



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

held on 11th February 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

Apologies: Councillors: A Colaço and R Barker

Declaration of Interest: None

10/14 **Minutes and Matters Arising:**

Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th January 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

10/09: Should have read St. John's Parents and Friends Association not parents of St Marys School.

09/168 (iii): Electricity supply to the Fairground. More quotations are being obtained.

10/15 **A proposal that the current Fairground Hiring and Charging Policy (effective from 1st June 2009) does not make appropriate allowance for the use of the Fairground by non-profit making community groups, such as the schools, youth organisations and local charities and that the Policy is changed to allow groups such as these to use the Fairground without paying the daily charge of £75.00:** After discussion the Council felt that there was sufficient flexibility in the current Policy to reflect the Council's wishes and retain the parish's goodwill therefore no change is necessary.

10/16 **Finance and General Purposes Meeting – Report:** The Chairman reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee met on the 1st February 2010 and the items discussed that are not an agenda items was:

- A further update had been received from WBC informing that they will not be renewing the lease of the Parish Council office which is due to expire on the 29th March 2011 as the room will be required by the Library. It was agreed to write to Mr N Carter, Chief Executive, WBC to request a meeting to discuss the situation.
- It was agreed that the Clerk should attend the two day SLCC Practitioners Conference in Stoke on Trent at a cost of £195. It was also agreed that Cllr Blagden and the Clerk should attend an SLCC one day course about setting up and managing allotments at a cost of £95 per head. These amounts are to be taken from the training budget for 2009/2010.

i) To agree the application procedure for the allocation of the additional grant money for 2010/2011 (agenda item 09/182 refers): Cllr Thorpe proposed that the procedure for the allocation of the additional grant money would be by completing the SMPC Grant Application Form (in compliance with the SMPC Grants Policy) with a revised closing date of Thursday 28th May 2010. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously carried. It was agreed that this would be advertised in the SMPC February Newsletter and on the website.

ii) To agree Finance and General Purposes Committee's recommendation that following their review of the SMPC Risk Management Policy (12.3.09) that no change be made: Cllr Shorrocks proposed the above motion and it was seconded by Cllr Clark and carried unanimously.

10/17 **Planning:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had not met in the last month as there were no planning applications:

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

09/02292/FUL St John's Hall, 22 West End Road. Porch extension. Approval

09/02436/FULD 29-30 The Bevers. New two storey building to accommodate 8 two bedroom duplex

units. Refused. Reason lack of off-site mitigation measures to accommodate the impact of the development on local infrastructure, services or amenities.

09/02475/NONMAT 14 King Street. Addition of small vaulted roof over stairwell. Approval.

09/02302/HOUSE 62 The Avenue. Refurbishment of granny annex and new roof extension. Refused. Contrary to Supplementary Planning Guidance regarding 'granny annexes'.

Cllr Smith advised that he believes that there is a proposal to build a substantial number of houses south of the M4.

10/18 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee met on the 21st January 2010. The items discussed were:

- Work has now commenced on the raising of the kerbs outside the dentist and bank and installation of bollards outside the Bank in West End Road.
- Still investigating the War Memorial works project.
- The installation of the kissing gates on footpaths 15 and 16 is to be completed very shortly.
- The Parish Council carried out an audit of the condition of the road surfaces in late Spring last year. A report of the findings was submitted to WBC which identified the roads most in need of resurfacing, Stephens Road, West End Road and Victoria Road. West Berkshire responded at that time to say that none of these roads formed part of their five year maintenance work programme and gave no indication of any substantial repairs. Following the severe weather in January a further audit of the condition of the road surfaces will be completed by the councillors which will then be sent to WBC.
- The 2009 Traffic Flows Survey Report is being appraised by the Committee and will be reported in due course.
- A joint meeting has been arranged between St Mary's School governors and members of the Parish Council and Ward Members to find a way forward with the parking problems.
- The Committee also considered and up-dated their Parish Plan Actions.

