



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: R Barker (in the Chair), P. Blagden, P Challis, A Colaço, D Ives, N Kiley, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Thorpe and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllrs: T Shorrock, , A Philips, S Clark and K Davies,

**Declaration of Interest:**

None

- 10/102 **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and To Report Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 were approved as a true record after an addition to Minute Number 10/91 (*'on advice from WBC'*) and these were signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:**

**10/90:** The Clerk confirmed that both the Tennis Club and Cricket Club Agreements have been signed.

**10/92:** Cllr Ives confirmed that Community Grant Application in conjunction with the MVP is progressing.

- 10/103 **To consider granting a \$137 grant to Warenes Wood District Guide Association for £1,000 (application held over from previous meeting):** Cllr Lock declared an interest and left the room at 7:42pm. Cllr Barker reported that more information had been obtained from the Guides and it has been confirmed that approximately half of the people invited to the event are Mortimer residents. Cllr Ives proposed that a grant of £500 be made and this was seconded by Cllr Kiley and unanimously agreed. Clerk to action. Cllr Lock returned to the room (8:45pm)

- 10/104 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met twice in the last month on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010:

10/01065/FUL 6 Victoria Road (Budgens south side). Temporary change of use to a contractor's office for 18 months. No objection.

10/01220/HOUSE 9 and 11 King Street – variation of condition 3 (windows) of planning permission 09/01814/HOUSE. No objection

10/01281/HOUSE 12 Victoria Road. Rear extension and garage. No objection

10/01210/FUL The Fairground, The Street. Installation of playground equipment. Support: This initiative was included in the Parish Plan (adopted by WBC) following extensive village consultation and makes use of available grants and funding.

10/01412/FULD 42 West End Road. Erection of 3 bedroom detached house with parking at the rear.

Object:

1. Gross overdevelopment of the site.
2. West wall is tight to adjacent property and will compromise or destroy the existing hedge.
3. Legal right of way over rear access has not been established.

In any event rear access is only 3.6m width (see Bob Turner's highways letter of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (to Tony Derrett – points 3 and 4).

10/01417/FULD/ 54 West End Road. Alteration of existing building and erection of 6 new dwellings and  
10/01415/FULD associated works (01417 includes two detached double garages). Cllr Barker declared and interest (adjacent boundary)

Object: Notwithstanding the Inspector allowing an earlier appeal on this site the PC objects:

1. Overdevelopment of back and garden no longer designated as 'brownfield'
2. Access too narrow for anticipated vehicle movements.
3. Overlooking of adjacent properties.

Allowed appeal made much of existing tree screening. There are no T.P.Os on any trees

within the site and those on the eastern boundary are vulnerable for removal now or at some later date as they will shade the small garden plots.

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

10/00789/CERTP 14 St Mary's Road. Installation of photo voltaic solar panels in garage roof. Refused. The Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 2008 states that solar P.V. or solar thermal equipment must not exceed the height of the wall or roof of the building. This fails because the garage is flat roofed and is detached and at the bottom of the garden

10/00883/HOUSE 36 Briar Lea Road. Second floor side extension. Approved.

10/00873/FULMAJ 33-37 West End Road. Section 73 removal of condition 6 (code for sustainable homes). Approved. Reason sustainable construction needs to be supported by a full Development Plan Document whereas WBC at present is supported by a supplementary planning document which has not gone through the same public consultation process. As a result a number of appeals have been dismissed.

New Powers for Local Authorities to stop 'Garden Grabbing': On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Steve Quartermain, Chief Planner, for Communities and Local Government wrote to all the Chief Planning Officers of Local Planning Authorities confirming that:

1. Private residential gardens are now excluded from the definition of previously developed land in Annex B.

2. The national indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare is deleted from paragraph 47.

These changes emphasize that it is for local authorities and communities to take the decisions that are best for them. The Planning Inspectorate are expected to have regard of this new policy when considering appeals.

10/105 **To Receive update on Planning Application for Fairground:** Cllr Morsley advised that the planning application for the two pieces of equipment have now been submitted successfully. Further to a memorandum from WBC Archaeologist a few items of play equipment have been re-positioned to meet WBC's requirements and an amended contractors plan is to be submitted.

10/106 **Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee - To Receive Meeting Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met. He reported on outstanding matters:

- The missing hoops on the new kissing gate (on footpath No 15) have been received and are to be installed in the next two weeks.
- The grass on Brewery Common has been cut and has been done well.
- Cllr Ives has made contact with owners of the Chinese Take Away regarding the possible position of the new cycle rack but received a negative response. It was agreed to follow this up with a letter.
- The works around the War Memorial have already commenced.
- WBC have confirmed that the Parking Wardens are to visit during the roadworks.

