



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 12 October 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies, J Morden, P Challis, D Ives, P Blagden, A Thorpe, T Shorrock, C Lewis, S Clark, N Kiley, G Puddephatt, A Smith, G Parry, K Lock (District) and Mrs J Kirk (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors: A Philips, S Harding,

Declaration of Interest: None

06/138 Minutes and Matters Arising:

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 14 September 2006 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- The Clerk reported that the long running dispute with BT over charges had finally been resolved in favour of the Parish Council. BT also applied a further credit of £50 to the account as a gesture of goodwill for the inconvenience and stress caused.
- 06/121 Following the last meeting the Clerk wrote as requested (with photographic evidence) to West Berkshire Council stating several reasons why the identified 'safe' recreational route (via Windmill Common, Starvale Wood, Wokefield Common, crossing Goring Lane at a blind corner where the national speed limit of 60mph applies and up Hollybush Lane where there is not a footpath) from Mortimer to Willink School was very unsafe. Malcolm Berry of WBC replied stating that following further consideration of the available route, Members of WBC have taken a decision to identify the route as unsafe. Provision has been available for all children to be transported from the area by bus from the start of the academic year and will continue free of charge. A thank you letter to the Parish Council was also received from Mrs Wynn, Headteacher of Willink School.

06/139 Report from District Councillors:

Cllr Lock gave a report which included reference to the safe route to school and free bus passes to Willink mentioned above. A West Berkshire Working Party has scrutinised the Highways Department and made certain proposals to speed up their whole way of working, nothing has happened yet but there have been unacceptable delays with a few schemes e.g. The Street.

06/140 Planning: Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 25th September 2006 when 7 plans were considered.

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| 06/02032/HOUSE | 2 Primrose Cottages, 31 Victoria Road. Rear extension, part two storey and part single storey, replacement of front porch. No objection. |
| 06/02025/HOUSE | 40 The Crescent. Formation of room in roof space with rear dormer window. No objection. |
| 06/02055/HOUSE | 14 The Avenue. Two storey rear extension containing 3 bedrooms, dining room and drawing room. Single storey detached garage in rear garden. Object: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This proposal will double the footprint. It is out of keeping and on overdevelopment of the property. 2. The first floor rear balcony will create overlooking and loss of amenity to the adjacent properties. 3. Will adversely affect the street scene when approaching from the north. |
| 06/02056/HOUSE | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harris House, The Street. Double storey rear extension and new porch. 2. No Objection. This is a Grade II listed building. All materials, window frames, doors, rainwater goods etc. must be in keeping with the existing. |
| 06/02071/HOUSE | 24 Bilberry Gardens. Rear conservatory. No objection. |
| 06/02071/FULD | Squirrels Lodge, West End Road. New 4 bedroom house. No objection. |
| 06/02113/HOUSE | 16 The Avenue. Summer house, garden store and greenhouse. |
| The following Planning Officers recommendations have been received from West Berkshire Council: | |
| 06/01511 | Land adjacent to 29-30 The Bevers. Erection of a two storey building with accommodation in roof to provide 10 x 2 bedroom flats, parking etc. Refusal. |

- 06/01662/HOUSE 12 Asparagus Close. A shed. Approval.
 06/01727 11 Asparagus Close. Garden shed and greenhouse. Approval.
 06/01744 Chestnuts, Hammonds Heath. Two storey side extension. Refusal.
 06/01789 Garth House, 34 St John's Road. Demolition of Garth House, erection of four 5 bedroom houses and two 4 bedroom houses. Approval. There are 24 conditions imposed on this approval including hours of work (not before 8am), Bath House not to be demolished between November and March and June to August (to ensure conservation of protected species), a bat mitigation plan and a badger mitigation plan to be supplied and implemented in full.
 06/01853 56 The Avenue. The erection of a two storey four bedroom house on land adjacent. Refusal.
 06/01922 Hillside, The Street. Two storey side extension, velux windows front and rear. Approval.

The following appeal decision have been received from the Planning Inspectorate:

05/01100/FUL: Mortimer Surgery, 72 Victoria Road. The Inspector has allowed the appeal in part and dismissed in part. The Inspector did not consider that the proposed relationship with 70 Victoria Road (adjacent property) would be significantly affected. He also considered that the outlook from 69 Victoria Road would not be seriously detrimental to the living conditions. On highway matters The Inspector commented that West Berkshire Council has no standards relating to car parking provision at Surgeries. On-street parking has beneficial effect in terms of traffic calming.

