



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 12th July 2007 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), P Blagden, P Challis, A Colaço, D Ives, C Lewis, M Lock, J Morden, A Philips, A Smith, A Thorpe, I Titman-Read and the Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors: N Kiley, S Clark, T Shorrock, and K Lock (District)

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Philips 07/116(x).

07/101 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes:

Cllr Lewis challenged the accuracy of the last sentence of 07/96 on page 80 of the minutes but declined to propose an amendment by resolution. The Chairman moved that the minutes of the meeting of the 14th June 2007 be approved as they stood as a true record. This was put to the vote and carried by a majority vote with 6 in favour, 2 against (Cllr Lewis and Cllr Philips) and 4 abstentions.

Matters Arising:

07/90: Cllr Blagden reported that the Pond Dip will now be on the 4th August 2007 and not on the 3rd or 4th week of July as previously minuted.

07/102 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Mollie Lock reported that West Berkshire Council's new refuse contract is being negotiated with VEOLIA and that the Council have now voted to start proceedings for a compulsory purchase order on the site at Padworth. Another notice is to be served on the resident at 14 Longmoor Lane and if he does not respond in 14 days it will become a criminal matter.

07/103 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 5th July 2007 when 4 plans were considered.

07/01165/FUL Mortimer St Mary's C of E School. Regulation 4. Pergola adjacent to swimming pool. No objection.

07/01228/LBC2/ Mortimer House, Mortimer Lane. New swimming pool on site of old tennis court and new shed to house pool equipment. No objection.

07/01229/HOUSE
07/01258/FUL Sewage Treatment Works, Grazeley Road. 17.5m wooden clad monopole – associated equipment cabinets and ancillary development for 02 (UK) Ltd. Are the applicants trying to confuse the issue? There are two different sites with this application but the facing sheet refers only to Mortimer Sewage Treatment Works. Other documentation refers to the two monopole aerials on the roof of the pumping station. We have no objection to the sewage work site but object to the Pumping Station.

07/01313/HOUSE 54 The Avenue. Demolition of existing shed and erection of double garage. Object. The siting of the garage is too far forward of the existing property and will be unduly intrusive on the street scene.

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

07/00765/LBC2 North Cottage, Mortimer Lane. Re-roof existing cottage. Approval.

07/00879/HOUSE 4 Birchlands Close. First floor extension. Approval.

07/00881/OUTD Land adjacent to 16 The Bevers. New house attached to the existing end terrace. Refusal - reasons:-

1. Does not comply with Local Planning Authority's standard to provide off street parking.
2. No off site mitigation measures to accommodate impact on local infrastructure services or amenities.

07/00897/HOUSE Longmoor Cottage, Longmoor Lane. Demolish existing and erect three new 1½ storey houses with single garages. Refusal - reasons:-

1. Unacceptable threat to trees. The loss of the trees would impact on local amenity.
2. The garden areas would be heavily encroached upon by adjacent trees which would result in substandard gardens in terms of amenity.
3. No off site mitigation.
4. Failure to demonstrate that a high standard of environmental design and management

can be secured.

07/01019/ADV Thornhill Pharmacy, West End Road. Various signage. Approval.

Lawful Development Certificates. The Parish Council has written to John Redwood MP with copies to Richard Benyon MP; West Berkshire Council and both ward members expressing the Parish Council's concern that the directions of Baroness Andrews, Under-Secretary of State, would appear to be ignored by our Planning Authority. We have heard from the Senior Trading Standards Officer, West Berkshire Council that the company distributing the 'flyers' is already under investigation for an unrelated matter. Cllr Morden read out the reply from John Redwood which said that it is for West Berkshire Council, as planning authority, to deal with PDS Ltd but that he agreed that this is a serious issue which needs dealing with.