10/19 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee met on the 25th January 2010 and the items discussed were:

- To obtain advice on the best time for seeding or turfing the area in front of the sports walls.
- The arrangements for the planting of trees from the Woodlands Trust. These are to be planted in two areas on the Fairground, in front of Badgers Croft and in the Grazing Area along the Windmill Road boundary between the horse trough and the new bench. The remaining trees are to be planted on Brewery Common and the grass verge opposite Stephens Firs (after consultation with WBC).
- The Committee also considered and up-dated their Parish Plan Actions.
- On the 4th February volunteers from the BTCV and local volunteers completed the hedge planning up to the Hammonds Heath Gate.

i. **Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** Cllr Smith reported that the play area is in good order and is due to have the Rospa Inspection in April.

10/20 **Cemetery:** No report.

10/21 **Communication Committee Report:** Cllr Morsley reported that the she and the Clerk visited the printers for the Newsletter on the 26th January to gather information for the Committee. The Committee met on the 28th January. The items discussed were:

- They agreed to try out a different format for the newsletter following advice from the printer and general discussion. For the same cost per number of A4 sheets used as with the current format, the newsletter can be presented in an A5 stapled booklet format with coloured paper cover.
- The process of dealing with the printer has been clarified and simplified.
- The process of origination editing and layout was discussed and clarified with assigned roles.
- Origination of articles. It was agreed that both the full Council and Committees to be proactive with suggested articles about the work of the committees and this would be forwarded to Committee Chairmen encouraging them to consider this for future editions.

- The next issue of the Newsletter will be delivered over the weekend of the 6th/7th March.
- 10/22 **To report on the Playbuilder Scheme and formal application process:** The Clerk and Cllr Morsley attended a presentation about the Playbuilder Scheme at Shaw House on the 26th January. Under this scheme up to £50,000 (per bid) will be available to create 11 new playgrounds for 8-13 year olds in West Berkshire before the end of the financial year 2010/2011. No match funding is required although additional money can be added to the £50,000 if wished. The scheme encourages the creation of play areas which are for example, not fenced off, encourage adventurous, challenging and even risky activities. Evidence of need through public consultation is required. 11 communities in West Berkshire received this money in 2009/2010 and all 11 are either completed or very nearly so. This is the last year of the scheme so it is now or never. An expression of Interest had to be sent in by 11th February. If SMPC are accepted it will need to move quite quickly as there is a timetable to follow. Cllr Shorrocks proposed that the process of the formal application be delegated to members of the Fairground Committee to progress with assistance from the Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously carried.
- 10/23 **Update on S106 Agreements (Highways improvements and safety issues) available for Stratfield Mortimer:** The Clerk reported that Andrew England of West Berkshire Council's Highways Department advised that there is currently £50,117 of S106 money available for SMPC, this is a difference of £5,700 that was previously advised in December 2009. Having considered the amounts in the various correspondence the Parish Council deplore the unilateral use of the S106 funds out of the allocation and it was agreed to write to WBC to ask for its reinstatement.
- 10/24 **To agree to apply for a £5,000 Community Plan Fund Grant as a result of the Parish Plan:** Cllr Morsley advised that SMPC is entitled to apply for up to £5,000 in the current financial year (09/10) from the Community Plan Fund as a result of having completed the Parish Plan Refresh. A further application can be made in the next financial year (2010/2011) for a further £5,000. This must be for a capital item and be connected with something in the Parish Plan. Cllr Morsley suggested that two items were applied for in the current year. One to consider the feasibility of providing play equipment for disabled children at the Fairground. During the Parish Plan public consultation this was requested and could be in the form of sensory equipment that can be used by all. Cllr Morsley suggested Tubano Drums could be added to the existing playground at a cost of £1,500. Secondly that Mortimer Film Club applies for £3,400 to provide equipment such as a projector which could be installed in St John's Hall and could then be available to other hall users. After a discussion Cllr Smith proposed that those Councillors who were involved in the Parish Plan Refresh come back with a proposal for consideration to the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Shorrocks and carried by 11 votes for to 1 against.
- 10/25 **To discuss possibility of applying for a District Councillor Members Capital bid for the year 2009/2010:** After a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Lock apply for a bid to fund the provision of an electricity supply to the Fairground.
- 10/26 **Report on the adoption of the Parish Plan Refresh by West Berkshire Council:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that he, Cllr Morsley and the Clerk attended West Berkshire Council on the 3rd February 2010 where WBC Cllr Pamela Bale, formally adopted the Parish Plan Refresh. Cllr Shorrocks thanked all concerned with the Parish Plan especially the working party.
- 10/27 **Update on Community Policing:** Cllr Ives appraised the meeting on the details for the joint meeting to be held on the 16th February with representatives of Burghfield and Sulhamstead Parish Councils and Thames Valley Police re the visibility of the partially funded PCSO.
- 10/28 **Report from Burghfield and Mortimer NAG Meeting 5th January 2010:** Cllr Morsley although did not attend the meeting gave an update from the Minutes of the meeting. The key points were:
- An update on new facilities for young people in the local parishes.
 - Update on traffic management.
 - Community Speedwatch. Cheryl Evans a WBC Senior Road Safety Officer introduced the concept of Community Speedwatch which is to be discussed further at the next NAG meeting.
 - Various reports from member parishes. Cllr Morsley did comment that SMPC need to