The Formal Decisions are:-

1. The 106 agreement (10.11.95) no longer serves a useful purpose and the appeal is allowed.
2. The condition (16.11.95) prohibiting further loft and windows is still relevant and the appeal in this respect is dismissed.
3. In all other respects the application 05/01100/FUL is to be allowed planning permission.

Appeals Pending:

The Garden House, Monkton's Lane, The Street, will now be by written representation and not on Informal Hearing.

The appeal against refusal to build on the Railway Station site (the field between the station car park and Foudry Brook) is to be heard in West Berkshire Council Office on 18th October 2006.

A copy of the West Berkshire Local Development Framework; West Berkshire Planning Strategy has been received and is available for consultation in the Parish Office. This covers the period to 2016 and Mortimer appears not to be singled out for further development. Indeed the option of a new settlement of 2590 homes somewhere in West Berkshire on a 43 ha. Greenfield site conflicts with both Government and West Berkshire's policy and is deemed to be unsustainable. Development should, where possible, be within urban centres on previously developed land.

- 06/141 **Update on Rural Housing Trust:** The Clerk confirmed that she had heard from Helen Visram of the Rural Housing Trust who informed her that it is now West Berkshire Council who are now holding up the planning steer as they keep passing it between departments firstly it was Dawn Reid of Forward Planning and now it has been passed to Paul Jackson Development Control Manager. She has now contacted Garry Lugg, head of Planning to see if there is any way of speeding the process up.

- 06/142 **Update on Village Design Statement:** No report.

- 06/143 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No report. The Clerk reported that phone calls and emails to Simon Barnett of West Berkshire Council asking for an update on the current position re the installation of Dragons Teeth on Brewery Common were not being returned. Cllr Lock agreed to take this up with West Berkshire. Cllr Smith reported that the new bus lay-by opposite St Mary's School is not big enough to accommodate a bus. This was passed to Cllr Lock to investigate).

- i. **Update on West End Road Car Park:** The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from the Fire Authority saying that they are to close the operational land (car park) for 2 weeks from the 20th October for re-surfacing. The Clerk forwarded this onto West Berkshire Council who are challenging the Fire Authority regarding ownership and the Clerk was asked to write to the Fire Authority stating that the Parish Council are leaseholder owners of the land which is for use as a public Car Park and not operational land.
- ii. **Update on Brewery Common Registration:** The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Mr McLoughlin in the terms agreed at the last meeting and that had received a letter of acceptance from him. The solicitors will now be asked to put the legal work in hand.

- 06/144 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**
Report:

