



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th November 2010 @ 7.30 p.m.

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

10/157 **To receive Apologies and Declaration of Interest:**
Apologies: None

Declaration of Interest: Cllr A Philips (10/171ix)

10/158 **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 14th October 2010 and To Report Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th October 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

In addition to accounts for payment 10/154 (xi) payment 10/134(xxxi) was annotated 'not paid' in the 9th September 2010 minutes and initialled by the Chairman. See 10/165 below.

10/159 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once since the September Parish Council Meeting on the 27th October.

10/02007/FUL Little Park Farm, Beech Hill road. Change of use of part agricultural barn to vehicle repair. No objection.

10/02277/HOUSE 16 The Avenue. Single storey rear garden room/porch and door and window in north side elevation of existing house. No objection.

10/02424/HOUSE 8 Windmill Corner. Demolition of old outbuildings and provision of single and two storey extension. No objection.

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

10/01220/HOUSE 9 and 11 King Street. Various variations to original approved application. Approved.

10/02031/CERTP 17 The Beavers. Demolition of existing rear conservatory and replace with new. Certificate of Lawfulness. Granted.

10/02045/HOUSE Seasons, Summerlug. Rear conservatory. Approved.

10/02127/FUL St John's Hall. Porch extension. Approved retrospective.

10/02153/HOUSE 43 West End Road. Single storey side and rear extensions plus tiled roof and front to replace flat roofs. Approved.

10/02247/HOUSE 1 Kiln Lane. Single storey rear extension to form conservatory and lounge including garage conversion. Refused. Over development in the countryside the cumulative increase in size over the original dwelling would be 128%.

10/02287/HOUSE Kypings, Ravensworth Road. Pitched roof to replace flat roof to bathroom at rear on first floor. Approved.

10/02173/HOUSE The Havethuset, Mortimer Hill. Demolition of lean-to and construct two storey extension. Withdrawn.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO): The Red House, 54 West End Road. TPO's have been placed on four specific trees on this site:

1. Nootka Cypress
2. Sycamore
3. Ash
4. Western Red Cedar.

Objectors have until the 3rd December 2010 to make their comments.

10/160 **To receive report on the WBC Core Strategy Hearing of 9th/10th November 2010:** Cllr Morden attended the hearing before the Planning Inspectorate and re-iterated SMPC's concerns regarding housing numbers for Mortimer and Burghfield, the overwhelming of the village infrastructure, Rural Exception Sites and Gypsy and Travellers Pitches. The Inspector will submit his report and recommendations to WBC early in 2011 to revise their draft. Assuming the new Core Strategy is

adopted we can expect a site specific plan to be published within 18 months. This again will be open to Public Consultation and to a further examination before an Inspector. The Parish Council's main concern will be the placement of the 800 proposed houses focused on Mortimer and Burghfield, the Infrastructure and Gypsy Pitches. An open forum to canvass parishioners' views will be held.

It was unanimously agreed to provide a facility (e.g. St John's Hall) for an Open Forum for Members of the Public.

10/161 **To Receive Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Report:** Cllr Ives gave a report from the Committee Meeting on the 8th November 2010. The main points the Committee discussed were:

- Lack of parking enforcement in the village and the lack of the promised evidence from Mr Garratt of West Berkshire Council (WBC). The Clerk has chased.
- WBC has confirmed that the provision of an extra bollard outside the Bank had been overlooked and has now instructed their contractors to put it in as soon as possible.
- WBC was to complete the hedge trimming to improve sight lines at the war memorial junction during the week commencing 1st November but that had not yet been done. It was the view of the Committee that they are not happy with the sight lines but are willing to wait and see whether the cutting back of the hedge will make any difference otherwise will ask for a further site visit with WBC.
- Further to the Full Council Minute No 10/144 of the 14th October advice has been sought from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding WBC discharging surface water from the road directly into the Pond at Heath End Common (by the War Memorial), without the installation of an interceptor The EA are investigating this and will give feedback in due course.
- The Committee considered the information from WBC regarding the Salt Bin Policy and recommends that SMPC do not provide additional salt bins within the village.
- The Committee considered the use of the 2009 Traffic Flows Survey Report and felt it is for information only and not a lot can be done with it. It shows that on average 50% of traffic travelling through the village is speeding. The data will be retained in the Parish Office for future information.
- The Committee are to explore further locations for the location of the cycle rack purchased with the WBC Community Plan Grant as the previously suggested location outside McColls is not feasible.

It was agreed that the issue with the Heath End Common Pond would be put on the next full council agenda in December.

10/162 **To receive Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee Report:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee had not met and the next Committee Meeting is on the 29th November 2010.

- 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. These items are to be considered at the next Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee Meeting.

10/163 **To receive update on the Playbuilder Playground Project:** The Clerk reported that after a four month wait the Parish Council has received good news from West Berkshire Council that all of its Playbuilder Grant Funding is secure after a Government U-Turn over the initial decision to withdraw the funding. The order for the agreed new playground equipment, which has also received planning consent from West Berkshire Council, has now been processed and installation is planned to start the first week in January 2011 with completion by the 31st March 2011.

