



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Unadopted Minutes of Meeting held on 11th June 2009 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: T Shorrocks, S Clark, P Challis, D Morsley, K Davies, D Ives, J Morden, M Lock, A Smith (7:50), A Colaço, A Thorpe, A Philips (7:40), P Blagden, R Barker, N Kiley and the Clerk. 9 members of the public were present.

The meeting commenced at 7:50 pm after questions from the members of the public.

Apologies: None

Declaration of Interest: 09/105 (ix) Cllr Philips

In accordance with Standing Order No. 11.4 Cllr Lock gave her report (see 09/104 below) and then left the meeting at 07:55

09/90 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 14th May 2009 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There was one addition to the Minutes in Agenda Item 09/74 to insert: that Mr Barrie Richer and Mr Ian Titman Reade were appointed to the Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee.

Matters Arising: None.

09/91 **Planning:** In accordance with Standing Order Nos. 11.8 and 21.1.3 Cllr Kiley was duly appointed to the Planning Committee.

Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once since the May meeting on the 26th May 2009:

09/00722/HOUSE 32 Windmill Road. 2 first floor extensions with pitched roof to each. New window to south elevation.

No objection in principle provided officers are satisfied there is no unacceptable degree of overlooking.

09/00819/HOUSE 30 Croft Road. Single storey front extension and extended dormer windows. No objection.

The following recommendations have been received from the Officers at West Berkshire Council under delegated powers.

08/00228/COND Mortimer Surgery. When the alterations to the surgery were approved there were some reserved conditions.

Condition 3 required submission of sample materials, Condition 5 was in respect of landscaping, Conditions 7,8 and 9 were in respect of tree root protection. Conditions 7,8 and 9 have been discharged but the surgery is no longer proceeding with that part of the scheme requiring submissions in respect of 3 & 5. In other words the parts no longer relevant are refused and the other (7,8 and 9) approved.

09/00364/FULD Land adjoining 37 Stephens Firs. Erection of new house.

Refusal:

1. Out of character with street scene.

2. No off site mitigation measures.

09/00650/HOUSE 68 Victoria Road. Single Storey extension and a new garage. Approval.

Appeal decisions from the Planning Inspectorate

08/00311/FUL: Great Park Farm. Change of use of yard from agricultural to B8 storage and distribution.

Appeal dismissed: Neither the visual impact on the character of the area nor the living conditions of current and future land users would justify dismissal. However, greater weight as to the sustainability of the use of the site leads to dismissal.

08/02046/FUL.MAJ: 33-35-37 West End Road. Re-development of site with 10 houses.

Appeal allowed: The Inspector concluded that overall the proposal accords with development plan policies and subject to appropriate conditions the appeal is allowed.

Appeal result pending: 08/00921 and 08/02349: The Red House, 54 West End Road. The Enquiry in Public took place on the 9th, 10th and the morning of the 11th June 2009. Councillor Morden represented Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council throughout. There were 6 reasons by West Berkshire Council of the first application

but only 2 reasons for refusal of the second. These were small plot sizes and visibility from the public highway which resulted in appropriate infill and secondly failure to provide adequate off site mitigation. This presented an uphill struggle for the Counsel for West Berkshire Council and whether she achieved sufficient is difficult to say. The Parish Council's submission that the access was insufficient and parking was inadequate was hard to sustain in the light of Highways acceptance of the layout. The decision should be known in 6 weeks. Cllr Morden was offered a vote of thanks for his dedication in attending the Appeal Hearing.

As reported in Minute No 09/84 last month the Local Development Framework Core Strategy is going to consultation and West Berkshire Council will be providing an opportunity to see their proposals with a visit to the Fairground Car Park on Wednesday 17th June 2009 between 2pm and 8pm. The Parish Council will be submitting its observations in due course. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Morden can draft a Parish Council response regarding the Local Development Framework to be sent off before the deadline date. The Parish Council is to take into account the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which lists sites proposed within Mortimer that may have potential for housing development. This was brought to the Parish Council's attention by the residents present at the Public Questions session prior to the meeting.

