nominate areas for the signs. £50,000 is available for the year 2006/7. Those not prioritized will then be looked at to see if there is any s.106 money available or local safety policy money or whether the parish itself is willing to fund it. The reduction of the speed limit and crossing has been agreed and funding is available. Cllr Harding has said that there will need to be street lights in the area of the crossing. St Mary's School Car Park application has been withdrawn (it would have been rejected). West Berkshire planners have said they will meet the school to see if any solution to the parking problem can be found. Alfeys Bridge (Bloomfield Hatch): The bridge over the railway at Bloomfield Hatch will be closed from 1st May 2006 to 15th September 2006 so that the bridge can be strengthened. Traffic is to be diverted through Beech Hill. The bridge will re-open sooner if work is completed before then.

06/46 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the on the 21st March and 4th April 2006 when 13 plans were considered.

06/00433/FUL Fire Station, 25 West End Road. Installation of radio base station increasing height of drill tower by 3.5m. 3 antennas and 2 dishes.

Object: The Parish Council must reflect the concerns of the parishioners.

1. Continued uncertainty of degree of radiological emissions bearing in mind that this proposal will double the number of antenna and dishes in a residential location and within 100m of two pre-school kindergarten.
2. The raising of the height of the drill tower from the original 13.9m to the proposed 19.0m will be environmentally intrusive.

06/00475/HOUSE 67 The Avenue. Change bungalow to a two storey dwelling.

Object:

1. Overdevelopment of site.
2. Overshadowing of adjacent bungalow to the north.

06/00542/HOUSE 20 Stephens Firs. Two storey side extension. No objection.

06/00554/FULD Land adjacent to Park Cottage, The Street. Erection of detached 4 bedroom house and garage and formation of new access. No objection.

06/00560/REM Land adjoining and to the rear of 14 Stephens Close. Detached house and detached bungalow. No objection.

06/00358/HOUSE 2 Stephens Road. Two storey extension to side and single storey front extension. Demolition of garage. No objection.

- 06/00570/HOUSE Roundwood Cottage, 55 Windmill Road. First floor side extension for enlarged bathroom and shower room. No objection.
- 06/00605/HOUSE 7 Windmill Road. Two storey side and rear extension. No objection.
- 06/00653/HOUSE 20 Tayberry Grove. Rear conservatory, rear garden shed, and wrought iron low level boundary fence. No objection.
- 06/00660/HOUSE 58 Windmill Road. Two storey side and single storey rear extension. No objection.
- 06/00675/FULD Land adjacent to 40 West End Road. 2 semi-detached 3 bedroom houses. No objection.
- 06/00701/HOUSE St Catherine's Cottage, Ravensworth Road. Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, demolition of garage. No objection.
- 06/00708/HOUSE Twelve Oaks, Brewery Common. Single storey addition to bungalow to north and east elevations. No objection.
- The following Officers recommendations have been received from West Berkshire Council:
- 05/02809/FULMAJ Mortimer Men's Club, The Street. Demolition of club building. Erection of 10 dwellings in semi detached form, car ports and car parking. New garage for 1 Pitt Cottages. Approval.
- 05/02901/FULD Land to rear of Victoria Arms, Victoria Road. Demolition of toilets, store and shed, construction of 2 dwellings and garages. Approval.
- 06/00083/FUL The Cottage, Nightingale Lane. Demolition of existing, erection of replacement dwelling. Refusal. Reason insufficient information.
- 06/00084/HOUSE 28 The Avenue. Two storey side and single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing garage. Approval.
- 06/00091/HOUSE 10 Windmill Road. Ground floor side and first floor rear extensions. Approval.
- 05/00122/FULD Land to rear of 33-37 West End Road. Erection of 7 dwellings following demolition of No. 33. Refusal.
- 06/00149/HOUSE 46 Windmill Road. Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Approval.
- 06/00179/HOUSE St John's House, Loves Wood. Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey building to enclose existing swimming pool. Refusal. This was brought before the full Eastern Area Planning Committee on 29th March 2006 at which Councillor J Morden and District Councillor K Lock both opposed the application.
- 06/00193/REM The Colt House, Sweetzers Piece. Demolition of existing and erection of 2 new dwellings. Refusal.
- 06/00281/HOUSE Oakdene Cottage, 82 Windmill Road. Conservatory. Approval.
- 06/00331/HOUSE 88 The Avenue, single storey sun room to replace existing garage and store. Approval.
- The Parish Council have been informed by West Berkshire Council that the application 06/00285/FUL Car Park for St Mary's School and Church in the field adjacent to the Church has been withdrawn.

The applicants who wish to build a detached 4 bedroom dwelling to the rear of Serena, Birch Lane have lodged an appeal against West Berkshire Council refusal of 05/01685 notwithstanding permission having been granted for application 05/02395.

Application 06/00433, the installation of a further radio base station at the Fire Station increasing the height of the tower by 3.5m to 19m overall, was to have been determined at the Eastern Area Planning Committee on the 29th March. The number of objections received was such that the officers were unable to write to all respondents in time. The Committee Chairman agreed to postpone this application to the 19th April 2006 assuring all parties that they would still be within the 56 day limit and the installation could not proceed by default.

06/47 **Update on Village Design Statement:** Cllr Ives reported that the first draft of the Village Design Statement has been sent to West Berkshire Council for their comment and feedback.

06/48 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No report.

