



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th October 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: T Shorrocks (Chairman), R Barker, P. Blagden, P Challis, S Clark, A Colaço (7:38), K Davies, D Ives, M Lock (7:42), J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, P Wingfield and the Clerk.
1 Member of the Public was present.

10/137 **To receive Apologies and Declaration of Interest:**

Apologies: Cllr: A Thorpe.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Philips (10/54 ix);

10/138 **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 9th September 2010 and To Report Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th September 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

10/126: The clerk reported that the Community Plan Fund Grant application for £2,941.00 towards two new seesaws had been successful and the project can now be progressed.

10/128: It was confirmed that this item had been held over until the next F & GP Meeting.

10/139 **To receive Finance and General Purposes Committee Report:** The Vice Chairman reported that the Committee met on the 11th October 2010 and the items discussed that are not on this agenda were:

- The Council will consider making provision for the renewal of the PCSO Contract when setting its budget.
- It is believed the Government will make their final decision on the Playbuilder funding on the 20th October and the Committee agreed to consider other avenues of alternative funding, if required, and report back to the next committee meeting.

10/140 **To agree Finance & General Purposes Committee (F & GP) recommendation to accept the new Terms of Reference for the new Lease for the Parish Council Office:** The Clerk confirmed that the couple of slight amendments identified to the Heads of Terms have now been made by WBC. Cllr Barker proposed that the Council now accept the Heads of Terms for a new two year rolling lease (with six months written notice) from the end of March 2011. This was seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously resolved. Clerk to action.

10/141 **To consider recommendation from F & GP to revise the SMPC Grant Application Procedure:** Cllr Barker proposed that a defined amount of money be set aside each year for grants as part of the budget setting process in place of the current system. This was seconded by Cllr Morsley and carried by 11 votes in favour to 2 abstentions. The F & GP Committee will revise the existing Grants Policy and procedure and present these to the February Parish Council Meeting.

10/142 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met twice since the September Parish Council Meeting on the 14th September and the 30th September.

10/01891/FULD 42 West End Road. Erection of 3 bedroom detached house with parking at the rear and stopping off front access from West End Road.
Object.

1. Gross over development of site.
2. West wall will compromise or destroy existing hedge.
3. Legal right of way to rear access not established.

Rear access, in any event, only 3.6m wide.

10/02045/HOUSE Seasons, Summerlug. Rear conservatory. No objection.

10/02075/FULD 54 West End Road (The Red House). Section 73 removal of condition 17 of planning permission 08/02349/FULD

No objection. The imposition or removal of these conditions is not within the

- remit of the Parish Council.
- 10/02127/FUL Mortimer Village Hall (St John's) 22 West End Road. Porch extension to existing village Hall. No objection.
- 10/02153/HOUSE 43 West End Road. Single storey side extension and rear extension. Pitched tiled roofs to replace existing flat roofs. No objection
- 10/02173/HOUSE The Haverthuset, Mortimer Hill. Demolition of lean-to and construction of two storey extension. No objection.
- 10/02247/HOUSE 1 Kiln Lane. Single storey rear extension to form conservatory and lounge including garage conversion. No objection.
- 10/02287/HOUSE Kypings, Ravensworth Road. Removal of flat roof to bathroom at rear on first floor. New pitched roof. No objection.
- The following recommendations have been received from the Officers at West Berkshire Council under delegated powers.
- 10/01415/FULD 54 West End Road (The Red House) alteration of existing building and erection of 6 dwellings.
- 10/01417/FULD Refused:
1. The increased density of development, shallow depth of gardens and small size of plots is out of character with surrounding area.
 2. Useable garden area is reduced by tree crowns, sustainability of trees and substandard garden area.
 3. Inappropriate infill development on previously undeveloped land.
 4. Fails to provide off site mitigation measures.
 5. Insufficient information to demonstrate the movement of delivery vehicles.
- 10/01806/HOUSE 10 Asparagus Close. Single storey rear extension. Approved.
- 10/01942/HOUSE 23 Stephens Firs. Single storey front extension. Approved.
- 10/01891/FULD 42 West End Road. Erection of 3 bedroom detached house within the garden. This application has been withdrawn.

