



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 13 July 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies, J. Morden, P Challis, D Ives, A Philips, P Blagden, S Clark, A Thorpe, T Shorrocks, C Lewis, N Kiley (from 8.10pm), G Puddephatt, A Smith, G, Parry (until 9:50 (06/116) and Mrs J Kirk (Clerk). Two members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors: S Harding, Cllr K Lock (District).

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Philips item no 06/117 (ix).

06/102 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8 June 2006 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

Cllr Morden enquired about the meeting with the Tree Officer at the Loves Wood site with Cllr Lock and Ives. This is still ongoing and Cllr Lock is to investigate.

06/103 **Report from District Councillors:** No report. **The Clerk** was asked however to write to the District Councillors and West Berkshire Council to find out when the speed limit reduction on The Street is to be implemented and to ask for this to be undertaken during the school holidays and also find out when the pedestrian crossing is to be installed.

06/104 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 28th June when 3 plans were considered.

06/01293/OUTD Land adjacent to Orchard Cottage, 72 The Avenue. Four bedroom dwelling with integral garage. No objection.

06/01432/HOUSE 5 Asparagus Close. Conservatory. No objection.

06/01438/HOUSE 91 Victoria Road. Two storey extension and single storey side extension. No objection.

The following Planning Officers recommendations have been received from West Berkshire Council:

06/00835/FUL 3 Hammonds Heath, detached dwelling with double garage. As reported last month the Eastern Area Planning Committee voted against the officer's recommendation to approve. The Parish Council has now received formal notice of Refusal.

06/00973/HOUSE 16 Orchard Road, proposed garage and new access. Approval.

06/01035/HOUSE 4 King Street, conservatory. Approval.

06/01045/HOUSE 35 St Mary's Road. Two storey side extension. Approval.

06/01057/HOUSE 10 Windmill Road. Ground floor front extension. Refused because the proposed parking does not comply with standards.

The proposed removal of the existing 106 agreement and alterations to The Surgery, Victoria Road was to have been determined at the Eastern Area Planning Meeting on the 28th June 2006. The Parish Council have been advised that the application has now been withdrawn. The Parish Council has also been advised that the application for change of use and other alterations at 26 Windmill Road has also been withdrawn.

Notices of Appeal

05/01825/OUTMAJ. Land adjacent to Mortimer Railway Station. An appeal against West Berkshire Council's refusal to grant planning permission will be held at The Council Offices, Newbury and determined by an informal hearing at a date to be arranged.

06/105 **Update on Rural Housing Trust:** Cllr Morden advised that the Parish Council were advised by letter on the 10 June of a change of personnel at the Trust. At that date no positive progress had been made in respect of identifying a suitable site but they had written on the same day to West Berkshire Council. One month has now elapsed without further correspondence from the Rural Housing Trust and it was agreed to ask **the Clerk** to write to push for progress.

- 06/106 **Update on Village Design Statement:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that the revised document sent to Paula Amorelli at West Berkshire only required a few minor amendments. Once this has been done the Parish Council can look to going to formal consultation. A meeting of the Working Party has been arranged for the 26th July.
- 06/107 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** See District Councillor's report above (06/103)
- i. **Update on West End Road Car Park:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that users of St John's Hall have been advised by the Fire Authority that the car park will be closed to the public on Monday evenings for training purposes. Notices have also been put up saying that the car park will be closed on Friday and Saturday 14th and 15th July. Several fence panels have also been removed at the back of the car park. It was agreed to ask **The Clerk** to write to the Fire Authority regarding these matters because SMPC as tenants of the car park need to be able to advise the public of any closures etc.
- 06/108 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**
- Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee met on the 27th June. Cllr Blagden was elected as Chairman for the coming year and Mr I Titman-Reid was co-opted as a member of the public onto the committee. The Annual Children's Play Area Safety Report was discussed (see below). Cllr Blagden is setting up a rota to ensure that the litter bins are emptied during the Custodian's annual leave. The next date for cutting the grazing area was agreed. It was agreed that an audit of the Fairground flora and trees would be carried out over the next 12 to 18 months. The identification and location of all the trees etc is to be carried out, with the help of the Royal Botanical Society, with a view to producing a map. Other minor matters which were discussed was to investigate the hire of a stump grinder for use by the Custodian. Following advice from Pang and Kennet Valley the ponds are to be cleared in the late summer. The Planting of a hedge close to footpath 37 at the edge of the grazing area was discussed and dismissed as it was felt there could be a security threat to users of the footpath once the hedge was established as the hedge would be very close to the footpath the maintenance costs would be very high. Update on tennis court surface repair (see below).
- i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report and Summary of 2006 Rospa Report:** Cllr Smith reported on the results of the Rospa Safety Report. This had already been circulated to all councillors. The report is divided into three categories:
 - 1) Low Risk - no action required
 - 2) Medium Risk - action plan for some point in the future
 - 3) High Risk to do straight away. There was only one high risk item which was to replace the chains on the cradle swings and this has already been carried out. The action list was discussed and agreed to be implemented.