- i. **Update on continuous footpath/pedestrian crossing The Street:** Covered in District Councillor's report in 06/45 above.
- ii. **Update on Speed Limit Review The Street:** Covered in District Councillor's report in 06/45 above.
- iii. **Update on Brewery Common Dragons Teeth:** The Clerk reported that she had chased West Berkshire Council who have informed her that they are chasing DEFRA and unfortunately it is not a quick process as they are aware from other applications. They have offered as a temporary measure until consent is granted to lay down some large logs as a deterrent.
- iv. **Update on Brewery Common Registration of Title:** The Parish Council's solicitors have

written to the Land Registry asking for more information and a map of the boundaries.

06/49 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**

Report: No report.

- i. **Monthly Area Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith said the report is the same as the previous month in which he said that no damage has been caused in the last month and the equipment is in good condition. The motorcycle rocker has been twisted out of alignment and needs to be re-aligned. The remaining three cradle swings need to have replacement chains to match the one trial one. The Clerk reported that the parts for the cradle swings had been ordered by the contractor and that the Custodian had moved the motor cycle rocker and that it had been moved back again and now it was jammed. The Clerk has also asked the contractor to look at the rocker.
- ii. **Update on Pavilion Project:** Cllr Smith reported that the £40,000 grant had been confirmed from SEEDA and Relief in Need are to continue their support. John Bull is to run in the London Marathon to raise money for the Pavilion Project.
- iii. **Fairground Trust:** This item was moved to Part 2/confidential section of the Parish Council Meeting.

06/50 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that a tree had fallen across the path to the Cemetery in the Churchyard. As access to the Parish Council Cemetery was blocked the Clerk under her emergency powers had asked a contractor to deal with the tree as a matter of urgency at a cost of £50.00 plus VAT.

06/51 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the deadlines for the next Newsletter are too tight and so they have been moved back a week.

06/52 **Mortimer Link (mini bus to Station) Review:** The Clerk reported that following a presentation by Cllr Shorrock to Relief in Need they have given £2,500 towards the project for the coming year. Funding has also been promised from West Berkshire Council and the Community Council for Berkshire. A proposal will be put to the next council meeting.

06/53 **AWE Liaison Committee Report:** Previously circulated and noted. Thanks were offered to Mr B Taylor for his concise notes on the AWE LLC Meeting. A copy is available in the Parish Office.

06/54 **WBC Future Leisure Management Arrangements (Willink LC):** Cllr Morden reported that there are 8 leisure centres across West Berkshire, 3 managed 'in house' and 5 commercially managed. The 5 commercial contracts, of which Willink is one, are due for renewal in the period August 2006 to July 2007. The Audit Commission has suggested that better value could be achieved if a single leisure operator managed the entire portfolio i.e. 8 centres. The Parish Council are being asked their opinion as to the way forward: Commercial Management, In House, or a Non Profit Organisation. The choice is determined by funding for future expansion and refurbishment of the centres. Commercial management has the ability to raise money on the open market. 'In house' will have to rely on Council Tax revenue. Non profit organisations have limited access to finance. The Willink Centre has a good relationship with the Commercial Management, Courtesy Leisure, who are unlikely to bid for all 8 centres. It was agreed that Commercial Management was the best option and Cllr Morden will pass these views onto West Berkshire Council also asking if any additional profit made could be offset against the contributions from Parish Councils. Councillor Morden is also to ask WBC if are they going to honour their predecessors, Newbury District Council's promises to fund these centres from the general Council Tax and not require Town and Parish Councils to assist with funding from their precepts (Stratfield Mortimer's annual contribution is £7,500)

06/55 **The Rural Housing Trust – affordable housing scheme update:** Cllr Morden advised that this has been on-going since 2004 and no progress has been made. The Clerk sent a wake up letter on the 23rd March and a reply has been received apologising for the lack of any progress and promising to re-activate the file. He will report back to the next council meeting.

06/56 **Update on Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005:** Held over to next meeting so information can be circulated to Councillors.

06/57 **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Audit 2005/2006:** The Clerk reported that Messrs Hacker Young (the Council's external auditor) has called the Council to Audit on the 30th June 2006. As the timescales for completing the accounts are very tight the Clerk is to ask for the date to be moved back. It was reported that Cllr Philips has checked the salary, pension contributions and PAYE for

the tax year 2005/06 and has confirmed that all is in order.

06/58 **Finance:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Clark proposed that they be paid; Cllr Kiley 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)
- vii. Forbuoys (newspapers) £3.80
- viii. Caudwell Communications Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £22.05 inc VAT
- ix. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying charges) £81.49 inc VAT
- x. Staples (Stationery) £61.58
- xi. Impact (revised version of accounts software) £50.00
- xii. SLCC One Day Regional Conference (Clerk) £40.00
- xiii. Dads Shop Ltd £82.95 inc VAT
- xiv. Andrew Hazelden (Community Award Plates) £360.00
- xv. Butlers Lands (fallen tree Cemetery) £58.75
- xvi. ICCM (Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management) subscription 06/07 £55.00

06/59 **Correspondence:**

1. Information and Agenda for the Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2006

06/60 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

1. Cllr Puddephatt asked if the Clerk could contact the tree officer regarding a report in the local newspaper regarding the trees by the mini roundabout at Stephens Road to ensure that these trees are protected and not cut down. She was also asked to find out if permission had been given for a tree to be cut down and other tree work to the trees beside the pavement between The Bevers and Heathfield.
2. Cllr Challis raised an issue regarding the siting of the Fun Fair and it was agreed that this would be put on the agenda at a future date after the Lease has been finalised.
3. Cllr Smith has asked that the SEEDA application form and projected income and expenditure sheet for the new pavilion be forwarded to councillors in preparation for the next council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th May 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:16 p.m.