



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: K Davies (Chairman), P Blagden, P Challis, A Colaço, D Ives, J Morden, T Shorrocks, A Thorpe, I Titman-Reade, A Smith, M Lock and N Kiley (from 8pm), Mr G Mayes (to give flooding report) and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Councillors: A Philips and S Clark.

**Declaration of Interest:** Cllr A Smith 08/07 (ii).

08/01 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:**

- 07/183 The Clerk advised that a copy of a reply from West Berkshire to Dr Collins' letter has been received which says that they will undertake to review the traffic signs and in particular the Mortimer West End Signs. Whilst they believe the current regime of signing is satisfactory they would like the Parish Council to comment. It was agreed to pass this to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee (date of meeting to be confirmed) who will come back to the Parish Council with observations after taking into account the resolution in Minute no 06/34 and subsequent correspondence. Cllrs Colaço and Lock are to be invited to the Committee Meeting to take part in the discussions on this issue.
- 07/157 Fairfield Caravan Park: Cllr Shorrocks reported that one of the conditions of the sentence of the courts on the site owner (who was prosecuted on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007) was that the caravan on Plot 9 be removed within 7 days and at today's date had still not been removed. The Clerk was asked to formally write to West Berkshire Council regarding this. Cllr Lock will also chase this.

08/02 **Flooding Update:** Mr G Mayes, the Parish Council's advisor on flooding issues, addressed the Parish Council and gave an overview of the history of the flooding issue since 2000 and highlighted the current problems. It was agreed to invite representatives from Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Highways and Engineering Department, West Berkshire Council to a meeting in the Parish Council Office to discuss the following issues:

Thames Water: To determine the reasons for the repeated failure of the pumping station at Tun Bridge, The Street and the pollution caused by effluent from manholes in that area from their foul sewers. Also to determine Thames Water's riparian responsibilities along Foudry Brook.

West Berkshire Council: To discuss a number of points including the riparian responsibility along Foudry Brook near Tun Bridge, the maintenance of the surface water drainage system from the recent Mortimer Hill development which affected the lower Street and the development of Hutt's Yard and Mortimer Men's Club sites which are upstream of the Mortimer Churchyard and Cemetery and which resulted in damage.

Environment Agency: To determine the reasons for the repeated failure of the pumping station at Tun Bridge and the pollution caused by effluent from manholes in that Area from Thames Water's sewers. To establish the Environment Agency's policy on stream bed clearance, flood bund maintenance and riparian owner responsibilities along Foudry Brook.

08/03 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that the incident with the travellers which caused the closure of Paices Hill recycling site has still not been resolved and this will only be re-opened when new security cameras have been installed and so far this has not happened. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of WBC has seen the draft report on the flooding and has agreed a total of 42 recommendations. By far the most important is that the Highways and Engineering Department are preparing a report on the work that needs to be done and at what cost, to improve

the overall drainage situation across the District and to reduce the future risks of flooding. West Berkshire have promised that Engineers will consult all the relevant Town and Parish Councils about the local works proposed before their final report is considered at West Berkshire Council. West Berkshire Council has had another Government inspection and overall has gained a 'good' rating, however Old Peoples Services and the Waste Strategy were singled out as areas in need of improvement. Education was once again praised as overall 65% of students gained 5 GCSE passes at grades A to C.

08/04 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had not since the last Council Meeting.

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

07/02166/HOUSE Janson House, Drury Lane. New brick piers and automated gates. Approval  
 07/02190/FUL Mortimer Mens Club – insertion of obscure glazed first floor bathroom windows. Retrospective approval  
 07/02292/HOUSE 44 Stephens Close. First floor extension to side and rear. Approval  
 07/01960/FUL Great Park Farm. Storage of 4 lorries. This application has been withdrawn.  
 07/02326/FUL 49 West End Road (Aborn Parade), change of use from A2 to A5 (takeaway). The drawings have been amended to show the proposed flue as running through the inside of the property above. As the Parish Council's objection did not concern the positioning of the flue, the submission as to the inappropriate location of the takeaway and inadequate parking still stand.

A letter has been received from the Governing Body of St Mary's Junior School with regard to the dismissal of their planning appeal against the refusal by West Berkshire Council to grant permission for a car park on land adjacent to St Mary's Church. The Governors request that the Parish Council liaise with West Berkshire Council to find a solution. Cllr Smith reminded the council that we are still awaiting the results of the investigation by WBC into parking in The Street (their letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007) and that he and Cllr Clark are to visit St Mary's School to explore further options on the parking situation (Minute no 07/140).

08/05 **Update on proposed Station Car Park:** Cllr Kiley reported that he is preparing for the re-submission of the Planning Application and is consulting with West Berkshire Planning Department. Cllr Shorrock confirmed that Minute no (06/167) regarding the planning application still stands.

