



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs: S Clark and N Kiley

**Declaration of Interest:**

10/99 (x) and (ix) Cllr Philips

10/91 and 10/92 Cllrs: Morsley, Barker, Lock and Blagden

10/87 **To Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and To Report Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:**

**10/35:** The Clerk confirmed that Arlene Kersley would now address the Council on Affordable Housing prior to next month's Council Meeting (8<sup>th</sup> July) at 7pm.

**10/83:** Cllr Philips reported that the cutting of the Open Spaces at Mortimer Hill had not been done for over seven weeks and to date they had not been adopted by WBC (it was promised that this would be done by June 2010). Cllr Lock confirmed that this would be covered in her report (10/98) below.

**10/77:** Development of 3 Hammonds Heath. Cllr Challis enquired what was happening with the enforcement of this development. Cllr Lock confirmed that this would also be covered in her report (10/98) below.

**10/80:** Cllr Morsley advised of problems with the progress of the planning application for the two pieces of play equipment. The application was submitted via the on-line portal on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and there has been lots of problems getting this accepted by WBC planning department who had only just come back after over 3 weeks to say there was a problem with the Agricultural Certificates. Cllr Lock is to investigate this and get back to the Clerk.

10/88 **Finance and General Purposes Committee - To receive Meeting Report:** Cllr Shorrocks reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F & GP) met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 and the items discussed that are not Agenda items below were as follows:

- The date for the meeting with WBC re the Parish Office had still to be agreed and finalised but it is hoped it can be arranged during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July.
- To consider Community Payback Project (Thames Valley Probation Service). It was agreed that Cllr Ives, Blagden and the Clerk would identify areas where work could possibly be carried out in the village such as litter picking and tidying up and report back to the next meeting.
- Cllr Ives and Shorrocks attended a preliminary meeting with Burghfield PC regarding the forthcoming joint meeting with Thames Valley Police re the PCSO. A general agreement of how to proceed mainly in that the PCSO should only work in the three parishes was agreed as a basis for the meeting with the Police on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- An agenda item for the next F & GP meeting was to receive an update on the progress of obtaining an electricity supply for the Fairground. There is difficulty in finding a contractor willing and or able to carry out such work. It was felt that the Council need to either move forward or dismiss it.
- An agenda item for a future F & GP Meeting regarding the process of agenda items for the Annual Parish Meeting (next April).
- Two letters from St John's School regarding the use of the Fairground for their sports day and twice weekly sports activities were discussed. As it had previously been resolved by

the Council it was agreed that would be in order for the Council to use its discretion for this year so long as the relevant booking agreements were duly completed and insurance certificate produced in the normal way.

10/89 **To consider recommendation from F & GP Committee to fill Council Vacancy by co-option:**  
The Clerk advised that the Elections Officer at West Berkshire Council had written on the 1<sup>st</sup> June regarding the casual vacancy advising that as no requests to hold an election had been received the Parish Council may therefore co-opt a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy. The F & GP Committee recommended to proceed with co-option and to advertise this (with a closing date of 31.7.2010). Cllr Davies moved this; it was seconded by Cllr Morsley and unanimously resolved. Cllr Morsley proposed to invoke the procedure that was used last time with interviews to be held by a panel of members of the F & GP Committee who will then make a recommendation to the full Council. This was seconded by Cllr Blagden and unanimously resolved.

10/90 **To consider ratification of the Cricket and Tennis Club Agreements:**

Tennis Club: Cllr Shorrocks advised that further to the recommendation of the F& GP he had met with representatives of the Tennis Club and went through the changes (which were mainly grammatical and clarification not substance) and these were accepted and agreed. He proposed from the Chair that the Council now accept and agree the Tennis Club Agreement. This was carried by 11 votes in favour with 1 abstention.

Cricket Club: Cllr Shorrocks advised that the F & GP had considered and agreed some fairly minor amendments to the Agreement and he had subsequently met with representatives of the Cricket Club to go through these changes. Cllr Shorrocks explained that there was one sticking point on the Agreement which was in the Termination Clause. The Cricket Club wished for this to be extended from one playing season to 3 years. After a discussion Cllr Thorpe proposed that the Council would be willing to accept the amendment of a three year grace from one year. This was seconded by Cllr Lock and unanimously carried.