10/164 **To review the feasibility of the provision of an electricity outlet on the Fairground:** Cllr Blagden advised that he had assessed the need for an electricity outlet by talking to potential users such as the Fun Day and Fun Run who appear happy to continue with their present arrangements. Cllr Blagden therefore proposed to defer making a decision on this until a potential user can be identified. This was seconded by Cllr Ives and carried by 12 votes in favour to 2 abstentions.

10/165 **To receive Cemetery Committee Report:** Following Minute Nos 10/108 (i) and 10/149 Cllr Clark confirmed that work to the surface beneath the lych-gate at St Mary's Church had now been carried out satisfactorily. It was agreed that the payment to the contractor can now be made. Cllr

- Clark also advised that the bench in the Cemetery had been vandalised and the Custodian had repaired it. This is to be closely monitored.
- 10/166 **To receive update on Parish Council Newsletter:** Cllr Morsley advised that the next edition of the Newsletter is in its last stages of production and is due to be delivered during the weekend of the 27th November.
- 10/167 **To receive report from NAG Meeting of 19th October 2010:** Cllr Shorrocks gave an overview of the NAG Meeting Minutes of the 19th October. The report was noted and it was also noted that the Meeting is short of a secretary.
- 10/168 **To receive meeting report from Willink Joint Advisory Committee Meeting 25th October 2010:** Cllr Morden attended the Joint Advisory committee on the 19th October 2010. In the light of the Government's Spending Review we were advised by WBC Officers that, to date, the budget remains in tact.
- All leisure activities are subject to VAT which will rise to 20% from January 2011 and the various activity charges will therefore rise from 1st January to reflect this and other increased costs in line with R.P.I. The increases will be between 2.5% and 5.0%. Not surprisingly swimming during the period June to September rose to 11,138 whilst other activities showed a slight decrease. All in all, the facility is well used and maintained.
- 10/169 **To receive update on the adoption of services on the Mortimer Hill Estate:** Concern was noted regarding the continued lack of adoption of services on Mortimer Hill. Cllr Davies proposed that further to the decision made in Minute Number 10/131 that the Council now go ahead and write to West Berkshire Council and Taylor Wimpey. This was seconded by Cllr Clark and put to the vote and carried by 10 votes in favour to 2 against and 2 abstentions.
- 10/170 **To receive report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that the Government cuts of £3m are having an effect on WBC and about 12% of Council posts are being held vacant. The Government Grant will be cut by 27% over the next four years with a 45% cut in capital expenditure over the same period. One immediate effect is a decision by the Council's Executive to make savings of £3.1m in the salary bill which means deleting 140 posts from the establishment. Discussions are taking place and will be announced in due course. Although Council Tax will be frozen in the coming year, the Government have promised to give some financial assistance to Councils which keep future tax increases to less than 2.5% at the same time they have announced a 1% increase in the Public Works Loan Board interest rate. The council is starting an initiative to ask the public to participate in setting the WBC's budget through an online simulator. This can be viewed at www.westberks.gov.uk/budgetsimulator to see which services the Council provides and enter the choice of where spending should be increased or cut. Five out of nine day care centres in West Berkshire are closing, including Windmill Court and the Parish Council expressed their concern about the loss of this local facility.
- 10/171 **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 Davies proposed that these be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Thorpe 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 £29.56 inc VAT
 - viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit (£2.00 Service Charge)
 - ix. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £174.23 inc VAT
 - x. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground July) £282.88 inc VAT
 - xi. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground Aug/Sept) £651.75 inc VAT
 - xii. Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd (new picnic bench Fairground) s106 £537.22
 - xiii. Engravaservice (new Remembrance Day Signs) £346.63 inc VAT
 - xiv. T B Estate Services Ltd (new kissing gate Fairground) £465.30 inc VAT

- xv. T B Estate Services Ltd (hedge cutting etc. Hammonds Heath/Windmill Road) £211.50 inc VAT
 - xvi. Staples UK Ltd (stationery) £80.09 inc VAT
 - xvii. Royal British Legion (poppy wreath) s137 £20.00
- 10/172 **To Receive Correspondence:**
- Letter received from Together in Mission (TIM) asking for SMPC to consider waiving the hire charges for the two events on the Fairground or making a donation towards the cost. This is to be placed on the December Agenda.
- 10/173 **To Receive Minor Matters/Future Agenda Items:**
- Cllr Morden advised that Mr Charles Mills from Budgens is to address the Parish Council in the Public Session at the December Meeting regarding Sunday trading hours.
 - Cllr Lock advised that the 3 late buses from Reading to Mortimer on Friday and Saturday evenings have been withdrawn.
 - Cllr Challis advised that in his opinion the repair the Council's Car Park fence in West End Road had not been done properly. Cllr Ives is to look into this.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th December 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 08:40pm