



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 9th November 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies, J Morden, P Challis, D Ives, P Blagden, A Thorpe, S Harding (until 8pm), C Lewis, S Clark, A Philips, T Shorrocks, A Smith and Mrs J Kirk (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors: N Kiley, G Puddephatt and G Parry

Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Philips 06/175 (ix) and J Morden 06/75 (xviii).

06/157 Minutes and Matters Arising:

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 12th October 2006 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

Cllr Clark reported that further to item no 06/155 (Correspondence) he was the only councillor to attend St Mary's School out of the four councillors who said they would attend despite further information being sent by The Clerk. He said that the Governors of the school would welcome meeting with some members of the Parish Council and it was agreed that Cllr Clark arrange this.

06/158 Report from District Councillors:

Cllr Harding reported that the planning application from Prudential to build 7,500 dwellings north of the M4 and west of the Mortimer to Reading railway has been withdrawn but she believed that an alternative application will follow shortly. Cllr Harding reported that she has called in the planning application to build a 38 bedroom complex on the site of West Lodge Wokefield Park. She confirmed that she has reported the missing 'Mortimer' sign on the Grazeley Road and West Berkshire officers are checking out the specification given on the size of the bus lay-by opposite St Mary's School (believed to be 11 metres).

06/159 Planning: Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the 16th October and 6th November 2006 when 17 plans were considered.

06/02118/FUL Land adjacent to 40 West End Road. Removal of certain conditions imposed when permission on Application 06/00675 was granted.
Object:

1. Conditions 9 and 10 should not be removed. The trees which are subject to TPO should continue to be protected.
2. Condition 14 should remain and be met. Turning provision has not been provided in respect of the western most property.

06/02025/HOUSE 40 The Crescent. Formation of room in roof space with rear dormer window. No objection.

06/02055/HOUSE 14 The Avenue. Amended drawings (see minutes of meeting 25 September 2006)
Object:

1. Our earlier objections have not been addressed. Indeed the overlooking of the adjacent properties from the balcony has now been exacerbated.
2. A condition should be imposed that the garage must not be used for commercial, industrial or recreational purposes.
3. The hedge to the north boundary should be retained for its full length.

06/02323/HOUSE 12 St John's Road. Shower room extension and pitched roof over garage and study. No objection.

06/02071/HOUSE 24 Bilberry Gardens. Rear conservatory. No objection.

06/02231/FUL Land at 2 The Avenue. New building. No objection.

06/02201/HOUSE 4 Railway Terrace. Enclosed front porch, first floor rear extension. Internal alterations. No objection.

06/02330/HOUSE 71 The Avenue. Single storey rear extension. No objection.

06/02236/HOUSE 34 Windmill Road. Two and single storey extensions. No objection.

06/02245/LBC	Harris House, The Street. Double storey rear extension and new porch. No objection - see 06/02056/HOUSE meeting 25 September 06.
06/02326/FULMAJ Adjacent Parish	AWE Aldermaston - new office accommodation (21,000m2) Car park for 1500 vehicles etc. Object. This is a major development and the provision of 1500 vehicle spaces gives some measure of the expected increase in traffic movement, mainly on unclassified roads. AWE should look to providing public/coach transport as in the past and not rely upon private cars. The weak commitment to encouraging car sharing is insufficient. A robust traffic reduction programme must be augmented.
06/02240/CERT Adjacent Parish	West View, Mortimer Lane. Certificate of lawfulness for existing use. No objection.
06/02201/HOUSE	<u>Amended Plans:</u> 4 Railway Terrace. Enclose front porch, change of use of garage to kitchen, enclose rear passage way. No objection.
06/01970/FULD	26 Windmill Road. Change of use of part of property from retail to 1 bedroom flat. First floor extension and alteration to existing 3 bedroom dwelling. Demolish double garage. No objection.
06/02321/HOUSE	Little Goodwyns, Drury Lane. Single storey rear extension. No objection.
06/02402/HOUSE	15 Asparagus Close. Erection of a pent shed and a wooden summerhouse. No objection.
06/02272/HOUSE	22 Leighfield. Extend dormer window and infill porch canopy. No objection.
06/02528/HOUSE	8 Strawberry Fields. Conservatory to rear of property. No objection.
06.02290/COMIND Adjacent Parish	Wokefield Park. Replace fire damaged West Lodge with new 38 bedroom accommodation. No objection subject to the <u>present restriction</u> of access via West Lodge entrance continuing to be by card scan for staff only. All other vehicle to enter via East Lodge on Grazeley Road/Goodboys Lane. Reason: Mortimer Lane junction with The Street is inappropriate for volume traffic. Lockram Lane is a narrow road with difficult passing conditions.
The following Planning Officers recommendations have been received from West Berkshire Council:	
06/02001	3 Spring Lane. Single storey hall, toilet and workshop. Conversion of garage, new conservatory and increase width of drive. Approval with a condition that no trade business or commercial use of any kind shall be carried out from the workshop/store extension approved by this scheme.
06/021025	40 The Crescent. Formation of room in roof space with rear dormer extension. Refusal. The box dormer by virtue of its flat roof design, excessive size and siting will form a bulky, elongated and incongruous feature contrary to Government guidance PPX 1.
06/02032	2 Primrose Cottages, 31 Victoria Road. Rear extension, part 2 and part single storey replacement front porch. Approval.
06/02056	Harris House, The Street. Double storey rear extension and new porch. Approval The re-modelling of the rear elevation in the form of an extension is considered an enhancement to the character of this listed building.
06/02071	24 Bilberry Gardens. Rear conservatory. Approval.
06/02218/CERTP	8 Birchlands Close. The applicants applied for a certificate of lawfulness in respect of an extension to the property. This has been granted under Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as the extension falls within the permitted allowance of 70 cubic metres.