09/92 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met since the last full council meeting. He advised that SMPC are waiting on responses from West Berkshire Council on a number of matters before a committee meeting can be arranged. He also advised that an encroachment of unauthorised trespass had taken place by a group of travellers with their caravans on Brewery Common. Following prompt action by the Police and the Clerk notices was served by the Clerk and the Police and the travellers left within 24 hours. West Berkshire Council who manages the Common on behalf of the Parish Council secured the damaged barrier. A vote of thanks was offered to both Cllr Ives and the Clerk for their prompt action and hard work in this matter.

i. **Update on roundabout layout at junction with Mortimer Hill estate:** Cllr Ives reported that further to Minute No 09/86 (i) SMPC is still awaiting information from West Berkshire Council. Cllr Smith asked if the Clerk could find out the details of an Air Ambulance attendance at an accident near the Mortimer Hill roundabout during the Summer of 2008.

09/93 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee met on the 18th May 2009. The items discussed (that are not agenda items below) were:

To consider reinstatement of rubber matter in front of the multi sports wall. This was discussed and it was agreed to leave the ground as it is and await the outcome of the Parish Plan Refresh Action Plan. To consider reinstatement of the monthly working parties. This was discussed and it was agreed to maybe consider changing the strategy from monthly to 3 or 4 times a year for specific needs/tasks if the working parties are reinstated. Ideas for tasks for the CROW volunteers were discussed such as gorse clearance, pond clearance etc. To consider replacement of the old goal post. It was agreed to hold this item over until the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire and Action Plan. Recommended actions from 2009 RoSPA Safety Report. Cllr Smith outlined the details of the report (as in the Parish Council Minutes of the 14th May). As none of the actions require immediate action they will be dealt with over the coming months.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the adopted Fairground Hiring Policy that she and the Committee Chairman had met with representatives from the Churches Together event scheduled to take place on the Fairground on the 4th July to determine the location of the various events etc. The Clerk advised that she and Cllr Blagden wanted confirmation from the Council regarding the use of the Fairground Car Park for a display by the fire brigade who are planning to cut up a dry car (no glass or fuel). The members unanimously confirmed that they had no objection to this activity taking place in the car park.

i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the play area is fine. He confirmed that he had filed down the bolts underneath the rocking horse.

ii. **To consider recommendation from Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee to supply and install two new seats for the play area and grazing area at an approx. cost of £1,098.70 (including VAT and installation):** Cllr Blagden proposed the above motion, this was seconded by Cllr Kiley and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action.

iii. **To consider recommendation from Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee to install new wet pour safety surface beneath roundabout to replace current surfacing at a cost of £1,680.00 plus VAT:** Cllr Blagden proposed the above motion, this was seconded by

Cllr Morsley and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action.

- iv. **To consider recommendation from Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee to install new wet pour safety surface beneath infant swings to replace current surfacing at a cost of £2,480.00 plus VAT:** Cllr Blagden proposed the above motion; this was seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action
 - v. **To approve aerating of the Fairground at a cost of £368.00 plus VAT:** This motion was withdrawn and will be re-submitted at a suitable time.
 - vi. **To consider proposal from Fairground Trees & Amenities Committee to hire the Community Centre to facilitate the pond dip on the 27th June at a cost of £20.00:** Cllr Blagden proposed the above motion; this was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and unanimously resolved. Cllr Smith declared an interest and did not vote.
 - vii. **To discuss actions re the boundary fence:** It was unanimously agreed to ask the Fairground Trustees for permission, under the terms of the Parish Council's Lease, to plant a hedge along the Fairground boundary with Hammonds Heath. The Clerk to write to the Trustees.
- 09/94 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that the work to level and seed the Cemetery had taken place. One headstone had to be removed by a memorial mason to enable the work to be carried out but this has now been replaced.
- 09/95 **Communications Committee - Report:** Cllr Morsley reported that the Committee met on the 8th June and the process for initiating and producing newsletters was discussed and clarified. An initial proposed list of contents for the next newsletter was agreed. A distribution date of 12th/13th July was agreed.
- 09/96 **Update on Parish Council response to West Berkshire Home to School Transport Policy 2010/11 Consultation:** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had responded to the consultation regarding a safe walking route between Mortimer and the Willink School that the Parish Council's Policy of opposing Transport Policy remains unchanged from their response of the 26th September 2006.
A response to the original response was received West Berkshire Council on the 28th September 2006 which stated that Members had taken a decision to identify the route as unsafe for all families in the area and that provision would be available for all children to be transported from the area by bus from the start of the academic year (06) and this will continue free of charge.
The Parish Council also stated in its recent response that it would like to understand what significant changes have occurred that have precipitated these new proposals. This was also forwarded to RH John Redwood MP who has also agreed to take this matter up with West Berkshire Council.
- 09/97 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that he had met with the PCSO and Cllr Longton from Burghfield Parish Council. The overall crime rate is down 33% although there have been cases of shoplifting and antisocial behaviour in the village. There have also been problems at Mortimer Station.
- 09/98 **Report from BMNAG Meeting held on the 9th June 2009:** Cllr Morsley reported that Mark Vernon head of West Berkshire Youth Services attended the meeting in response to a request for discussion on youth services in the NAG area. The school, parish and police representatives outlined the local problems with youth and lack of opportunities. A response was received from the officers from West Berkshire Highways attending the previous NAG, in response to various issues concerning heavy goods traffic through the NAG area and specific requests and weight restriction signage and its enforcement. The report disappointingly does not offer any progress and this may take a few years. The meeting agreed to write again requesting timely installation of signs at 3 key sites; on the A4 covering the turning to Tyle Mill and from the roundabout at Mortimer Station through Beech Hill. In each case there is a weight restriction at some point but it is not early enough to prevent HGVs entering the route. The level crossing at Ufton Nervet may be permanently closed resulting in the route to the A4 being closed. The new PCSO, Robert Hubbard was introduced who is still in training but is due to start shortly. The public meeting in Burghfield has resulted in a new partnership priority of speeding being established for Burghfield. This means that all 3 partnership priorities are speeding. It was agreed that this was in part a reflection on the positive job being done by the current Police presence with respect to other types of crime. The Police intend to call a public meeting for Mortimer in July to discuss the public's concerns. The