10/107 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee had not met but is to meet shortly. One item to be considered is the grass cutting regime for the grazing area. He confirmed that following the Fun Day there had been no damage to the Fairground. The Parish Council offered a vote of thanks to the Fun Day organisers.

*i.* **To consider treatment of Crassula Helsii in the pond by the War Memorial by Waterland Management Ltd at a cost of £325 plus VAT:** Cllr Blagden moved the above motion, this was seconded by Cllr Morsley and carried unanimously. Clerk to action.

*ii.* **To Receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that the Custodian had carried out his weekly checks of the playarea and all equipment is in good order. At the present time broken glass is a problem. Cllr Ives confirmed that the PCSO is aware of this.

10/108 **Cemetery Committee - To receive report:** No report.

*i.* **To agree the part payment for repairs/improvement to the surface beneath the lychgate at St Mary's Church (also the access to the Parish Council Cemetery) up to a maximum of £350. The remainder of the project (£700) to be funded by a WBC members bid grant:** Cllr Thorpe moved the above motion, this was seconded by Cllr Kiley and carried unanimously. Clerk to action.

10/109 **Communications Committee - To receive report:** Cllr Morsley reported that the Newsletter had been produced and successfully delivered. The next Newsletter is scheduled to go out at the end of

October and she reminded councillors that submissions will be required ideally by the end of September.

- 10/110 **To receive report regarding joint meeting with TVP re the PCSO:** Cllr Ives reported that representatives from both Mortimer and Burghfield Parish Councils met with Thames Valley Police Representatives (C I Judith Johnson TVP, Insp. Andy Ward, Sgt Barry Walker, PC Perran Bateman and PCSO Steve Innes) on the 15<sup>th</sup> June to follow up from the previous meeting. Attention was drawn to the fact that the signed contract was specific to the local parish councils and the PCSO post had been established on that basis. Disappointment was expressed that PCSO Steve Innes had been employed at Newbury and Beech Hill since the last assurances were received, and the Council's are of the opinion that he should be employed 100% within local parishes apart from national emergencies. It was also expressed that the Parish Councils had contributed to the creation of the post on the basis of increased police presence on the local street, and this should be maintained to the detriment of any outside activities. Insp Andy Ward pointed out that Steve's time outside the parishes amounted to 5.5 hours, leaving 98.5% spent within the three parishes during the previous three months. There may be further small periods of time when out of local area for training purposes was required, but a replacement PCSO for these hours would be provided. CI Judith Johnson was of the opinion that specific parts of the contract may need to be reviewed and clarified prior to the next accounting period. Steve Innes pointed out that the revised shift pattern recently introduced would lead to an improved street presence. The Parish Councils emphasised that PCSO Steve Innes was greatly respected and no adverse comments were directed at him or his performance. There remained no further cause for immediate concern as long as the contract conditions were upheld and it was considered that another meeting was not required. The monthly meetings with the Parish Council appointed representatives and Steve Innes would continue, in accordance with the contractual conditions, and would include the previous months' crime statistics for the parishes and other relevant activities.

**To receive monthly meeting report from PCSO Meeting:** Cllr Ives reported that the monthly meeting took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. The PCSO's half year Report was circulated to all members this included the following.

- Crime is down considerably, the average number of crimes in this area has decreased from 85 to 57.7 (32.2%) compared with the same three month period last year.
- Noted decline in all crime attendance since November 2009.
- Alcohol and tobacco seizures have averaged one per month across the first six months of the year.
- Reactive jobs; PCSO Robert Clark and Steve Innes have attended 120 incidents up to June 19 2010, 48% of these have been in Burghfield, 43% in Mortimer and 4% in Sulhamstead with 5% located out of co funded areas.
- There was a high incidence of Burglary non dwelling from July 2009 to November 2009. The main offender was apprehended and returned to prison. By comparison there have been 28 burglaries in the last quarter, the previous quarter 48 and the preceding quarter 96.
- An overview of recent local successes, community engagement and future projects was given.

- 10/111 **To Receive Meeting Report from Willink JMC Meeting:** There was a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010 although Cllr. Morden was unable to attend but the following was discussed:

1. The JMC is now designated as 'The Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee. This reflects its revised role as Parkwood Leisure, having been contracted by West Berkshire Council as ipso facto the Managers.
2. Jon Rose is now the new full time duty manager.
3. New playroom staff now offers child care for 2 – 5 year olds.
4. There has been a decline in usage of 4% during the past year probably due to staff shortages but this is currently being rectified.