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

05/00033/FUL: Land adjacent to St Catherine's, Sweetzers Piece. The appeal is allowed and costs have been awarded to the appellant. 'The Council chose to ignore their professional officers' advice and have failed to put forward evidence to substantiate each reason for refusal'

06/00179/HOUSE: St John's House, Loves Wood. Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey building to enclose the swimming pool. The appeal is allowed. 'The proposal is only slightly higher and bigger in terms of area than the structure currently being built as permitted development'

Land at 14 Longmoor Lane: A notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 has been served on Mr K A Sutherland and Mrs E L Sutherland of the above address and will take effect on 22nd November 2006 that within a period of one month they must:

1. Remove all stored and vehicle parts and motor vehicles not lawful for use on a public highway.
2. Remove all miscellaneous waste etc. etc.
3. Remove all bricks, roof tiles, pipes etc. etc. that are not affixed to the main dwelling.
4. Remove from the land all debris and materials arising from compliance with 1, 2 and 3 above.

- 06/160 **Update on Rural Housing Trust:** The Clerk confirmed that she had heard from Helen Visram of the Rural Housing Trust who informed her that Pete Sulley, Planning Officer Development Control, West Berkshire Council, is going to try to work on the provision of a planning steer for Stratfield Mortimer as a priority as it has been outstanding for so long.
- 06/161 **Update on Village Design Statement:** A meeting of the working party is to be arranged shortly.
- 06/162 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**
- i. **Update on West End Road Car Park:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that West Berkshire Council's Legal Department have written to the Parish Council and the Fire Authority stating that their position is that they are the owners of this piece of land and that the Parish Council has a lease. There is clear documentary evidence that ownership is with West Berkshire Council and they have taken a very definite position that they own the freehold of the land.
 - ii. **Update on Brewery Common Registration:** The Chairman confirmed that this is in the hands of the solicitors for legal formalities.
 - iii. **Update on Brewery Common Dragons Teeth:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that West Berkshire Council have said that their preferred option for keeping out unwelcome visitors on Brewery Common would be a ditch and bank in preference to the installation of dragons teeth. They have also confirmed that this area would be cut and maintained under the West Berkshire Council Scheme of Management for Brewery Common. Cllr Shorrocks proposed that commensurate with the advice from West Berkshire Council that a ditch and bank be created on both sides of Brewery Common. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action.**
- 06/163 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:**
- Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that a Committee Meeting has been set for the 16th November when several proposals and the budget will be considered. He will report back to the December meeting. Cllr Clark proposed that instead of purchasing several new parts for the broken Kompan Crazy Scrambler rocker in the play area that a total new upper part be purchased at a cost of £305 plus VAT this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action.**
- i. **Car Park Gates:** It was agreed that following the departure of the landlord from the Horse and Groom Public House (who locked the Fairground gates every evening) that the car park gates should remain locked open for the foreseeable future.
 - ii. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the play area had survived half term and that there is no further damage.
 - iii. **Pavilion Project: Update on the formation of a CIC:** The Chairman reported that further to item no 06/144(iii) at the October Meeting interviews of 6 initial applicants had taken place. A meeting with the potential directors has been arranged for the 21st November with a view to completing the necessary paperwork.
- 06/164 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that as agreed he and the Clerk had met with Mr Ken McDiarmid of Englefield Estates to explore the possibility of gaining some more land to extend the Cemetery. Mr McDiarmid will discuss this proposition with the trustees of the Englefield Estate and report back to the Council.
- 06/165 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the next Newsletter is scheduled to go out at the end of January 2007.
- 06/166 **Street Lighting Working Party update:** No report.
- 06/167 **Update on proposed car park at Mortimer Station:** In the absence of Cllr Kiley The Chairman read out a report which said that on the 7th November a meeting was held with Sara Appleton, Planning Officer, and Stuart Clark, Highways and Transport Engineer, West Berkshire Council to address their concerns with the new car park proposals such as impact on the rural character of the area, size of car park (100 spaces), lighting, security etc. The Chairman proposed that the council accept the report and agree that the Parish Council can go forward and prepare a planning application for the 100 space car park; this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and carried by a majority vote of 7 with 2 against (Cllrs Blagden and Philips) and 1 abstention. **Clerk to action.**
- 06/168 **Policing update: Community Support Officers:** Cllr Ives reported that he, Cllr Clark and Cllr Philips attended a special meeting of the BMAG on Tuesday 7th November to discuss the partial shared funding of an additional PCSO. Cllr Thorpe proposed that the Parish Council earmark up to

