



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 8th November 2007 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), P Blagden, P Challis, S Clark, D Ives, M Lock, J Morden, A Philips, T Shorrock, A Thorpe, I Titman-Reade, and the Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors: A Smith, N Kiley,

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Philips 07165 (ix).

07/155 Minutes and Matters Arising:

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting of 11th October 2007 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

The Chairman advised that Cllr Lewis has resigned as a councillor and the vacancy is being publicised in accordance with regulations. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Cllr Lewis for his services to the Council over 20 years. Cllr Lock asked if the vacancy is filled by co-option would the interview panel be properly trained. The clerk is to take advice on this and report back.

07/156 Report from District Councillors: Cllr Mollie Lock reported that West Berkshire Council have issued a notice that pensioners who wish to apply for the National Free Off Peak Bus Pass will be able to use it on any local bus service anywhere in England from next April. The scheme will be subsidised but not totally paid for by the Government. The tokens will also continue to be available. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission continues to assess the impact of the July flood and to obtain evidence from Council Services, Parish and Town Councils and individuals. The local proposals on Post Office closures are due shortly as the public consultation is due to start in January. The District Councillors have applied for a Capital Grant of £20,000 towards the Fairground Community Building Scheme but will not know if this is successful until December. Initial discussions have begun to arrange the provision of a children's Centre for Burghfield and Mortimer in 2009/10. This is part of a Government Scheme to have such a centre based on a local school in every area of England which will provide support and wide ranging advice for parents of very young children as well as a drop in centre where the children can play while parents, mostly mothers, can socialise and learn new skills.

07/157 Planning: Cllr Morden reported that the Committee had met once since the last Council Meeting on the 25th October 2007 when 7 plans were considered.

07/01763/FUL Mortimer Football Club, West End Road. 3 sets of floodlights for football training (2 hours per week) 3 lights per pole (9 lights in total). No objection.

Retrospective 9 Asparagus Close. New conservatory. No objection.

07/02127/HOUSE 43 The Avenue. Demolish existing garage and construct two storey side extension. No objection.

07/02141/HOUSE 43 The Avenue. Demolish existing garage and construct two storey side extension. No objection.

07/02161/HOUSE Mortimer House, Mortimer Lane. Remove existing glazed roof light and re-roof whole of kitchen roof with salvaged slates and second-hand slates to match existing. No objection.

07/02162/LBC2 Mortimer House, Mortimer Lane. Remove existing glazed roof light and re-roof whole of kitchen roof with salvaged slates and second-hand slates to match existing. No objection.

07/02170/FULD The Colt House, Sweetzers Piece - minor variation to planning permission 06/00193/REM. No objection.

07/02205/FULD Land to rear of Birch Cottage, Birch Lane. Erection of 4 bedroom dwelling and associated work. No objection.

07/02292/HOUSE 44 Stephens Close. First floor extension to side and rear. No objection.

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

07/01657/FUL Forbuoys Plc, West End Road. Automatic teller machine. Retrospective approval illuminated sign. Approval.

07/01703/ADV Forbuoys Plc, West End Road. Automatic teller machine. Retrospective approval illuminated sign. Approval.

07/01756/FULD Land to rear of Birch Cottage, Birch Lane. Refusal: The development of a 4 bedroom dwelling fails to provide an appropriate scheme of works or off-site mitigation measures to

accommodate the impact on the local infrastructure. The appropriate sum in mitigation has been calculated as £19,266.

07/0807/FULD 29-30 The Bevers. 2 storey building to accommodate 8 two bedroom duplex units. Approval.

07/018888/HOUSE 78 Windmill Road, two storey side and single rear extensions. Approval.

07/01992/HOUSE 7 St Mary's Road. 2 storey rear extension and conservatory. Approval.

Cllr Morden reported that both the properties behind 'Serena' (already built) and Birch Cottage (refused see above) required the provision of a 'passing bay' in Birch Lane. Cllr Morden has spoken to Mr Graham Tandy (Enforcement Officer, West Berkshire Council) who said the Inspector, in allowing the appeal, referred to 'Parking' bay not 'Passing' bay. There are two tarmac areas on either side of the lane which more or less conform to the requirement of the Planning Consent 4m x 2m. Highways have inspected these and take the view that as this is a Private Road West Berkshire Council cannot enforce 'no parking' in the passing bays and the alternative is to go for a judicial review of the appeal decision. This would be very expensive and the outcome doubtful and therefore would not be in the public interest. The inhabitants of Birch Lane will have to live with it and drive carefully. This applies equally to the proposed dwelling behind Birch Cottage.

Affordable Housing: As agreed at the Parish Council meeting on the 11th October 2007 (item no 07/141) a letter was sent to the Rural Housing Trust with copies to West Berkshire Council Officers and Councillors, other Parish Councils equally affected and to Richard Benyon MP for Newbury. This letter generated much support from other parishes and the Rural Housing Trust and perhaps a re-think at West Berkshire. Until such time as a written statement of intent is received from West Berkshire our pursuit of an 'Exception Site' is on hold. There is to be a West Berkshire Council meeting on this subject at Shaw House on Monday 10th December 2007 and Cllr Morden is to attend.

- i. **To discuss the Parish Council's Policy towards Fairfield Park, West End Road:** The Chairman reported that the holders of the Caravan Site Licence are to be prosecuted for breach of certain conditions contained in their licence; this is to be tried in Reading Magistrates' Court on 12th and 13th December 2007. The Parish Council have been approached by residents of the Fairfield Park and Birch Lane. Cllr Lock reported that the previous prosecution on the site owner had failed and she will follow this up and ask the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council for an update after the trial.

