



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Unadopted Minutes of Meeting

held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: T Shorrocks (Chairman), S Clark, P Challis, D Morsley, K Davies, D Ives, J Morden, M Lock, A Smith, A Colaço, A Philips, P Blagden, R Barker, N Kiley and the Clerk.

Prior to the meeting a presentation was made to the Parish Council by Mortimer Cricket Club regarding their proposals for a possible visit by a semi-professional cricket team for a corporate fundraiser or a tournament with local teams in 2010. This will be put forward as an agenda item for the September Parish Council Meeting.

**Apologies:** A Thorpe

**Declaration of Interest:** 09/105 (x) Cllr Philips and 09/121 (xiii) Cllr Morden.

09/108 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:**

Cllr Smith asked if the Clerk could provide clarification on the suspension of the Parish Council's Standing orders in relation to the Local Government Act 1972.

09/91 Cllr Morden confirmed that the Clerk had sent SMPC's response regarding the Local Development Framework consultation.

09/99 Cllr Morsley confirmed that the total number of questionnaires distributed were 3403 (1700 houses at 2 per house).

09/109 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once since the June meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009:

09/00827/REM Longmoor Cottage, Longmoor Lane. Approval of reserved matters following outline permission 07/01945. No objection

09/00828/HOUSE Mortimer House, Mortimer Lane. Single storey timber outbuilding. (7.93m long; 3.66m wide; 3.25 m high). No objection.

09/00862/FUL Mortimer St John's C of E School. Single storey extension. No objection.

09/00944/HOUSE 25 Groves Lea. 2 storey side and rear extension. Existing garage to living room and existing dining room to garage. No objection.

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

08/00613/COND Land adjacent to 29-30 The Beavers (Lock up garage site approved 07/01807/FUD). Most of the reserved conditions have been met but not the following:

Condition 3 buff bricks - not acceptable.

Condition 7 Landscaping - Tree Officer not happy with scheme submitted.

Condition 8 Design stage report - not yet met.

Condition 9 Cycle parking - not resolved.

09/00722/HOUSE 32 Windmill Road. 2 first floor extensions, new window to south. Approval.

09/00818/HOUSE 30 Croft Road. Extended dormer windows. Approval.

Appeal decisions from the Planning Inspectorate

The following decisions have been received from the Inspectorate both in respect of 'The Red House' 54 West End Road'

08/02349/FULD 7 new houses and alteration to existing with improvements to existing private drive. Appeal Allowed: The Inspector's conclusion:

'I have taken into account all the matters raised but none carry sufficient weight to alter my opinion. I therefore conclude that the appeal should be allowed.'

Railway Communication System: Communications mast at Mortimer Station. 15m high monopole. The Parish Council has heard nothing further from either Network Rail or West Berkshire Council.

Tree Preservation Order 2009: Land at 9 Victoria Road (Budgens). The TPO on the oak tree is now confirmed.

- 09/110 **Update on Station Car Park Planning Appeal:** The appeal against West Berkshire Council's refusal to permit the construction of a 100 space car park to the east of the Station with disabled access was heard at West Berkshire Council's offices on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The decision should be known within 7 weeks. A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Morden for attending the Appeal and putting the Parish Council's case.
- 09/111 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee has not met but a meeting has been arranged for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Further to Minute No. 09/92 Cllr Ives and the Clerk met with Mrs Pimley (WBC Traveller Liaison & Countryside Assistant) to assess the site and she confirmed that WBC will replace the temporary concrete blocks with more robust bollards. The Clerk has also met with the Police and given them a witness Statement on behalf of the Council. Further to 09/86 (i) Cllr Ives confirmed that the new roundabout signs for Mortimer Hill are to be ordered in August and other information will be taken to the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
- 09/112 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Fairground Committee met on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The items discussed were arrangements for the September pond clearance, maintenance work including brambles and ivy, Puss Moth audit, maintenance work on grassed area by CiC around new Community Building. New hedging along eastern side of footpath at edge of Grazing Area. Further to Minute No 4 of the previous meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May the Clerk has consulted West Berkshire Council who advise that they use selective weed killer on their public open spaces and a recommendation is to be put to the Council to carry out this work, in conjunction with the aeration work, to the September Meeting. The date of the next Committee Meeting is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.
- i. Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:* Cllr Smith reported that the play area is in good order and all concerns raised in the RoSPA report are to be attended to.
- 09/113 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that further to the ground work carried out the previous month when the graves were levelled and seeded, the grass seed had not grown because of the dry weather so has been seeded again.
- 09/114 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that he is having difficulty getting the monthly report of time allocated to the PCSO from PC Perin Bateman. The Police Office is only open operationally but not to members of the public
- 09/115 **The Parish Plan Working Party requests that it progresses the results of the Parish Plan Refresh questionnaire, in consultation with the Clerk and the Parish Council, by preparing an Action Plan, using the West Berkshire Council template. It will then present the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan Refresh Action Plan to the full Parish Council for their approval and adoption who will in turn forward it to West Berkshire Council for their formal adoption.** Cllr Morsley proposed the above motion and was seconded by Cllr Barker and carried by 12 votes in favour to 2 against.
- 09/116 **Results of the Parish Plan Refresh Working Party Questionnaire data for information:** This was circulated to all members for information.
- 09/117 **Consultation Exercise on Revisions to the Role and Function of the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee:** Cllr Morden reported that the draft of the proposed change from a Management Committee to a Joint Advisory Committee has been examined. This follows the appointment of Parkwood Leisure to Manage all West Berkshire Council's Leisure facilities. The changes are:
1. Change of Title.
  2. SMPC will now have two representatives.
  3. The Advisory Committee will meet for the purpose of Consultation, scrutiny and advice.