£7,500 to provide budgetary support for a partially funded PCSO to be spent when the Parish Council are satisfied that the conditions are favourable, this was seconded by Cllr Ives and carried by a majority vote of 9 with 2 against.

- 06/169 **£2,000 Leisure in the Parish Grant:** This was passed to the Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee who will report back.
- 06/170 **Willink Leisure Centre Report:** Held over until the next meeting.
- 06/171 **Government White Paper:** It was agreed that The Chairman prepare a report on the recent Government White Paper and report back.
- 06/172 **To discuss possible twinning with Mortemer in Normandy:** Prior to the council meeting Mr Peter Stone of the History Society gave a presentation about the society's findings on their recent visit to Mortemer. The Parish Council unanimously supports the History Society's informal twinning with Mortemer in France and will offer support and encouragement.
- 06/173 **Report on SLCC Annual Conference:** The Clerk handed out a written report on the Society of Local Council Clerk's Annual Conference which took place in Plymouth from 20th to the 22nd October 2006.
- 06/174 **Internal Audit Report:** The Clerk reported that Mr Feline had carried out a very thorough six monthly internal audit. Mr Feline has reported that on the basis of his examination his view is that the Parish Council's system of internal control is in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective. A vote of thanks was offered to Mr Feline.
- 06/175 **Finance:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. The Chairman proposed that they be paid. Carried unanimously. It was also agreed that a Direct Debit could be set up to pay the annual rent for the Fairground to the Trustees.
- i. Clerk's Salary.
 - ii. Inland Revenue (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) £3.85.
 - viii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £25.68 inc VAT.
 - ix. Ian Philips (grass cutting/spraying Cemetery) £221.81 inc VAT.
 - x. Burghfield Village Hall (Hall rental BNAG Meeting) £16.50.
 - xi. Land Registry (Fairground) £40.00.
 - xii. Royal British Legion (poppy wreath) £20.00.
 - xiii. F. Feline (Internal Audit Fee) £75.00.
 - xiv. SLCC (purchase of book) £18.00.
 - xv. Dads Shop £63.50 inc VAT.
 - xvi. Clarks Legal (further invoice for Brewery Common Registration) £646.25 inc VAT
 - xvii. Glasdon UK Ltd (purchase of 3 dog bins) £389.59 inc VAT.
 - xviii. J Morden (reimbursement of travelling expenses) £48.81.
 - xix. Open Spaces Society (annual subscription) £30.00.
 - xx. BALC (CiLCA distance learning package) £80.00.

06/176 **Correspondence:**

- Letter from Garth & South Berks Vale Hunt asking to book the Fairground Car Park for a meet on Tuesday 26th December 2006 for a trail ride. It was agreed to accept this booking under the same terms and conditions as last year.
- Letter from the Environment Agency dated 25th October 2006 regarding the Flood Alleviation Scheme and the improvement of the bunds at the bottom of The Street. It said that the current bunds have been assessed as only providing a 1 in 6 year level of protection but the new scheme will increase this to 1 in 60 year protection. They expect the construction will last for approximately 8 weeks.

06/177 Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:

- Cllr Challis said that the council should aim to finish the Parish Council Meetings by 10 p.m.
- Cllr Morden reported that there is a further encroachment on the Tumuli at Stephens Firs. The Clerk is to check with English Heritage and West Berkshire Council.
- Cllr Morden reported that a fence is being erected around the wooded area next to the Doctors Surgery in Victoria Road. The Clerk said she had already reported this to West Berkshire Council but will chase again.
- Cllr Blagden asked for permission for a mobile skateboarding unit to be used in the Christmas holidays by West Berkshire Council at the Fairground Car Park. This was agreed.
- Cllr Smith reported that there is Japanese Knot weed in the wooded area of Summerlug. The Clerk will report this to the owners West Berkshire Council.
- Cllr Thorpe reported that he has resigned as the Parish Council representative on the Wokefield Common Advisory Committee and asked for names to be put forward to fill this position. The Committee meet three times a year.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th December 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:05 p.m.