07/00807/FUL Land to S.E. of Mortimer Station for an additional car park for 100 cars. The Parish Council has received a letter from Sara Appleton, Senior Planning Officer, West Berkshire Council, indicating that the application would be recommended for refusal under delegated powers. The application would involve a major change of use of agricultural land to be used as a civic amenity, and as such the Parish Council thinks it should have been brought before the Eastern Area Planning Committee as a matter of course enabling both objectors and supporters to state their case. What is more disturbing is that a former District Councillor asked for this application to be 'called in' only if the recommendation was contrary to that person's views. A conditional 'calling in' of this kind is one sided and clearly against the democratic process. It was agreed that permission is given to the Planning Committee Chairman to write to Head of Planning, West Berkshire Council, regarding this.

07/104 **Update on Village Design Statement Adoption by West Berkshire Council:** In the absence of Cllr Shorrock the Clerk reported that the approval of the Stratfield Mortimer Village Design Statement is to be put forward for adoption as a material consideration in future in planning decisions at the Kennet and Pang Valley Area Forum on the 18th July 2007. Unfortunately none of the councillors on the Village Design working party will be available on the 18th July and Cllr Mollie Lock agreed to ask West Berkshire if this could be deferred to the next Area Forum Meeting on the 9th October 2007.

07/105 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** In the absence of Cllr Shorrock the Clerk reported that the Committee met on the 19th June 2007 and that Cllr Shorrock was elected as Committee Chairman for the year to May 2008. The main points of the meeting covered updates on the maintenance of the Brewery Common ditch, parking on The Street and other minor matters. The next committee meeting will be on Monday 8th October 2007.

07/106 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden reported that the monthly working party had been cancelled and said that he was going to put a recommendation to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee to consider the installation of a street light at the end of the footway from Mortimer Hill onto Hammonds Heath.

- i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the play area is in good condition and that any works are held over until after the school holidays.
- ii. **CIC Update:** The Chairman reported that the draft of the sub lease of the necessary land for the new community building had been received from the Council's solicitors. A second document had also been received relating to the demolition of the current building as the preliminary to erecting the new building. It was agreed that the Chairman could go through the documents and then ask the solicitors to pass to the CIC for negotiation. The Chairman proposed that SMPC seek professional surveying assistance from West Berkshire Council in relation to the sub lease. This was seconded by Cllr Blagden and unanimously agreed. Cllr Smith abstained because he is a Director of the CIC.

07/107 **Cemetery:** No report.

07/108 **Communications Committee:** No report. Next Committee Meeting on the 17th July 2007.

07/109 **Report from Street Lighting Public consultation Meeting held in St John's Hall on Wednesday 27th June 2007:** In the absence of Cllr Kiley the Clerk reported that approximately 180 people attended the consultation and a very large majority recorded a preference for Option 1 (do nothing). There were a few irregularities with a few of the forms such as no name and address. The working party will assess the sheets and formally produce a report on the feasibility study and submit a motion to the September Parish Council Meeting.

07/110 **To agree Terms and Conditions of appointment of PCSO:** Cllr Ives reported that the appointed partially funded PCSO to be shared between Burghfield, Mortimer and Sulhamstead Parish Councils is currently in training and will go fully live by the end of September 2007. The Chairman and Cllr Lewis have both reviewed the PCSO's contract and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to

Thames Valley Police asking for one or two minor amendments to the agreement. It was unanimously agreed that in view of the tight timescales Cllrs Lewis, Ives and Davies the agreement to the contract could be delegated to them. It was further agreed that if necessary the Chairman could sign the Contract in the Clerk's absence.