opening of the front desk at Mortimer Police Station has been further delayed by the Volunteer Coordinator objecting on Health and Safety grounds to there being only 1 entrance/exit. As a result several volunteers have been lost. It is still hoped to resolve the matter soon and open the front desk on very limited hours.

09/99 **Update on Parish Plan refresh working party:** Cllr Morsley reported that 810 adult questionnaires (30% of the electoral roll) and 116 youth questionnaires have been collected in and taken to Greenham Common Trust for data entry and analysis. The three prize winners were Alan Fisher and Jeanette Cook (adult winners) and Katherine Hudson (youth winner). Two of them were photographed by the Newbury Weekly News receiving their prizes from The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Shorrock. Cllr Shorrock asked if the working party could advise the total number of questionnaires that were distributed as it was relevant to quantifying the data. He also asked that the data analysis from the Greenham Common Trust be kept by the Clerk at the Parish Office and that the results should not be disclosed or discussed at this stage.

Cllr Barker proposed a 'change of policy' motion to the Parish Council but the Clerk advised that as this motion had not been an Agenda item it is, under Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, unlawful for the Council to make a decision on any matter that hasn't been specified on the Agenda. The Chairman ruled that after taking the Clerk's legal advice into account (and breach of Standing Order No 13.2) that the motion could not go forward. An Agenda item is to be put forward to the next meeting. Cllr Morsley left the meeting.

09/100 **Request forwarded by the Parish Plan Refresh Working Party, that the Parish Council consider appropriate action regarding green and youth matters. These are items raised at the Parish Plan Refresh Meeting which are not considered as suitable for inclusion in the Parish Plan but do represent concerns and ideas raised by some parishioners. (Previously circulated).**

- Prune Ivy on trees at edge of Fairground. Referred to Fairground, Trees & Amenities Committee.
- Buggy friendly gates to Windmill Common. Referred to Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee.
- Action on graffiti at station. The Clerk to write to British Transport police.
- Dog waste disposal bags on Fairground. Referred to Fairground, Trees & Amenities Committee.
- Local recycling targets published on website and at schools. Referred to Communications Committee to advise residents of link to West Berkshire Council Website for inclusion in Parish Council Newsletter.
- Local recycling bins for items not collected by council. As there is already an improved kerbside recycling collection service residents advised to contact West Berkshire Council Streetcare re other items.
- Central/communal green waste composting area to include waste from conservation work on Fairground. This was considered during last Parish Plan in 2004 and not considered feasible.
- Planning - encourage use of energy generating technology (PV's and solar panels). Parish consent conditional on these technologies. This is outside the Parish Council's remit.
- Identify buildings of note and importance in Mortimer and protect. This is already included in Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Village Design statement.
- Parish Council policy/statement on reducing carbon footprint of the village. The Parish Council have noted this and will consider it as part of the Parish Plan Refresh document.
- Parish Plan round up at each PC meeting. This will continue to be included in Parish Council Minutes.
- Identify other sites for potential development. This is included in West Berkshire Council's Local Development Framework Core Strategy Policy.
- Bus to stop on West End Road for Stewarts morning run to Willink. The Clerk to write to West Berkshire Council's Education Service Department (copy to Willink) to request this.