10/143 **To receive report on the WBC Local Development Framework proposed focused changes to the Core Strategy:** The Core Strategy as originally published envisaged 800 dwellings in the 'East Kennet Valley' area. The focused change now states:- 'with the main focus in the Rural Service Centres of Mortimer and Burghfield Common'

1. The Parish Council has challenged the soundness of this proposed amendment.
2. The proposed amendment focuses 800 dwellings on Mortimer and Burghfield and by so doing reduces Woolhampton, Aldermaston and the rest of the East Kennet Valley to a negligible role.
3. Any major increase of dwellings within Mortimer will be unsustainable.
4. Both educational and medical facilities in Mortimer have reached saturation.
5. Both St John's and St Mary's Schools are over subscribed.
6. St John's School cannot be further expanded on its present site, a problem that no amount of S106 contribution can rectify.
7. Mortimer Surgery has reached the limit of expansion, a point made by WBC when approving the Surgery's last Planning Application. It has outgrown its site.
8. Without major re-building and re-location of both St John's School and Mortimer Surgery, additional dwellings on this scale cannot be sustained within the village infrastructure.

The council offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Morden for his work on this strategy.

10/144 **To Receive Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Report:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met since the last council meeting but that still awaiting a response from Mr A Garratt of WBC on parking enforcement within the parish. WBC has been reminded that still some remedial work to be carried out at the war memorial junction. It became apparent that WBC are discharging surface water from the road directly into the Pond at Heath End Common (by the War Memorial), without the installation of an interceptor to protect the pond (and Great Crested Newts - Triturus Cristatus) from pollution. These drains were put in when the works were carried out and it was resolved that the Clerk contact WBC, Environment Agency and the Pang and Kennet Valley to find a satisfactory solution.

Cllr Challis advised that further to Minute 10/116 he had received a reply from WBC to his letter