Cllr Smith also reported that there were no issues from the monthly play area inspection for June. The July inspection had shown one item, the motorbike rocker handles had been broken, the Clerk was asked to order replacements.
 - ii. **Update on Tennis Court Surface Repair:** The Clerk advised that the work on the trench and root barrier had been carried out. Spraycourt had that day completed the repair work to the tennis court surface. The damaged areas have been levelled and sprayed and the courts will be closed until Monday 17th July.
 - iii. **Pavilion Project - report from F & G P Committee Meeting with Pavilion Working Party:** The Chairman reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee met with members of the Pavilion Working Party on 22nd June 2006. A list of 10 questions regarding the upkeep and revenue of the new pavilion was put to the working party and these together with their answers were circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to this meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate to councillors a list of all potential users. The Chairman stated in answer to the debate that there is total confidence on part of the Parish Council in the progress being made by the Working Party and its commitment to the project's progression. Cllr Thorpe proposed the above motion and this was seconded by Cllr Kiley. It was put to the vote with 10 in favour and 4 abstentions.
 - iv. **Fairground Trust:**
 - a) **Vacancy for a Parish Council Nominee:** After some discussion Cllr Smith proposed that Cllr Lewis be re-appointed as the Parish Council Nominee on the Fairground Trust for a

period of 4 years, this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and unanimously agreed.

- 06/109 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that the Cemetery Committee met on the 21 June 2006. Cllr Clark was elected Chairman for the coming year. He advised that some shrubs for the entrance tubs and the Garden of Remembrance had been purchased at a cost of £34.91 and also one ton of top soil had been purchased at a cost of £47.00 in order that burial plots can be levelled and seeded. Both of these purchases were made from the agreed maintenance budget and were ratified by the Committee. Other maintenance in hand is for the custodian to paint the Cemetery gates, the contractor to extend the drainage pipe (already agreed), and the paths to be sprayed. It was agreed to explore the possibility of extending the Cemetery by purchasing some additional adjoining land. The Clerk and Chairman to make tentative enquiries and report back.
- 06/110 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden said that the planned meeting of this committee had not taken place as there had not been enough members for a quorum. The meeting is to be re-arranged. He outlined the plans/schedule for the next Newsletter.
- 06/111 **Street Lighting Working Party update:** Cllr Puddephatt outlined what is required to carry this forward e.g. need to get costings for cables, street furnishings etc. Cllrs Kiley and Parry agreed to join this working party. The Clerk is to arrange a date for an initial meeting.
- 06/112 **To consider continuing with investigations and feasibility of the proposed car park at Mortimer Station:** Cllr Puddephatt outlined where the project had got to so far and the positive feedback. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council continue with the investigations and feasibility of a new car park at Mortimer Station. It was put to the vote with 12 in favour and 2 opposed (Cllrs Blagden and Philips). Cllrs Puddephatt, Shorrocks, Lewis, Kiley and Philips agreed to join a working party.
- 06/113 **Policing update:** Cllr Ives reported that he and Cllr Blagden attended a Policing Meeting at Newbury Racecourse on 29th June. They gave an overview of the role of Community Support Officers (CSO's) who would provide a visible presence in the community, helping the Police to tackle anti social behaviour and offering reassurance to the public. Thames Valley Police now have funding for a significant number of CSO's within the Thames Valley and these officers will be appointed in the near future, the first being assigned to Pangbourne. Inspector Cartwright reported to Cllr Ives that the traffic warden has been very active and he has received a lot of positive feedback from the community. The Police have been patrolling the village in conjunction with roads policing department and youth services have given support providing outreach work for 2 evenings a week. The Clerk reported that West Berkshire Council now offer a free graffiti service.
- 06/114 **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.
- 06/115 **To agree the Clerk's attendance at SLCC Annual Conference in Plymouth 19-22 October 2006 at a cost of £340:** It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk could attend.
- 06/116 **To consider obtaining a credit card in the name of the Parish Council:** It was agreed to proceed with the application for a Business Credit Card from the Co-Operative Bank with a £1,000 limit. This will enable the Clerk to purchase items under her powers and in an emergency instead of having to use her own personal credit card.
- 06/117 **Finance:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Philips proposed that they be paid; Cllr Thorpe 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) £900 inc VAT.
 - vii. Forbuoys Ltd (newspapers) £3.80.
 - viii. Caudwell Communications Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £26.24 inc VAT
 - ix. Ian Philips (grass cutting Cemetery) £166.00 inc VAT.
 - x. Bridgewood Landscape Services (grass cutting Alfred Palmer Field) £160.00.
 - xi. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground June) £179.78 inc VAT.
 - xii. BT Plc (Line Rental Parish Office) £55.91 inc VAT

- xiii. Staples Ltd (stationery) £85.60
- xiv. St John's Hall Management Committee (room hire) £30.00
- xv. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying charges) £178.95 inc VAT
- xvi. Butlers Land Services Ltd (installation of root barrier tennis court) £470.00 inc VAT
- xvii. Butlers Land Services Ltd (removal of green waste Fairground) £88.13 inc VAT
- xviii. Grabloader Ltd (delivery of soil) £47.00 inc VAT
- xix. Squires (window cleaning Parish Office) £21.00

06/118 **Correspondence:**

BALC AGM Friday 14th July. No one interested in attending.

06/119 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th September 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Please note no meeting will be held in August.

The Meeting closed at 10:35pm