- 07/111 **West Berkshire Council Freight Route Network Consultation:** Cllr Ives reported that West Berkshire Transport Policy Team have invited the Parish Council to comment on the West Berkshire Freight Route Network Consultation. The route network, once agreed, will provide guidance for Light and Heavy Goods Vehicles as to the best and preferred routes to use within the District. (There are additional copies of this consultation questionnaire for members of the public use in Mortimer Library - closing date 31.8.07). The route from Junction 11 of the M4 to Tadley (and AWE) shows Burghfield as 'Communities/Towns unsuitable for through HGV traffic' and the route through Mortimer as 'restricted/local access routes'. It was agreed that we ask that Mortimer be designated the same as Burghfield 'Communities/Towns unsuitable for through HGV traffic' as it is in a direct line from junction 11 M4 to Tadley. Clerk to action.
- 07/112 **To appoint a 'Minor Authority' Governor for St John's Infant School:** It was agreed that Cllr Adrian Smith be appointed as Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council's 'Minor Authority' Governor at Mortimer St John's Infant School. He will replace Mr John Hannawin who has served as our nominee for four years. Clerk to Action.
- 07/113 **To agree the Clerk's attendance at SLCC Annual Conference in Coventry 25-28 October 2007 at a cost of £360.00 plus VAT:** It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk could attend the above conference. Clerk to action.
- 07/114 **Code of Conduct - New Code of Conduct to be prepared and submitted to the Council for approval at the meeting on 13th September 2007. If Council agrees this would necessitate recommending a resolution adopting the new Model Code of Conduct as recommended by the Standards Board for England 'including paragraph 12(2):** The Chairman reported that as previously informed the Government has produced a revised Code of Conduct which applies to Parish Councils. Unless SMPC decides otherwise before the 1st October 2007 the Government's Model Code will be applied automatically. He suggested however that SMPC considers adopting the version recommended by the Standards Board for England. There are no substantial differences between the old and new codes but the new ones spell out some of the rules in greater detail. Also there is one specific important additional provision in the new code, clause 12(2) which the Chairman recommends that SMPC adopt. If so this must be adopted in a separate resolution. Draft copies of the new SMPC code will be circulated to all members (in addition to the Guide for Members from the Standards Board) and this new code will be put on the Agenda for the 13th September meeting for adoption.
- 07/115 **To agree purchase of a new Brushcutter for Custodian's use at an approximate cost of £384 plus VAT:** The Clerk informed the Council that the current Brushcutter is at the end of its useful life and Cllr Blagden proposed that a new brushcutter (as above) be purchased for the custodian's use. This was seconded by Cllr Lock and carried. Clerk to action ASAP.
- 07/116 **Finance - to agree accounts for payment:** 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 Thorpe and carried unanimously.
- i. Clerk's Salary.
 - ii. H.M. Revenue and Customs (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. Martin McColl Ltd (newspapers) £6.28.
 - viii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £26.90 inc VAT.
 - ix. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit (printing and laminating Street Lighting Meeting £190.36, Martin McColl (newspapers) £7.85, WH Smith (stationery) £4.67, Post Office (stamps) £43.04. Total £247.92.
 - x. Ian Philips (grass cutting Cemetery) £174.23 inc VAT.

- xi. Richard Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) not received.
- xii. Bridgewood Landscape Services (grass cutting Alfred Palmer Field) £160.00.
- xiii. Viking Direct (stationery including purchase of new laminator) £138.70 inc VAT.
- xiv. Engravaservice (Tennis Court Key Fobs) £37.60 inc VAT.
- xv. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying invoice) £147.11 inc VAT.
- xvi. Open Spaces Society (Annual Subscription) £30.00.
- xvii. BT Plc (quarterly line rental Parish Office) Direct Debit £57.42.
- xviii. St John's Hall Management Committee (APM & Street Lighting) £60.00.
- xix. West Berkshire Council (Election Costs for uncontested Parish Council Election) £100.00

07/117 Correspondence:

- BALC - Councillor Training (a one day course covering the basics of Parish Council procedures) Sat 29th September 2007, Reading University.
- WBC - Information on the Kennet & Pang Valley Area Forum 18th July 2007
- WBC - Letter regarding review of Polling Districts/Places/Stations

07/118 Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:

- **None**

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th September 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Please note there is no meeting in August.

The Meeting closed at 09:30 p.m.