



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: R Barker (in the Chair), P. Blagden, P Challis, S Clark, K Davies, D Ives, J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, A Thorpe, P Wingfield and the Clerk.

- 11/18 **To receive Apologies and Declaration of Interest:**  
**Apologies:** Cllr: M Lock  
**Declaration of Interest:** None
- 11/19 **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 11/20 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**  
**11/17:** The Clerk confirmed that the flooding incident in Croft Road in July 2007 had been added to the WBC Flooding Report.
- 11/21 **To receive Finance and General Purposes Committee (F & GP) Committee Report:**  
 Finance and General Purposes Report of non-Agenda items below. The Chairman reported that the F & GP Committee met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 and the items discussed not covered by an agenda item for this meeting were:
- Agreement in principle to outline proposal for an extension to the Community Centre (porch and storage room) subject to Planning Permission and both parties legal costs etc being paid for by the CiC.
  - Agreement that the Clerk can now sign the new two year lease (from 31 March 2011) for the Parish Council Office as the draft Lease is in line with the agreed Heads of Terms.
- Recommendations from F & GP Committee:
- i.* To adopt the updated (2.2.2011) SMPC Risk Management Policy (previously circulated). Moved by the Chairman and unanimously resolved.
  - ii.* To adopt the updated (2.2.2011) SMPC Grants Policy (previously circulated). After clarification regarding match funding the Chairman moved that the Grants Policy be adopted and this was unanimously resolved.
  - iii.* To agree that no change be made to the current Fairground Hire Charges (Appendix 1) for 2011. Moved by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Blagden and unanimously resolved.
  - iv.* To agree that SMPC erect and entirely fund a green coated galvanised steel shed together with a new partition fence and external gate (to match existing) on the tennis courts up to a cost of £5,500 plus VAT to be funded using earmarked s106 monies. Moved by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Morsley and unanimously resolved.
  - v.* To adopt the SMPC Core Value Statement. Cllr Morden proposed an amendment to the motion that the Core Value Statement included point one (Representation) only. This was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and carried by 6 votes in favour, 4 against with 1 abstention. The revised motion was then voted on with 5 in favour and 5 against with 1 abstention. The Chairman used her casting vote against and the amended motion, this was therefore lost.
  - vi.* To agree to hold a PC Election Information Morning for prospective candidates in St John's Hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at a cost of approx £100.00. Moved by the Chairman and unanimously resolved.
- 11/22 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
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|----------------|---|
| 10/02836/HOUSE | 1 Kiln Lane. Garage conversion and bay window. No objections.   |
| 10/02976/FULD  | Squirrels Lodge, West End Road. Demolition of existing and replacement by 3 detached 4 bedroom and 1 5 bedroom house with garages. No objections. |
| 10/03046/HOUSE | 32 Briar Lea Road. Rear extensions. No objections.  |