The draft terms of reference and protocols have been examined by both Cllrs Davies and Morden who conclude that the proposed changes are acceptable to the Parish Council as stakeholders in the Willink Leisure Centre. Cllr Morden proposed that he draft a letter (to be sent by the Clerk) to West Berkshire Council's Arts and Leisure Services Manager to

agreeing to the proposed changes. It mustn't be overlooked that the management role is being relinquished and being replaced by an advisory role. This was seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously agreed.

09/118 **To agree the Clerk's attendance at SLCC Annual Conference in Daventry 22-25 October 2009 at a cost of £415 plus VAT:** Cllr Clark proposed the above motion; it was seconded by Cllr Davies and carried by 10 votes to 4 abstentions.

09/119 **AWE Local Liaison Committee Report:** Cllr Ives gave a brief overview of the latest AWE report. A copy will be held in the Parish Office.

09/120 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that West Berkshire Council now has a 'Healthy and Active Parishes' initiative run by the Council's leisure team designed to promote healthy leisure activities in parishes and grants can be obtained for various initiatives. Young people who have the West Berkshire Council library/leisure ticket will be able to swim free during the summer holidays (these are available from the library). The road at Mowbray Hill is to be strengthened and resurfaced during the summer holidays. Padworth Lane is due to close for up to 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Football Association recently awarded Mortimer Football Club Charter Status and it now classified as a training club. The fencing recently installed is now a requirement of the Reading and District League and did not require planning permission. The Club installed the floodlights some time ago and planning permission was obtained retrospectively. The work to draw excess water from Brewery Common is to start this month. Thames Water has not yet adopted the sewers at the Mortimer Hill estate and is still carrying out remedial works.

09/121 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for July:**  
Cllr Morden declared an interest (xiii) and did not vote. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Clark proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Davies and carried unanimously.

- i. Clerk's Salary
- ii. H M Revenue & Customs (Tax and NI)
- iii. Clerk's Expenses
- iv. Payment due to Custodian
- v. Temporary Custodian's Salary
- vi. RBWM BACS Payment (Pension)
- vii. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £900 inc VAT.
- viii. Pipex Homecall Ltd (telephone Parish Office) Direct Debit £30.81 inc VAT
- ix. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £9.40, (£7.40 McColls and £2.00 Service Charge)
- x. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting/spraying Cemetery) £239.52 inc VAT
- xi. D G Nickless (sign writing Community Award Board) £38.00
- xii. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground May) £195.61
- xiii. J Morden (expenses for attending Appeal hearing on behalf of SMPC) £60.16
- xiv. T B Estate Services Ltd (groundwork Cemetery) £301.30
- xv. Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre CiC (rent for Community Centre) £20.00
- xvi. British Telecom (Direct Debit) £60.74 inc VAT
- xvii. West Berkshire Council (invoice for photocopying) £46.92 inc VAT
- xviii. SLCC (book) £55.60
- xix. St John's Hall Management Committee (hall rental) £30.00
- xx. Thames Valley Police (PCSO Part funding quarter 1) £1,879.25

09/122 **Correspondence:**

Letter from CAWB (Community Action West Berkshire) advising of notification of closure of service. From the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009 CAWB will cease to provide a service and will formally close on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Sarah Ward's role as Community Planning Co-ordinator continues to be fully funded for 2009/2010. With the closure of CAWB, Sarah will be retained by CCB as a key senior community development worker and her work within West Berkshire will continue uninterrupted.

09/123 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- Cllr Shorrocks advised that Mr C Lewis has relinquished his role as a Trustee (Parish Council nominated Trustee) on the Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity. This is to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting in September. Part II for the September Agenda - to discuss replacement Village Custodian.
- The Clerk asked to contact the Tree Officer/Highways regarding the overhanging trees/hedges in Longmoor Lane (just past cottage on right hand side before the bend at the bottom).
- The Clerk to write to residents, whose hedges are overhanging, Cllr. Lock to supply addresses.
- Cllr Morsley asked for items to take to future NAG meetings.
- Cllr Blagden asked if Terms of Reference could be drawn up for future Working Parties.
- The Clerk was asked to add Councillor contact names, addresses and telephone numbers to the Parish Council's website.
- Cllr Smith commented that the Mortimer Fun Day event on the Fairground on the 4<sup>th</sup> July had been a great success.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7:30 p.m. There will be no meeting in August.

The Meeting closed at 09.25 p.m.