08/06 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** No report. Date for next Committee Meeting to be confirmed.

08/07 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden gave an update on the work carried out by the working party. The date for the next Committee meeting is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the condition of the play area is in order. The contractors have confirmed that as the laying of rubber is weather dependant and the work on the safety surface is likely to go ahead during February (but not half term week). They plan to carry out the job at the beginning of the week to give the rubber time to harden before the weekend. The Clerk was asked to write to the school when the date is known asking for the co-operation of parents in keeping children off the new surface for a week after installation. A poster will also be displayed.

ii. **Update on Sub-Lease to CIC:** The Chairman advised that the Draft Sub-Lease and Building Agreement were sent to the CIC by the Council's solicitors on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007. He then read out a letter to the CIC dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 which referred to the Parish Council's Letter of Intent dated the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (Minute Nos 07/90(i) and 07/106(ii) refer). The letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 asked for clarification of the following points:

1. Evidence of confirmed funding sources equal to the anticipated final construction cost.
2. A definitive list produced of projected income, with names of organisations and projected income from each.
3. A schedule of projected running costs.
4. An indicative master programme for the project showing key dates e.g. final design and cost approval, demolition of existing building, start on site and completion date.

The CIC were also asked to make it clear how the following are to be dealt with:-

1. Any project overruns.

2. If there is not enough income to pay outgoings, or meet capital cost overruns.

The above information needs to be supplied by the CIC before SMPC can commit itself to entering into the proposed Building Agreement and Sub-Lease.

Cllr Smith (as new Chairman of the CIC) replied verbally and agreed to forward the answers to the questions in writing to the Parish Council for the Audit Trail record. The size of the new building is to be scaled down to 12m x 18m and the approximate construction cost will now be £270,000. Changing rooms and a kitchen are to be added to the building at a later stage at an approximate further cost of £40,000.

After further discussion Cllr Shorrock proposed that subject to the satisfactory receipt in writing of the information requested in the Parish Council's letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 the Parish Council agrees to expedite the demolition of the current building. This was seconded by Cllr Colaço and put to the vote with 10 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Ives) and 1 abstention (Cllr Smith).

Cllr Blagden further proposed that the Parish Council, in principle, is wholeheartedly behind the Community Building Project. This was seconded by Cllr Lock and put to the vote and unanimously agreed.

08/08 **Cemetery:** No Report. A Committee meeting is to be arranged. Cllr Challis has volunteered to do some work at the Cemetery.

08/09 **Communications Committee:** Cllr Blagden confirmed that the council is planning to provide the next Newsletter by the end of the month with distribution at the beginning of March (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March).

08/10 **To approve Precept figure recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the year 2008/2009:** The Chairman reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 to agree a budget and precept figure for the next financial year (budget circulated to all members). The Finance and General Purposes Committee recommend a precept of £82,002 (an increase of £2,223 on last year) the cost per band D household will be £49.53, which is an increase of only 19p on the previous year (£49.34 per band D household). It was proposed by The Chairman and seconded Cllr Thorpe that this Precept figure be accepted and was unanimously resolved. The Clerk to complete the Local Government Finance Act Form and send it to West Berkshire Council asking for a Precept of £82,002. The Chairman advised that the Sec. 137 figure shown on the budget form for the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field is a provisional figure only but before a grant figure can be agreed further information is required. A letter is to be sent to the Trustees.

08/11 **Community Award 2008:** The Chairman reported that the Community Award Committee had met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 to consider the nominations and had unanimously agreed that the 2008 award would be presented to Mrs Grace Butler. The 2008 Stratfield Mortimer Community Award will be presented at this year's Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm in St John's Hall. Clerk to Action.

08/12 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that the monthly meeting with the PCSO has been postponed until the 15<sup>th</sup> January and will now be held prior to the BMNAG Meeting. He also gave an update on the work of the PCSO.

08/13 **Finance: To agree accounts for payment for January:** 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 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 £26.59 inc VAT.
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £638.34 (Shedstore (new shed Cemetery) £630.04 inc VAT), Forbuoys (papers) and £2.00 service charge).
- ix. Thames Valley Police Authority (PCSO part funding for Sept 2007) £583.00.
- x. BT (quarterly rental charges Parish Office) Direct Debit £60.24 inc VAT.

xi. SLCC (Practitioners Conference Fee) £223.25 inc VAT.

08/14 **Correspondence:** None

08/15 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- 06/159 Cllr Challis asked for an up-date on the enforcement notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 215 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 for 14 Longmoor Lane as the situation has got worse. Cllr Lock is to look into this and report back to the next meeting.
- Cllr Lock asked if Members of the Public could be made more aware that they are welcome to attend and observe Parish Council Meetings. It was agreed that a further notice would be put in the forthcoming Newsletter.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:45 pm