- 10/03100/HOUSE 2 Strawberry Fields. Rear extensions. No objections.  
The following decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council:
- 10/02424/HOUSE 8 Windmill Corner. Demolition of old outbuildings and provision of single and two storey extension to the rear. Refused: reasons given, because of its length it would unbalance the appearance of the property. It would overshadow the next door property. Reduce the level of privacy between neighbours.
- 10/02894/HOUSE The Old Post Office, The Street. Two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions. Approved.
- 10/02922/CERTP 45 Stephens Close. New dormer window to rear (work already carried out) Lawful.
- 10/02954/HOUSE 40 Leighfield. New pitched roof to existing flat roof. Approved.
- 11/23 **To receive update from Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met this month. Progress has been made on the works at the war memorial, to cut down the tree and vegetation. WBC is to install a bollard on the western corner of the island to prevent vehicles cutting the corner and to protect pedestrians. Grasscrete is also being installed at the northern corner at a cost of £302 plus VAT to help alleviate damage caused by vehicles.
- 11/24 **To receive update from Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee had not met this month although there has been a lot of activity on the Fairground.
- i.* **To receive update on the Playbuilder Project and retrospectively agree to pay £1,035 (inc VAT) for the provision of turf on the mound and three weeks additional hire of heras fencing at a cost of £337.50 plus VAT:** Moved by Cllr Blagden, seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously resolved.
  - ii.* **To advise of official opening of the Playbuilder Adventure Playground on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 12 Noon:** The Official opening details were discussed. Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts have been invited to serve refreshments.
  - iii.* **To receive update on the Sportswall Project:**  
Cllr Blagden reported that the work to move the sportswalls and lay a surface is in progress. Additional side fencing panels have been erected on either side of the western sports wall (the sports wall nearer the footpath) so as to reduce the possibility of balls going beyond the goal.
  - iv.* **To receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that the play area is in good order.
- 11/25 **To receive update from Cemetery Committee:** The Committee has not met and a meeting will be convened soon.
- 11/26 **To receive update on February Newsletter:** Cllr Morsley advised that the Newsletter is in the last stages of preparation. Delivery is scheduled during the last weekend in February.
- 11/27 **To receive report from PCSO Meeting 18 January 2011:** Cllr Ives reported that the quarterly crime rates have fallen and the patrol rates have risen. The PCSOs will be carrying out a fly tipping programme, will visit all schools to promote their 'Police are positive Friends Programme'.
- 11/28 **To receive information on Parish Council Elections 2011:** The Election timetable was discussed. This information will be advertised in the Newsletter, notice boards and website.
- 11/29 **To consider the provisions of the Localism Bill:** Further to Minute No 11/10 Cllr Wingfield outlined some of the key proposals of the Localism Bill which could alter the way the Parish Council works and is seen. Cllr Wingfield (together with the Clerk) were asked to prepare information on the Localism Bill to be presented as information at the PC Election Information Morning.
- 11/30 **To receive meeting report from Willink Leisure Centre JAC Meeting 31.1.2011:** Cllr Morden attended the JAC Meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. The WBC Arts and Leisure Manager, Adrian Jones, has moved on and the position is vacant. Interviews are taking place at the present time as a matter of urgency. The Leisure contract with parkway Leisure is worth £5m per annum and it is a risk to leave it unsupervised. User numbers at Willink over the quarter October to December 2010 have dropped alarmingly, from 25,960 in 2009 to 13,033 in 2010 (50% less). This may be due to more accurate counting or it may be a Management problem. There have been 5 changes in Willink Managers in just 12 months. A matter of grave concern to both WBC and the three contributing parishes. A 10% discount is available to regular users on production of a WBC Leisure Card (or Library Card). The next report will be able to show the split of users for Mortimer. The current Willink Manager admits that the outdoor netball courts are in need of repair. Quotes are being

- obtained and the work should be put in hand in the next financial year. The current budget is exhausted.
- 11/31 **To receive update on the adoption of services on the Mortimer Hill Estate:** The Clerk advised that West Berkshire Council has informed the Parish Council that the Section 38 Agreement for the Mortimer Hill Development was completed on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Under the terms of this Agreement the roads on this development become Highways maintainable at public expense under the Highways Act 1980.
- 11/32 **To receive update on the provision of Allotments:** Cllr Morden reported that as no progress has been made with Englefield Estate Management he proposed that a letter be sent direct to Sir William Benyon in order to elicit a definitive decision. The Parish Council is prepared to negotiate for suitable land at or about current agricultural land values. It was agreed that Cllr Morden could draft a letter to be sent under the Clerk's signature.
- 11/33 **To consider proposal from Mortimer Football Club and any further action:** Prior to the Parish Council meeting Mr Adrian Keep from Mortimer Football Club spoke to the Council regarding the above proposal. It was agreed to pass this to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider.
- 11/34 **To receive Report from District Councillors:** The Clerk read out a report from Keith and Mollie Lock. Cuts in both WBC Social and Education Services have been made and fees are to rise for the use of leisure facilities and car parking. The new head teacher at St Mary's School has taken up her position and the school is now implementing the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). St John's School was rated 'Good' in a recent Ofsted. Following the petition requesting WBC to reconsider their decision to close Windmill Court Day Centre Cllr Mollie Lock is continuing to liaise between parties so that it continues to be a Day Centre for residents in Mortimer and neighbouring areas.
- 11/35 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for February:**  
In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Barker 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) £919.15 inc VAT.
  - vii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £93.30, (McColls £7.80, Parking £5.00, Post Office £78.50 and £2.00 Service Charge)
  - viii. British Telecom (Parish Office) £79.59 inc VAT
  - ix. BALC (Chairman Training) £70.00
  - x. SLCC (Practitioner's conference) £351.60 inc VAT
  - xi. Proscap Ltd (supply and turf mound in new playarea) £1,035.00 inc VAT
- 11/36 **To Receive Correspondence:**
- BALC – information on a training event on planning and planning aspects of the Localism Bill on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Councillors Morden, Wingfield and the Clerk are to attend.
  - WBC receipt of Open Spaces S106 contribution of £14,072 towards improvements to SMPC's existing Public Open Space (Fairground).
- 11/37 **To Receive Minor Matters (for information only):**
- To advise dates of forthcoming Committee Meetings in line with notices on Parish Council Notice Boards and Website.
- 11/38 **To Receive Future Agenda Items:** None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7:30 p.m. The Meeting closed at 9:11 pm