



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 12 April 2007 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks and appreciation to the three outgoing councillors (Sandra Harding, Graham Puddephatt and Graham Parry) for the service they had given during their term of office.

Apologies: Councillor: J Morden and Councillor K Lock (District).

Declaration of Interest: None

07/51 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8th March 2007 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

06/159 Land at 14 Longmoor Lane: As no action has been taken re the notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 the Clerk was asked to chase this up with the Planning Enforcement Officer.

07/52 **Report from District Councillors:** No Report

07/53 **Planning:** In the absence of Cllr Morden the clerk read out the planning report which said that the Committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting on the 13th March and 3rd April 2007 when 9 plans were considered.

07/00217/HOUSE The Forge, The Street. Detached double garage with storage over. No objection.

07/00353/HOUSE The Coach House, 36 St John's Road. Two storey extension. No objection.

07/00516/HOUSE 22 Stephens Road. Two storey side and rear extension. No objection.

07/00535/HOUSE 10 Leighfield. Conservatory. No objection.

07/00542/HOUSE 57 Stephens Firs. Single storey rear addition, conservatory and pitched roof side porch. No objection.

07/00578/FULD Mowbray House, Mowbray's Hill. Annexe over garage with deck access. No objection.
Retrospective

07/00588/HOUSE 17 The Avenue. Single storey side and rear extension. No objection.

07/00637/FULD 43 College Piece. Change existing two bed semi-detached house into two one bedroom maisonettes. No objection but we do have concerns about provision of adequate parking for 2 units.

07/00645/HOUSE 12 St John's Road. Replacement flat roof and single storey extension to fitness room. No objection.

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

07/00043/FUL 38 Victoria Road (Café). Section 73 application for extension of opening hours, 8am to 10pm with takeaway 5pm to 10pm. Refused – impact on residential amenity.

07/00045/HOUSE 56 West End Road. Extension to provide games room, garden room, kitchen/store, utility etc. Approval.

07/00063/HOUSE 82 The Avenue, demolish existing timber garage, replace with brick with loft storage. Approval.

07/00073/FUL 10 West End Road (McColls). Installation of security shutters to shop front. Approval

07/00085/HOUSE 7 The Avenue. Single storey extension to side and rear. Approval.

07/00113/FULD Land adjacent to 29-30 The Bevers (the unused lock up garages). Erection of 2 storey building to accommodate 8 x 2 bedroom duplex units with parking. Refused - bulk and massing.

- 07/00118/HOUSE Mortimer House & Stable Cottage, Mortimer House, Mortimer Lane. Various minor works to the Grade II listed building. Approval.
- 07/00119/LBC
- 07/00122/HOUSE
- 07/00125/LBC
- 07/00171/LBC2
- 07/00191/HOUSE Garth House, 34 St John's Road. Section 73 relaxation of condition requiring provision of copy of DEFRA licence. Approval. The original condition required the copy of the licence prior to work commencing. The new condition will require a licence prior to demolition of Garth House. Nature England are satisfied.
- 07/00259/HOUSE 15-16 Asparagus Close. Removal of existing 1m high metal fence and erection of a) 1m high metal fence to joint drive, b) 1.8m board fence to end of drive. Approval.

Appeal Decision

06/00835/FUL: 3 Hammond Heath. There is already approval for a 4 bedroom house on this site but the appeal application was for a larger property 2m wider and 1m higher with other substantial enlargement to the rear. West Berkshire Council refused permission but the Inspector has allowed the appeal because of screening from the Fairground and setting back in the site by some 8m.

- 07/54 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that the committee met on 27th March. **Commons:** The management of Windmill and Five Oaken Commons had been assessed and no action is necessary at present. The registration of Brewery Common is progressing and the agreed payment of £1,500 had now been received from Mr McLoughlin and the Parish Council will now agree to waive their claim to the very small portion of land. The Land Registry have now been informed that the issue has now been resolved and asked to proceed with the registration of absolute title. A site meeting was held on 20th March at Brewery Common between Paul Hendry (Countryside Manager WBC), Jean Pimley (Traveller Co-ordinator and Liaison Officer WBC, Cllrs Shorrocks and Challis and the Clerk. Paul Hendry said in his opinion the ditch on the west side was deep enough to be a deterrent and that he will stand by that and put it in writing. The ditch on the east side of the common is not deep enough and WBC agreed to bring in some clay and add this to the bank to raise the level. It will then be seeded etc. Cllr Shorrocks reported that a subsequent letter had been received from Paul Hendry which says that in order for the ditching work to be carried out they will need to secure a 50% contribution of approximately £900 for the creation of the bunds. It was agreed that a reply would be sent stating that the Parish Council are surprised by their request for funds as it is the sole responsibility of West Berkshire as managers of the Common in accordance with the Scheme of Management (1927) made under the Commons Act 1899 and since the provision of a barrier was promised by West Berkshire the Parish Council have not made any financial provision in the 2007/08 budget and does not therefore feel able to make a contribution.