Cllr Shorrocks proposed that the Parish Council supports the residents in their campaign to alleviate the nuisance and distress caused by abuse of the site owner. This was seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously carried. Cllr Shorrocks further proposed that the Parish Council send a letter to the Chairman of the Residents Association to this effect. This was also unanimously carried.

07/158 **Update on Station Car Park:** No report.

07/159 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:**

- i. To discuss car park outside St John's Church: Cllr Shorrocks advised that West Berkshire Council as highway authority owns the car park outside St John's Church and suggested that a letter be sent to them asking that car park usage is limited to 2 hours as all car park spaces are taken up by all day users. Cllr Lock proposed that West Berkshire Council be asked to limit car parking to 2 hours, this was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and put to the Vote. 9 in favour and 2 against. Carried. The Clerk to write to West Berkshire Council Highways Department.
- ii. Update on Hammonds Heath Footpath: Cllr Shorrocks confirmed that he met with representatives from the British Legion and outlined the proposed changes to the land around the war memorial. The British Legion said they are happy with the proposals and supported the scheme for road safety reasons.

07/160 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden reported that good work had been carried out by the project team of the Princes Trust who spent 4 days on the Fairground. Cllr Blagden proposed that the council make a donation of £50 to the Princes Trust in recognition of the work carried out. This was seconded by Cllr Clark and put to the vote with 10 in favour 1 abstention. Carried. Clerk to action. Cllr Blagden reported that Simon Barnett, Countryside Officer, West Berkshire Council is able to give some technical advice for the Fairground and they may be able to help with disposal of Fairground waste by shredding etc.

- i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** In the absence of Cllr Smith the Clerk reported that the play area is more or less the same as it was last month and is in pretty good condition. The contractor has still to carry out the repairs to the gates and log steps on the multiplay unit.

- ii. **Update on Sub-Lease to CIC:** The Chairman reported that he has been going through the draft sub-lease which has been prepared for the Parish Council by the Legal Department at West Berkshire Council and this will be sent to the CIC for their comments as soon as possible.
- iii. **To co-opt members onto the F T & A Committee:** Cllr Lock was co-opted onto the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee.

07/161 **Cemetery:**

- i. Cllrs Philips, Shorrocks and Lock were co-opted onto the Cemetery Committee. Cllr Thorpe proposed that Cllr Clark be appointed Chairman of the Cemetery Committee to fill the vacancy and this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and put to the vote (Cemetery Committee Members only) and unanimously carried.

A Committee Meeting is to be arranged shortly.

- 07/162 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Newsletter is to be delivered during the weekend of the 10th November. A local printer has been used to print the Newsletter but that Cllr Colaço has established contact with BMW at Wokefield Park who are willing for the Parish Council to use their photocopier to print future newsletters but this would have to be out of hours and carried out by Parish Council volunteers.

- 07/163 **Update on Flooding:** Cllr Philips gave a short account on the District Parish Conference At West Berkshire Council on the 15th October 2007. Cllr Philips advised that the conference was purely on flooding and was very useful as most parishes were affected by the flood in July. She recommended that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considers drawing up an Emergency Plan of Action for the future.

- 07/164 **Report on SLCC National Conference:** The Clerk gave a comprehensive report on the Society of Local Council Clerks's 33rd Annual Conference which took place in Coventry from 25th to the 28th October 2007.

- 07/165 **Finance: To agree accounts for payment for November:** In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. The Chairman proposed that they be paid and this was 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. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) direct debit £27.66 inc VAT.
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £13.57 (£11.57 Forbuoys (papers), service charge £2.00).
- ix. Ian Philips (grass cutting/path spraying Cemetery) £230.04 inc VAT.
- x. Richard Weavers (grass cutting Fairground August) Not Received.
- xi. Bridgewood Landscape Services (grass cutting Alfred Palmer Field) Not Received.
- xii. Burghfield Village Hall (rental for BMNAG Meeting) £19.00.
- xiii. SLCC (Purchase of update pages for Clerk's Manual and Highway Law Book £34.60).
- xiv. Advance Printing and Design (Newsletter) £258.00.
- xv. T B Estates Ltd (additional work cutting back ditches on Windmill Road) £58.75 inc VAT.
- xvi. Staples UK Ltd (stationery for Newsletter) £65.78 inc VAT.
- xvii. Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £20.00.

07/166 **Correspondence:**

- Berkshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting, Saturday 10th November at Grazeley Village Hall.
- West Berkshire Council. Information of Sustainable Community Strategy – Consultation. 'A Breath of Fresh Air', a Sustainable Community Strategy for West Berkshire sets out the challenges and priorities for West Berkshire over the next 20 years including The Council, the Police, the Heath Service, Fire Service and the Business and Voluntary Sectors.

- West Berkshire Council. Flood Recovery - West Berkshire Council 'Local Heroes' Reception.

07/167 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- Letter from a resident enquiring about disabled access to the Grazing Area using a mobility scooter. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into this and report back to the meeting.
- Cllr Shorrock reported that the white and yellow line renewals have now been completed by West Berkshire Council.
- Cllr Ives reported that the part funded PCSO is spending 47% of his time (including a fair proportion of high risk time) in the parish. The last BMNAG meeting was attended by a greater number of parish groups. Members were introduced to the new Police Inspector, Andy Ward.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th December 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 09:50 p.m.