- i. **Report from Committee Meeting:** Cllr Blagden reported that the committee met on the 26th September 2006 and had discussed future projects and proposed budget items for 07/08 along with Fairground Maintenance: Cllr Blagden proposed on behalf of the recommendation of the Fairground Committee the purchase of the following:
 - 2 x Earth Anchor Big Ben steel litter bins at a cost of £350 plus VAT each plus fitting.
 - 3 Glasdon Fido dog bins at a total cost of £371.38 plus VAT for all three bins plus fitting.
 - To purchase two safety signs for the play area at a cost of £180 plus VAT each plus fitting.
 - To replace vandalised spring toy with a new Kompan Crazy Nellie M123 at a cost of £450 plus VAT and carriage plus installationThis was seconded by Cllr Smith. The Clerk to action.
 - ii. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that all the follow up items that had been identified by the Rospa Annual Inspection have been placed with the contractor.
 - iii. **Pavilion Project: Update on the formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC):** The Chairman handed out a document regarding this to all councillors which was discussed at length. It was agreed to ask all potential CIC board members to provide a CV indicating what skills they think they could bring to the CIC and attend an interview with a view to appointing a board quickly in an open, fair and transparent way. It was proposed by Cllr Thorpe and seconded by Cllr Puddephatt that Cllrs Clark, Davies and Morden be authorised to deal with the interview process and appointment of the CIC Board members and that this should be in place, if possible, by the next Parish Council meeting. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to action.
- 06/145 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that the committee met on the 2nd October was an update of the drainage pipe and budget items for the 07/08 budget. Cllr Clark proposed that after advice from the ICCM that the period for Exclusive Right of Burial be extended from 50 to 75 years and to be retrospective for existing plots. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously agreed. Clerk to action. Cllr Challis stated that he did not think that the week killer applied to the paths had taken and asked if the contractor could be contacted.
- 06/146 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the committee met on the 26th September and put in place the arrangements for the Newsletter. Cllr Blagden also reported that the next Computer Course is to start on 25th October for 9 weeks.
- 06/147 **Street Lighting Working Party update:** Cllr Puddephatt went through the street lighting feasibility document and updated councillors on the working party findings. He said it is hoped to send out a report in the next Newsletter.
- 06/148 **Update on proposed car park at Mortimer Station:** Cllr Kiley reported that the project went dormant mainly because First Great Western was coming to the end of their franchise and this has now been renewed for 10 years. Talks have now been renewed with First Great Western, West Berkshire Council Engineering and Planning Departments and the owners of the proposed site Englefield Estates.
- 06/149 **Policing update: Community Support Officers:** Cllr Ives reported that further to the last BNAG meeting a further special BNAG meeting is to be held in November (just to discuss PCSO's). He reported that on the 4th October Cllrs Clark and Ives attended a meeting where Assistant Chief constable Nick Gargon gave an explanation of the scheme. It is understood that a fully funded PCSO shared with another parish/s will cost in the region of £5,000 to £8,000 pa.
- 06/150 **As recommended by the Fairground Committee: To agree purchase of two fixed football goals for the Fairground at a total cost (including installation) of £651.65, to be taken from the £2,000 Leisure in the Parish Grant:** Cllr Blagden asked if this proposal could be rescinded and taken back to the next Fairground Meeting to be held on the 6th November 2006 to be re-considered.
- 06/151 **Willink Leisure Centre Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Joint Management Committee met on the 2nd October 2006. The usage figures are slightly down on last year but they are still expected to top 96,000 for the full year (4% down on 2005). The main interest follows the end of the current contract with Courtesy Leisure in June 2007 and the new contract to cover all West Berkshire Leisure

facilities for the 1st April 2007. The overlap with Courtesy Leisure is not considered a problem. 8 organisations have tendered and these have been shortlisted to 6. There is to be a Stakeholder Day (SMPC is a stakeholder) on 14th November at Shaw House and Cllr Morden will attend. Representatives can ask questions of the 6 bidding organisations. He will report back to the December Meeting. Courtesy Leisure is not one of the bidding organisations.

06/152 **AWE Liaison Committee Report (Circulated):** 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.

06/153 **Budget for 2007/2008:** The Clerk advised that the precept budget requirements for 2007/2008 has to be agreed at the December Parish Council meeting and asked if committee chairmen could send in their requirements before the Finance and General Purposes meeting to be held on the 21st November 2006.

06/154 **Finance:** The clerk reported that Cllr Philips had carried out a full check of the salary, tax and pension for both the Clerk and the Custodian and found them all correct and in order. A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Philips. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Blagden proposed that they be paid; Cllr Harding seconded this. Carried unanimously.

- i. Clerk's Salary.
- ii. Inland Revenue (Tax and NI) (after deduction of £250 for online filing of end of year returns,
- iii. Clerk's Expenses.
- iv. Custodian's Salary.
- v. RBWM (Pension).
- vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £900 inc VAT.
- vii. Forbuys Ltd (newspapers) £4.75.
- viii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £25.30 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) £179.78 inc VAT not received.
- xii. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying charges) £32.31 inc VAT
- xiii. British Telecom (Parish Office) £45.42 (not paid as a £50 credit received from BT as a gesture of goodwill).
- xiv. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £79.10 (purchase of stamps and train fare to Plymouth).
- xv. West Berkshire Council (total of PC legal fees for setting up Fairground Lease) £761.87 inc VAT.
- xvi. Dabs.com £6.00 (postage and packing).
- xvii. Dads Shop £36.50 inc VAT.
- xviii. Hutts Builders £352.50 inc VAT.
- xix. Staples (stationery for Newsletter) £83.59 inc VAT.
- xx. K Lock (reimbursement for purchase of black sacks from West Berkshire) £10.80 inc VAT.

06/155 **Correspondence:**

- Letter from St Mary's School inviting councillors to a tour of their new classrooms and other refurbished facilities. Cllrs Smith, Lewis, Blagden and Puddephatt said that they hope to attend.
- West Berkshire Council - Licensing Policy on Gambling (Draft). Will be available in the Parish Office (closing date for responses Friday 1st December 2006).

06/156 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:** None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th November 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:00 p.m.