Vehicle Activated Signs: WBC replied to the Clerk's email of the 14th December on the 22nd February saying that the cost of a VAS depends on the location, power supply and size of the sign. For guidance the cost of a solar powered medium speed sign with Slow Down would cost in the region of £4,500. It was agreed to wait and see whether Mortimer were allocated a 'free one' in the next allocation and re-assess the situation then.

New Gateway Signs: WBC have now ordered the new Gateway signs which will have a 30 and Mortimer sign combined. These should be installed by the end of April on all roads into the Village. Councillors have been using the SID machine in the village recently. The new flood bund on the Grazeley Road has been damaged by vehicles. This was reported to the Environment Agency who has since written to WBC to ask if the line of wooden posts along the roadside verge could be extended to protect the bund. An email has been received from a resident in St Catherine's Hill asking if that area could become a Community Concern Speed site. This is to be assessed in context with the whole village and reported back to the next committee meeting. The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 19th June 2007 at 7:30pm.

- i. **Update on Brewery Common Registration:** See above.
- ii. **Update on Brewery Common Ditch:** See above.

- 07/55 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden reported that the new surfacing in front of the sports wall is now in place. It appears that a couple of houses in King Street with rear access onto the Fairground have dumped garden rubbish onto the Fairground. A letter is to be sent to be sent to each owner.

- i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that everything in the play area seems to be fine and has been very well used during the school holidays. The Clerk reported that a minor accident had occurred in the play area.
 - ii. **Update on Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre Sub-lease:** The Chairman reported that the Council's solicitors have been instructed to prepare a draft sub-lease and the directors of the CIC have been asked for a meeting to sort out further details as soon as possible.
- 07/56 **Cemetery:** No report
- 07/57 **Communications Committee:** It was agreed that the next newsletter will go out in June instead of May.
- 07/58 **Street Lighting Working Party update:** Cllr Puddephatt reported that the working party had met twice since the last meeting and he gave an update. An interim report will be given to the Annual Parish Meeting and a public meeting will be arranged as soon as there is more information available. Cllr Puddephatt agreed to continue to chair the working party when he stands down as a councillor in May.
- 07/59 **Update on proposed car park at Mortimer Station:** Cllr Kiley advised that a planning application was submitted to West Berkshire Council this week.
- 07/60 **Proposal that SMPC agree to participate in the appointment of a partially funded PCSW (Police Community Support Officer) in combination with Burghfield and Sulhamstead for a 2 year period in the 1st instance at an estimated cost of £7,000 per annum (already provisionally covered in the budget for 07/08):** Cllr Ives confirmed that a letter dated 4 April 2007 had been received from Supt. Chris Shead of Thames Valley Police. This states that the additional PCSO will remain purely in the three parishes, except in exceptional circumstances such as a major incident and that they will set up an audit trail so that it can be seen on a month by month basis where the individual has patrolled ensuring the parishes are receiving value for money and in a ratio proportionate to the degree of funding for each council. After a short discussion The Chairman proposed the above resolution and Cllr Thorpe seconded it. It was put to the vote and was agreed by 12 votes to 1. Clerk to reply to letter from the Police and send copies to Burghfield and Sulhamstead.
- 07/61 **AWE Liaison Committee Report:** Previously circulated and noted. A copy is available at the Parish Office.
- 07/62 **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, this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and carried unanimously.
- 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. Forbuys Ltd (newspapers) £6.28.
 - viii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £26.31 inc VAT.
 - ix. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £2.00.
 - x. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying charges) £61.16 inc VAT.
 - xi. West Berkshire Council (fees for Planning Application for new car park at Mortimer Station Min No 07/28 refers) £311.38 inc VAT.
 - xii. BT (quarterly line rental for Parish Office) £57.34 inc VAT.
 - xiii. BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Councils annual subscription) £704.06.
 - xiv. Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (Annual Subscription) £65.00.
 - xv. NALC (Annual Subscription to DIS Information Bulletin) £105.75 inc VAT.
- 07/63 **Correspondence:**
- WBC from Returning Officer re Parish Council Elections stating that as the Parish Council had received the same number of valid nominations as seats contested there would not be an election ballot.

- Hacker Young (External Auditor). The auditors advise that the Parish Council annual return for the financial year to 31st March 2007 should be completed and returned by 29th June 2007.
- WBC. Notice of Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forum 24th April 2007 at 6:30pm at St Mary's Burghfield Parish Centre.

07/64 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- Cllr Shorrock asked why the post box at the Victoria Arms had been removed. The Clerk replied that she had enquired at the Post Office and it was done to make the access wider for the new development behind the public house.
- Cllr Challis asked that an agenda item regarding the question of whether the fair should be allowed to continue to be sited in the front part of the Fairground. It was agreed that this would be an Agenda Item for the June Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th May 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:39 p.m.