- 10/112 **To Receive Report on the adoption of services etc. on the Mortimer Hill Estate:** Cllr Lock reported that WBC cannot make Taylor Wimpey hand over the Open Spaces. There is no change on the adoption of the roads/play area etc. It was agreed to keep this item on the Agenda until it is resolved.

- 10/113 **To Receive Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported the main news this month is about the cuts in Government grant and the effect on WBC. The Government recently announced cuts of £6.2 billion in public spending and of this Local Government has to bear £1.2 billion. WBC has an immediate cut of £1.9m in its grant, of this nearly £1m is from Children and Young People while the Transport and Planning grant of £840,000 is abolished. One grant which has proved popular, providing free swimming for the over 60s has also been withdrawn a year ahead of the original schedule. WBC has not yet decided whether to continue this facility for another year or not. The Government had also promised a grant of £3.2m as a reward for WBC meeting certain targets and this amount will be cut to £1.6m. The Executive held a special meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> July to consider where to make the resulting cuts in services and announced that up to 50 staff will be made redundant. Work has started on the various roads in the village to be repaired during July. Cllr Lock advised that the planning applications for The Red House development and 42 West End Road had been called to Planning Committee. The Enforcement Officer had visited the Bewley Homes site in West End Road due to infringements to plans and the footpath obstruction. The Tree Officer is to visit the Red House site to put Tree Preservation Orders on individual trees. Cllr Lock then read out information regarding Stephens Firs, Victoria Road and The Street carriageway resurfacing works. Also notification of Hammonds Heath closure at its junction with the Street to allow for road repairs and work around the war memorial. Cllr Lock was asked a question regarding the house being built at 3 Hammonds Heath. She confirmed that there is a covenant on it and it can only be built to a certain height.

10/114 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for July:**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Blagden proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Morden 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 £33.18 inc VAT
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £11.90, (£9.90 McColls (papers) and £2.00 Service Charge)
- ix. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £174.23 inc VAT
- x. Open Spaces Society (annual membership) £40.00
- xi. RBS Software Solutions (new accounts package installation, set up, training and one year support) £772.33 inc VAT
- xii. RM Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) not received
- xiii. Fieldwork, Rest and Play (supply and install 8 new swing seats, chains, shackles, bolts and bearings) £963.50 inc VAT
- xiv. S137 Grant Cheques:

TIM (Together in Mission)	£750.00
Mortimer Parent and Toddler Group	£600.00
Mortimer Stingers Junior Football Club	£750.00
Stratfield Mortimer CiC	£530.00
Mortimer Cricket Club	£375.00
- xv. APD Printing and Design (Newsletter) £400.00
- xvi. Thames Valley Police Authority (part funded PCSO quarter 1) £1,928.75
- xvii. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying invoice) £41.48 inc VAT
- xviii. BT (quarterly line rental Parish Office) £58.76 inc VAT

10/115 **To Receive Correspondence:**

- A letter from Mortimer Youth Club asking if the Council could consider a proposal for

housing a shed inside of the tennis courts. This is to be an agenda item for September meeting.

- Sovereign and South West invitation to area forum 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.
- WBC invitation to District Parish Conference 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

10/116 **To Receive Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- In the absence of Cllr Shorrocks, the Parish Council representative, Cllr Ives gave a brief overview of the NAG meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Most of the issues raised were regarding other parishes. No more volunteers have come forward to work in the Police Station in Mortimer. Cllr Shorrocks had raised the problem of street parking in Mortimer, although no longer a Police issue, he considered could be discussed as a neighbourhood problem. He was advised that WBC should be able to get more wardens out in Mortimer but it was doubtful anyone would come to a NAG meeting but the outcomes of his contact with WBC could be discussed at the next NAG meeting.
- The Clerk advised that a lengthy document had been received from WBC entitled Joint Police and Unitary Authority Gypsy and Traveller Protocol. It was suggested that this be an agenda item for the September Meeting and a précis of the document will be sent out with the Agenda.
- Prior to the meeting Mrs Arlene Kersley had addressed the councillors regarding the provision of low cost housing. It was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the September meeting.
- This council meeting was held in the Church rather than the lounge and the members present agreed that it was much better and it was agreed to continue with this arrangement.
- Cllr Lock raised concern regarding the Code of Conduct and Members' interests and quoted from the Code of Conduct Pocket Guide May 2007 with particular regard to the previous minutes, S137 grants (10/91).
- The Planning Committee were asked to look into possible sites for the provision of Allotments (after consultation with the Clerk and information obtained) and report back to the September Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:17pm