09/101 **To agree Cllr Morsley can attend CCB Annual Conference 09 at a cost of £35.00: Withdrawn.**

- 09/102 **Consultation Exercise on Revisions to the Role and Function of the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee:** Held over until next meeting until the data analysed.
- 09/103 **To approve purchase of new computer equipment for Parish Clerk up to a budget of £1,500:** Cllr Clark proposed the above motion and it was seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously resolved.
- 09/104 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that work on the flooded area of Brewery Common will start later this month. The snagging works on the drains and sewers on Mortimer Hill are now taking place and West Berkshire Council should hear soon when the handover to Thames Water will take place. Cllr Lock advised that Network Rail have informed her about important plans to roll out a nationwide Railway Communications System across the entire rail network. Implementing the new system involves the siting of a large number of communication masts (a 15m high monopole). This new radio system will, for the very first time, allow direct and continuous communication between train drivers and signallers which will improve safety, reliability and punctuality on the rail network. A site has been identified within 140m of Mortimer Station (just past the Calor Gas depot) which meets all the necessary safety and technological criteria. The siting of the mast falls under Permitted Development Rights. A copy of the letter and accompanying plan will be available to view in the Parish Council Office.
- 09/105 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for June:**
In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Thorpe proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Ives and carried unanimously.
- i. Clerk's Salary
 - ii. H M Revenue & Customs (Tax and NI)
 - iii. Clerk's Expenses
 - iv. Temporary Custodian's Salary
 - v. RBWM BACS Payment (Pension)
 - vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £900 inc VAT.
 - vii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) Direct Debit £25.82 inc VAT
 - viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £9.40, (£7.40 McColls and £2.00 Service Charge)
 - ix. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £170.52 inc VAT
 - x. Mr A Fisher (Parish Plan Questionnaire Prize Winner) £50.00
 - xi. Mrs J Cook (Parish Plan Questionnaire Prize Winner) £50.00
 - xii. Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre (hire of hall) £20.00
 - xiii. CCB (Conference Fee) £35.00. Cheque cancelled.
 - xiv. Thames Water (water trough Fairground) £9.95 Direct Debit
 - xv. CCB (Community Council for Berkshire annual subscription) £30.00
 - xvi. Royal British Legion (poppy wreath for 65th anniversary of D Day) £20.00
 - xvii. Earth Anchors (post for dog bin) £99.94 inc VAT
 - xviii. Dads Shop Ltd £39.08 inc VAT
 - xix. Royal Mail Group Ltd (freepost for parish plan questionnaire) £39.09
 - xx. Open Spaces Society (annual subscription) £40.00
- 09/106 **Correspondence:**
- West Berkshire Council Emergency Planning Training Session to be held on the 22nd June at Newbury.
 - The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to West Berkshire Council by Mr Higgins expressing concerns about the process operated by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council in relation to their consultation on street lighting in June 2007. Contact was made with her and she had provided extracts of minutes of the Council on the subject, copies of advertising the consultation and correspondence. Mr Day, Head of Policy and Communications at West Berkshire Council said in his reply to Mr Higgins that 'I can only say that the consultation and the advertising around this exercise was comprehensive and probably a model for other Parish Councils to aspire to. I have to advise you that having

scrutinised the evidence presented to me I believe that the Parish Council has not breached any legislation or any of its Standing Orders.'

09/107 Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:

- Cllr Shorrocks reported that he had met with Mr Simon Beard, Treasurer of Mortimer Cricket Club and outlined the Council's Hiring and Charging Policy and the charge of £250 to the Cricket Club for the use of the ground. They also discussed the possibility of the Cricket Club applying to the Parish Council for a capital grant in 2010/2011 and again the details were outlined. Cllr Shorrocks said that he was delighted to see that the Club had a full fixture list for this season and wished them every success. He was also pleased at the prospect of a tournament Mr Beard outlined for next year. As this type of event would require the permission of the Parish Council it was agreed that Mr Beard would make a formal presentation to the council 15 minutes prior to the July meeting.
- Cllr Smith reported that the CiC now have the keys to the new Community Building and the official opening will be on the 27th June. Cllr Shorrocks advised that he and Cllr Clark (as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council) were invited to attend but he unfortunately cannot so Cllr Blagden is to attend in his place.
- AWE Local Liaison Report next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th July 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:09 p.m.