



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

held on 12th November 2009 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: T Shorrocks (Chairman), R Barker, P Blagden, S Clark, A Colaço, D Ives, N Kiley (from 9:20 Agenda item 09/168 (iv) M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, A Smith, A Thorpe and the Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors P Challis and K Davies

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Philips 09/175 (ix) and (x), Cllrs Barker, Morsley and Blagden 09/168 (iv).

09/163 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th October 2009 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

09/159 Cllr Lock advised in order that she did not lose the District Councillors members bid funding she agreed that the money could be used for the new School warning signs outside St Mary's School.

09/141 The Clerk read out a report from Mr G Mayes which advised that the cleaning up of the stream bed at Tun Bridge has been completed by the Environment Agency. Also that the flap valve at the end of West Berkshire Council's Surface Water Drain in The Street has been replaced. It was also reported that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council have not had a response from Thames Water following their investigations on the Beech Hill Road to Mortimer foul sewer overflows in the Tun Bridge area from the group of manholes in Grazeley Road, believed to be due to groundwater infiltration into the sewer during wet weather. Thames Water has been asked if they could report on their findings.

09/147 The Clerk advised that the letter to Reading Buses had not yet been sent as she was still awaiting information.

09/164 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met twice since the October meeting on the 14th October and the 30th October 2009:

09/01728/LBC Little Park Farm. Conversion of former dairy (currently utility room) to family garden room. No objection.

09/01809/FULD 36 Stephens Road. Erection of 3 bedroom house and car port on adjacent land. No objection.

09/01814/HOUSE At the Planning Meeting Cllr P Challis declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion on this item. 9 and 11 King Street. Conversion of two semi-detached cottages to one detached dwelling. Ground floor extensions. Remove existing outbuildings. Object. Design and scale of extensions out of keeping with adjacent properties.

09/01828/HOUSE 27 Damson Drive. Conservatory to rear. No objection.

09/01854/HOUSE 55 The Avenue. Rear single storey addition with part two storey element to lower garden area.

09/01902/FULMAJ Object: The over large area of flat roof is out of keeping with the adjacent properties. Trunkwell Manion House Hotel. Section 73. Removal or variation of Condition 6 of permission 03/00805/FULMAJ. Bat survey.

No objection. Outside Parish Council's remit. Environmental Agency to decide.

09/01925/MDOPO Trunkwell Mansion House Hotel. Variation to S106 agreement to divide into 2 phases. Adjacent Parish Object: The Agreement dated 10 November 2004 must not be varied. The proposed Deed of Variation of the S106 Planning Obligation clearly indicates (foot of Page 2 top of page 3) that the Conservatory construction is only the prelude to the construction of the three storey extension for three storey extension for 42 hotel bedrooms. The S106 obligation is required to upgrade the foul sewage pipe line to the Mortimer Sewage farm

and it is imperative that these major works are put in hand and completed before the 42 hotel bedrooms are occupied. West Berkshire Council and Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council has a duty to protect parishioners living in the Foudry Brook vicinity from flooding with raw sewage as has happened in the recent past.

- 09/01986/FULD Land adjacent to 29-30 The Bevers. Erection of two storey building to accommodate 8 x 2 bedroom duplex units, with ancillary parking and landscape areas
No Objection to proposed development but any approval MUST be subject to the applicant entering into a legally enforceable S106 agreement for developer contribution of £78,103
- 09/02005/HOUSE 31 Groves Lea. 2 storey rear extension and conversion of garage to living accommodation.
No objection.
- 09/02046/HOUSE 48 West End Road. Kitchen extension with roofline same as existing.
No objection.

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

- 09/01339/LBC2 Harris House, The Street. Installation of satellite dish. Approval.
- 09/01476/CERTE 14 King Street. Introduction of velux window to southern roof elevation. Certificate of Lawfulness issues (General Permitted Development).
- 09/01603/HOUSE Ladybird Cottage, 34 West End Road. 2 storey side extension. Approval.

The following Planning Applications have been withdrawn:

- 09/01727 HOUSE Little Park Farm, Beech Hill Road. Conversion of former dairy to family/garden room.
- 09/01728/LBC

- 09/165 **To agree the content of the Parish Plan Refresh document with a view to recommending it for formal adoption by SMPC (attached):** Cllr Morsley proposed that the previously circulated Parish Plan Refresh document and Action Plan be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and it was unanimously resolved to duly adopt the refreshed Parish Plan. The Clerk will now forward to West Berkshire Council.

Cllr Smith commented that the CiC had managed to obtain funding through the Vibrant Villages scheme as a result of both the original Parish Plan and the Parish Plan Refresh.