Cllr Blagden then proposed that the Council now accept and agree the Cricket Club Agreement. This was seconded by Cllr Colaço and unanimously carried.

The Clerk will now arrange for both Agreements to be signed.

Cllr Shorrocks reported that four letters had been received from Mr K Lock, Mr P Edwards, Mr N Burrows and Mr N West regarding the Cricket Club and as this has now been resolved a suitable reply will be sent to each person.

10/91 **To consider recommendation from F & GP Committee to approve payment of s137 grants:**

Cllrs Morsley, Barker, Blagden and Lock (*amended 8.7.10 to read 'on advice from WBC'*) declared an interest in the first item (Together in Mission (TIM) grant) as members of the MVP (who are a partner in the TIM Fun Day). They stated that as they (and any family members) were only members of the TIM Fun Day Organising Committee and not involved in the financial aspect of the Fun Day they did not have a prejudicial interest, and therefore did not need to leave the room, so they all remained for the debate and voted.

Grant applications:

- TIM - for Mortimer Fun Day 2010 - £750.00. Moved from the chair and carried unanimously.
- Mortimer Parent and Toddler Group - new equipment - £600.00. Moved from the Chair and carried unanimously.
- Mortimer Stingers Junior Football Club - new equipment - £750.00. This application was reduced by £50 to £700 as s137 funding cannot be given to an individual. Moved from the Chair and carried unanimously.
- Stratfield Mortimer CiC - equipment (tables and chairs) - £530.00. Moved from the Chair and carried unanimously.
- Mortimer Cricket Club - purchase of a second hand gang mower - £375.00. Moved from the Chair and carried by 11 votes in favour with 1 abstention.

An application made by the Warenes Wood District Guide Association towards the Centenary of Guiding Event for a £1,000 has been held back until clarification is received regarding what proportion of the people they are inviting are Mortimer people as grants can only be given to residents.

10/92 **To Agree recommendation from F & GP Committee that a group looks at the Community**

**Planning Grant Application in conjunction with MVP:** Cllr Shorrocks advised that only one application per parish (community) per year could be made. A new pot of money is available for 2010/2011 (as from the 1st April 2010) with a maximum of £5,000 per annum per parish. Cllr Shorrocks proposed from the Chair that representatives from the Parish Council meet with representatives from the MVP to put together a joint bid and this was carried unanimously. Cllr Shorrocks then proposed that Cllr Ives and Philips be the Council representatives and this was carried unanimously.

10/93 **To Receive Planning Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once in the last month on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010:

- 10/00761/FUL 9-13 Victoria Road (Budgens). Erection of single storey temporary supermarket store for 18 months. Support. The moving forward of refurbishment of this vital village amenity cannot be further delayed.
- 10/00986/FUL 43 West End Road. Section 73. Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of approval 05/02620/HOUSE (condition 1 time expired 21.11.05, condition 2 small further ground floor extension). No objection.
- 10/00990/HOUSE Sunny Banks, Kiln Lane. Rear two storey and single storey side extension. No objection.
- 10/01154/HOUSE Cllr Kiley declared an interest and took no part in the decision. Hunters Lodge, Brewery Common. Loft conversion with dormer windows. No objection.

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

- 10/00468/HOUSE 70 Windmill Road. Conservatory to rear. Approved
- 10/00271/HOUSE 10 Asparagus Close. Two storey side extension, reposition of garage, enlarge bedroom over. Single storey rear extension. Refused. Almost full width of site - larger tarmac surface. Would harm the character of the area and street scene and would be over development of the site.
- 10/00890/HOUSE
- 10/00891/LBC2 Mortimer Hill, The Street. Long Room and Old Stables. Installation of Photovoltaic modules (solar panels). Withdrawn at WBC's request.
- 10/00898/HOUSE
- 10/00899/LBC2

Bewley Homes, after representations from the Parish Council and District Councillors, have been forced to move the footings of the proposed property adjacent to No 39 West End Road to ensure that the building is as approved. i.e. 1 metre from the common boundary.

10/94 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee - To Receive Meeting Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met.