- which advised that as a result of additional drain works on footpath 23 (from Longmoor Lane to Brewery Common) further drainage problems had arisen. WBC has undertaken to investigate this, meet with Cllr Challis on site and report back. Cllr Challis informed the Council that he wished to resign from the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.
- 10/145 **To receive Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee had not met.
- i. To receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:* The Clerk reported that the surface condition between the two goals is poor, corrosion on multiplay and one of the foot rails is loose. Everything else is in order. Cllr Blagden reported that the play area gate had been looked at time and time again by RoSPA, the contractor, Council Members and the Clerk who have all confirmed that the gate is working properly. It was agreed to place an article in the next Newsletter to remind parishioners to use the gate with the appropriate care.
- 10/146 **To review recommendation to install a green acrylic surface between the two sports walls at a cost of £30,000 plus VAT (to be funded from s106 monies):** Further to Minute No 10/124 (iii) the Clerk explained that she and Cllr Blagden had met with the contractor on the 7th October to discuss creating two separate goalmouth areas. She then read out a letter subsequently received from the contractor who did not recommend this course of action. Reservations regarding surfacing this area with green tarmac were expressed. It was therefore agreed to refer this back to Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee to look at further options for the sports walls.
- 10/147 **To consider proposal for the provision of an external electricity supply point etc to the Fairground at a total cost of £2,585 inc VAT:** Quotations etc, obtained on behalf of the Council by Cllr Kiley were forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Blagden advised that he, Cllr Ives and the Clerk met with representatives from Southern Electric to look at the proposals. After a discussion Cllr Blagden proposed that the Council agree in principle to the provision of a power supply on the Fairground, this was seconded by Cllr Challis and unanimously carried. It was agreed to come back to the next meeting with revised proposals and costings.
- 10/148 **To consider proposal from TIM to erect a Christmas Tree with lights on the Fairground for the duration of the Christmas period:** The Clerk read out a further letter from TIM giving further details of the proposed scheme. The Building Control Surveyor at WBC confirmed that TIM would not be permitted to run an electricity cable from the Community Building to the Christmas tree at a depth of 150mm across public land; this would need to be to a minimum depth of 450mm and carried out and connected by a Commercial Electrician (also a requirement of the Community Centre). After a discussion Cllr Barker proposed that a Christmas Tree be erected on the Fairground (in line with Fairground Policy and subject to TIM taking responsibility and insuring the tree etc.) to be lit by solar/battery powered tree lights. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and carried by 12 votes in favour and 1 against. Cllrs Blagden, Ives and the Clerk to meet on site and agree the position for the tree. The Clerk to action all other paperwork.
- 10/149 **To receive Cemetery Committee Report:** Cllr Clark advised that following Mrs Sergeant's representation to last month's Parish Council Meeting (in the public questions part) a letter had been sent addressing the issues raised. Following Minute No 10/108 (i) Cllr Clark confirmed that work to the surface beneath the lychgate at St Mary's Church had not been carried out satisfactorily (the gate would not close and the area still flooded) and the contractor has been asked to review this and payment held.
- 10/150 **To receive update on Parish Council Newsletter:** Cllr Morsley advised that as there is very little material the Newsletter had been delayed until the early part of November.
- 10/151 **To receive AWE LLC Meeting Report:** Cllr Lock gave a report on the meeting held on the 30th September. A copy of this will be available in the Parish Council Office.
- 10/152 **To receive meeting report on PCSO Meeting 5.10.10:** Cllr Ives reported that this was a short meeting as the level of crime has reduced quite considerably. The Police now understand that the PCSO can only be used within the designated Parishes.
- 10/153 **To Receive Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that due to the Government cuts of over £3m about 12% of WBC posts are being held vacant. This is affecting various services and causing delays in planning. WBC is introducing a flexible working scheme called 'Timelord' which means staff can choose to work wholly or partly from home or stay full time in the office. The aim is to save desk space and to close office buildings in Newbury. The new Burghfield

Children's Centre officially opened at Blands School on the 25th September. The Centre caters for children across the area and does outreach work in the Mortimer Community building. At Mortimer Hill the remedial works on the roads are ongoing and the adoption of the public open space proceeds slowly.

10/154 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for October:**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies 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. 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 £27.39 inc VAT
- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £22.95 (£10.85 McColls (papers), Post Office £10.10 and £2.00 Service Charge)
- ix. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £174.23 inc VAT
- x. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying invoice) £34.43 inc VAT
- xi. T B Estate Services Ltd (surface improvements to lychgate) £848.35 inc VAT not paid
- xii. Thames Water Direct Debit (water trough Fairground) £9.44
- xiii. Thames Valley Police (Part Funded PCSO Salary Q2) £1,928.75
- xiv. Dads Shop Ltd £193.87 inc VAT
- xv. British Telecom (line rental Parish Office) £60.33 inc VAT

10/155 **To Receive Correspondence:**

- Invitation from WBC to District/Parish Conference Special event, on WBC budget priorities for next year, on the 9th November 2010.
- Invitation from BALC to AGM on Saturday 6th November at Grazeley Village Hall.
- Letter from BALC re Training Event on 'Being a Good Employer and the new Equalities 2010 Act' on Thursday 25th November.
- Letter from WBC advising that two amounts of S106 Developer contributions (public open spaces - Fairground) had been received for £14,174.39 and £1,870.
- Invitation from Woodlands Officer, South East England Region re Englefield Estate stakeholders meeting.

10/156 **To Receive Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**

- Cllr Morsley advised that MVP had also been successful in their Community Award Grant bid.
- An Agenda item for the next meeting re the adoption of services etc. on the Mortimer Hill Estate.
- The bollards at Summerlug have still not been fixed.

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

The Meeting closed at 09:31pm