- supply her with information regarding Mortimer to feed back to the NAG.
- 10/29 **Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Mollie Lock reported the WBCs Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to look into the effectiveness of the Winter Plan during the recent bad weather. WBC are in the process of setting their budget for 2010-11. The Council's Core Strategy for development is now going out to consultation and the Council has to accept 10,500 dwellings between 2006 and 2026. Over 4,500 have already been built or been given planning permission plus a plan for 1,500 at Newbury Racecourse has been passed. The remaining large scale sites under consideration are Pincents Hill (near Tilehurst) and the Sandleford site (south of Newbury). The Burghfield-Mortimer area was originally scheduled for 800 but over half of these have already been built so it seems likely that the village will be obliged to accept about 130 extra dwellings. The Eastern Area Planning Committee passed at its meeting on the 10th February the AWE planning application for a replacement building for storing nuclear material at Aldermaston.
- 10/30 **Stratfield Mortimer Community Award:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that the Committee met on the 26th January and considered three nominations in line with the criteria of the Constitution for the Award as laid down in November 1982. All the nominations were carefully discussed and the Committee unanimously decided that the 2010 be awarded to Mrs Carmen Robinson for her long service and dedication to the Age Concern Coffee Club and other charitable works over many years. The award is to be made to Mrs Robinson at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21st April.
- 10/31 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for February:**
In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Morsley and unanimously carried.
- i. Clerk's Salary
 - ii. H M Revenue & Customs (Tax and NI)
 - iii. Clerk's Expenses
 - iv. 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 £26.10 inc VAT
 - viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £2.00 Service Charge
 - ix. Thames Valley Police (part funded PCSO quarter 3) £1,879.25
 - x. West Berkshire Council (highway works West End Road Min No 09/167 (ii) refers) £3,760.00 inc VAT
 - xi. T B Estate Services Ltd (Installation of kissing gates and supply and installation of metal field gates on Fairground) £1,934.76 inc VAT
 - xii. Dads Shop Ltd £186.68 inc VAT
 - xiii. Mr J Bull (renovation of village Notice Boards) £200
 - xiv. West Berkshire Council (hire of St John's School for Film Club) £25.50
- 10/32 **Correspondence:**
- WBC District Parish Conference Wednesday 17th March 2010.
 - Thames Valley Police 'Tackling Rural Crime Together' Conference Monday 22nd February 2010.
 - WBC Information on the West Berkshire's Core Strategy Public Consultation (which sets out the Council's vision, objectives and planning strategy for the District until 2026). Consultation from 26th February to 9th April 2010. More information about the strategy and how to comment can be found online at www.westberks.gov.uk/ldf alternatively contact the Planning Policy team at planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk or telephone 01635 519111.
 - CCB Community Planning Conference 2010 Saturday 6th March at Chieveley Village Hall.
- 10/33 **Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**
- The Clerk recommended that the fence beside the Hammonds Heath Field Gates be extended because of the gap created by the planting of the new hedge which could

constitute a security risk to the Fairground. The Clerk was asked to action this.

- Cllr Philips asked for an Agenda Item for the next meeting regarding the adoption of services etc on the Mortimer Hill estate.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th March 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:37 p.m.