- The missing hoops on the kissing gate (on footpath on 15/16) are to be installed in the next two weeks.
- WBC have confirmed that the grass on Brewery Common is to be cut soon.
- WBC have replied re the position of the new cycle rack and the committee will look into this further.
- The installation of a further bollard outside the Bank has still not been resolved. WBC do not consider it appropriate to install bollards on the footway outside the dentists as they could restrict pedestrian and wheelchair movements.
- WBC have arranged for the restrictions at the mini roundabout on Victoria Road with Stephens Road/Groves Lea to be investigated and included within another parking scheme that will be advertised later in this financial year.
- The works around the War Memorial are progressing. Air Vice Marshal Barry Newton has inspected the plans and Cllr Shorrocks is to also write to him.
- WBC is to look into more parking enforcement.

10/95 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting. The Pond Dip had to be postponed due to lack of water in the pond. The two new hedges on the Fairground are struggling because of the little rain. The canes and plastic covers are to be removed. The selected weed killing on the front area has been a success.

*i.* **To Receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that the Custodian had carried out his weekly checks of the playarea and everything appears to be in order.

- 10/96 **Cemetery Committee - To receive report:** No report.
- 10/97 **Communications Committee - To receive report:** Cllr Morsley reported that the Newsletter is in its final stages of preparation. Delivery is to be 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June.
- 10/98 **To Receive Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that West Berkshire Council (WBC) and Taylor Wimpey (TW) are still in legal discussions re the final agreements to enable the adoption of the Open Spaces, in the meantime WBC have asked TW to cut the grass on the estate. The contractor appointed by TW to bring the roads up to standard has gone into liquidation and they are in the process of appointing another contractor.  
Bewley Homes in West End Road have submitted a planning application so that they are not compelled to comply with the sustainability clauses in their original planning permission and because the WBC's core strategy has not yet been finalised it is understood that WBC would not win an appeal. Another planning application has been submitted for 9-11 King Street, because construction has not followed the original permission. This has been called to committee due to the number of objections. The plot at 3 Hammonds Heath (where a large hole has been dug), the applicant has been asked to submit another application as no plans had been submitted for a basement and they are building 'at risk'. The Children's Centre beside Mrs Bland's School is nearing completion and the extended services are beginning to be provided in Mortimer. Cllr Lock also advised that West Berkshire Council are having to cut their budget by 3.5m.
- 10/99 **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. 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 £24.99 inc VAT
  - viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £50.35 (£48.35 Post Office and £2.00 Service Charge)
  - ix. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £174.28 inc VAT
  - x. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (waste removal Fairground) £246.75
  - xi. CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) annual membership £29.00
  - xii. Dads Shop Ltd £81.70
  - xiii. Mr A W Wilkin (upgrade of Parish Council Logo) £164.00
  - xiv. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) £410.46
  - xv. Thames Water Plc (water trough Fairground) DD £7.85
  - xvi. Metrosigns (spare keys for notice board) £8.23 inc VAT and postage
  - xvii. WBC (planning application fee - Playbuilder) £85.00
- 10/100 **To Receive Correspondence:**
- Invitation from Mortimer St Mary's Junior School to their Open Day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June.
- 10/101 **To Receive Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**
- Cllr Morden advised that WBC had received a Freedom of Information request from Thatcham Town Council regarding the contribution of other Council's towards leisure centres, including Willink.
  - The Clerk advised that the new accounts package has been installed and that she had received a day's training.
  - Cllr Morden reported that there had been a problem with waste products left by the Circus. The Clerk reported that the Fair had kindly dealt with it and the Clerk is to write to the Circus and send a letter of thanks to the Fair.
  - The Clerk was asked to write to the residents next to Budgens regarding their overhanging tree.
  - Cllr Philips asked if an update of the Mortimer Hill adoption could be an agenda item next

month.

- The Clerk confirmed that the allotments membership had been received and that the Planning Committee would now look into finding possible sites.
- Cllrs Colaço and Lock came up with a couple of possible suggestions for an alternative meeting room for the Council, although one was outside of the parish so would not be suitable. As it was agreed at the May meeting this would not be considered further until the outcome of the meeting with WBC regarding the Parish Office is known.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:11 pm