- 09/166 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the committee met on the 29th October and the items discussed that are not agenda items below were:

- The budget requirements for 2010/2011 were agreed.
- The Committee considered the removal of the low kerb at the old field access on The Street. This access has not been used for a number of years due to the growth of brambles etc, however the metal gate is still in position for future use if required. The kerb and footway could be raised at a cost to the Parish Council of £1,900 however formal agreement would be required from the landowner that access is no longer required. The Committee considered this but felt that it would not greatly improve safety for pedestrians and that there is likely to be a landowner access issue. The Council asked that this be referred back to West Berkshire Council to contact the land owner.
- The TRL Traffic Survey Report has not yet been received.
- **Update on the request made to West Berkshire Council for a pedestrian Crossing in Victoria Road.** The clerk read out a letter from Mr Andrew England of West Berkshire Council which said that further to the Parish Council's request earlier in the year for a pedestrian crossing between the two Budgens stores that they had completed the assessment outside the supermarket and regretted to inform that the location does not meet the criteria for the provision of a formal crossing.

- 09/167 **To consider the following recommendations from the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee:**

i. To use the available Highways S106 money (£59,000) towards the War Memorial junction redesign project at an approximate cost of £59,000. Further to Minute Number 09/55(i) Cllr Clark proposed that SMPC approve the above in principle subject to West Berkshire Council coming back with firm figures and a breakdown budget allocation. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action.

ii. **To fund the raising of the kerbs outside the dentist and band (with bollards outside the Bank) at a cost of £3,200:** Cllr Ives proposed the above and this was seconded by Cllr Lock and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action.

iii. **To fund the installation costs for 3 new kissing gates (from dilapidated stiles) on Footpath nos 15 and 16 (near Monktons Lane) at an approximate installation cost of £760 plus VAT. West Berkshire Council will fund and supply the kissing gates:** Cllr Ives proposed the above. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously resolved. Cllr Lock is to apply for District Councillors members bid funding to cover the installation cost and if successful this will be used to fund this project instead of SMPC funds.

09/168 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the committee met on the 19th October and agreed that the items discussed were:

- The budget requirements for 2010/2011.
- The Committee considered a request from a Badgers Croft resident requesting tree work be carried out on overhanging branches but the Committee decided, after advice from the WBC tree officer, that no work was necessary.
- A letter has been sent to a resident whose property abuts the Fairground stating that under no circumstances must any more unauthorised tree work be carried out.
- The Committee considered a request from a resident to re-locate the dog bin on Footpath 37 (Windmill Road end). The Committee decided not to move the dog bin as it had been in the same location for many years.

Cllr Blagden also reported that the Princes Trust had carried out work for a day and a half on the Fairground. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter of thanks and asking if someone from SMPC could go along to the Princes Trust annual presentation. Further to Minute Number 09/155 there is a delay in obtaining advice regarding proper disposal of the pond waste. West Berkshire Council have kindly agreed to provide and fund the new hedging for the Hammonds Heath boundary.

i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the play area is in good condition. The graffiti is abating and easing off at present. The Clerk is to ask the custodian to programme to paint the play equipment in March 2010.

ii. **To agree to pressure washing/moss & lichen killing the tennis courts to kill the moss and lichen and clean the surface of the courts at an appropriate cost of £600 plus VAT:** Cllr Clark proposed that this be carried out up to a cost of £700 plus VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action. The CiC have kindly agreed to allow the contractor to use the Community Building's water supply and SMPC will reimburse the cost of this.

iii. **To consider the cost of the provision of an external electricity supply by a qualified electrician approx. 30 metres from the Community building. This would include the installation of a new private meter and consumer unit:** Cllr Clark proposed the above motion. This was seconded by Cllr Blagden and unanimously resolved. This motion was then withdrawn and the Clerk was instead asked to obtain a quotation to run an electricity supply from the main road onto the Fairground to a location to be determined with a stand alone electricity point and meter etc.

iv. **In conjunction with the above motion to consider a request from the Mortimer Village Partnership/TIM for the provision of a Christmas Tree (with lights) on the Fairground (supporting papers attached):** Cllr Thorpe commented that an article had been placed by the MVP in the Mortimer Life advertising events around the Christmas Tree which he felt put the Council in an invidious position. Cllr Morsley (as Chairman of MVP) apologised and said that this had been placed in the Mortimer Life in error. She also stated that the request for the provision of a Christmas Tree had come from TIM not the MVP. As an electricity supply to the Fairground (see above) was not going to be possible for this year members of the MVP felt that the TIM Group would wish to locate the Christmas Tree to an alternative location in order that it could be lit. Although the Council agreed in principle the actual details regarding the provision of a Christmas Tree were not discussed. Any future proposal would need to be submitted again for consideration.

In accordance with SMPC's Standing Orders the Meeting was suspended at 9:34 pm to allow Chief Inspector Robin Rickard and Inspector Jim Shaw to address the Members.

The meeting resumed at 9:45 pm.

- 09/169 **Cemetery:** Cllr Clark reported that the Committee met on the 13th October 2009. The budget requirements for the next financial year were discussed. The Committee are still pushing Englefield Estates regarding the proposed Cemetery extension. It is proposed to look into whether to engage one contractor to carry out all the general maintenance jobs next year.
- 09/170 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives reported that further to Minute Number 09/153 that a meeting has been set up regarding the role of the PCSO on the 18th November and both he and the Clerk will attend.
- 09/171 **Update on BMNAG Meeting held on 10th November 2009:** Cllr Morsley reported that Sgt Barry Walker and PC Perran Bateman of TV Police were present. Mr Neil Stacey from West Berkshire Council Highways Department was also present to take input from the NAG on traffic management issues. The issues discussed included; lack of response to previous letters from the BMNAG, 20 mph signs outside schools, the proposed closure of the Ufton Nerve level crossing, the exit onto the A4 at the Spring Inn junction and the enforcement of weight limits on roads. Mr Neil Stacey undertook to take these issues back to Mr Andrew Garratt, Principal Traffic and Road Safety Engineer at WBC and obtain answers. Sgt Barry Walker talked through the 3 partnership priorities and explained a simpler administration system which is coming in. It was agreed that the Mortimer priority should become the non-domestic burglaries which have greatly increased of late.
- 09/172 **AWE Local Liaison Committee Report:** Cllr Ives gave an overview of the AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting on the 2nd October which included safety issues and what happens in a crisis and a guided tour of the 'Crisis Room' at AWE.
- 09/173 **Report on the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) National Conference:** The Clerk gave a comprehensive report on the Society of Local Council Clerk's 35th Annual Conference which took place in Daventry from 23rd to the 25th October 2009.
- 09/174 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Mollie Lock reported that further to her report in October regarding the possible closure of the Ufton Nerve Level Crossing a meeting has now been arranged with Network Rail officials and the local Parish Councils on the 24th November to discuss this. It was agreed that Cllr Clark would attend on behalf of SMPC. The level of recycling has now reached 46% and some residual waste is now being sent to Veolia's waste to energy plant in Hampshire, at Basingstoke and Marshwood. Ultimately the plan is to recycle 50%, sending 30% to waste to energy and 20% to landfill. It has been confirmed that when the Padworth site is fully operational WBC will start to collect food waste and will want to start a fortnightly collection for residual waste in the black bins. Work has been proceeding on updating the WBC's emergency plans now known as Civil Contingency Planning. Apart from swine flue, the ongoing likelihood of flooding and preparing for accidents the HSE have now reintroduced or re interpreted the exclusion zones around AWE. Mortimer falls in the outer zone for both Aldermaston and Burghfield which can limit future development so we intend to find out how this will affect the new District Plan which could require 500 new houses in Burghfield and Mortimer. Cllr Lock reported that she had received a letter from Mr D Appleton, Head of Cultural Services, WBC, regarding the improvements wanted to Mortimer Library. These would have seen new shelving, furnishing, carpeting and lighting to the main room of the library. Before any works could be undertaken Scottish and Southern Electricity (SEE) were asked to test the electrical supply of the building. When SEE visited they raised concerns about the possibility of asbestos being present in the ceilings where the lights are fitted. A specialist inspector then visited the library and although asbestos is present there is no risk to customers or staff. As fitting new lights would involve drilling into the ceiling this would then initiate an asbestos risk. The building is completely safe if it is to be continued to be used as it is. Although Section 106 money is available for the improvement programme it cannot be used for maintenance. Therefore, no work will be able to be carried out in this financial year.
- 09/175 **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. Cllr Thorpe proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Clark 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 £30.30 inc VAT
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £56.76 (McColls £10.36, Post Office £44.40 and £2.00 Service Charge)
- ix. Ian Philips (grass cutting Cemetery) £170.52 inc VAT
- x. Ian Philips (purchase of second hand Stihl leaf blower) £103.50 inc VAT
- xi. Rob Mosley (full service of leaf blower) £50.61 inc VAT
- xii. T B Estates Ltd (hire of skip for Fairground work) £310.50 inc VAT
- xiii. Staples Ltd (stationery) £50.58 inc VAT
- xiv. APD Advance Printing (newsletter) £436.80
- xv. Royal British Legion (poppy wreath) S137 £20.00
- xvi. Stratfield Mortimer CiC (invoice for hire of hall for MVP meetings, Youth Club x 2, Gardening Club x 2 and Book Club x 1) £87.50
- xvii. Cllr P Blagden (reimbursement for hire of Mortimer Methodist Church Hall for MVP Meeting, Film Club) £20.00
- xviii. Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) not received.
- xix. Alan J Harland (internal audit fee) £270.25 inc VAT

09/176 **Correspondence:**

- West Berkshire Council, invitation to District Parish Council on the 24th November.

09/177 Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:

- WBC has reported that two West Berkshire Schools have been presented with certificates in recognition for the work they've carried out on their travel plans. One was Mortimer St John's Infant School who received a gold certificate and has involved the whole school community in their travel plan.
- Cllr Morsley reported that the newsletter was delivered to all households during the weekend of the 31st October/1st November by volunteers. She reported that there have been some problems with the origination and production of the newsletter and asked for an agenda item to discuss this at the December meeting.
- Cllr Morsley asked if terms of reference could be drawn up for working parties and the Clerk recommended that the Council wait for the production of the new model Standing Orders currently being drawn up by the National Association of Local Councils.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th December 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:21 p.m.