



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th April 2011 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: K Davies (in the Chair), P. Blagden, P Challis, A Colaço, D Ives, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, A Thorpe, P Wingfield and the Clerk.

As the Chairman was not present Cllr Thorpe proposed that Cllr Davies be Chairman for the meeting and this was seconded by Cllr Lock..

- 11/55 **To receive Apologies and Declaration of Interest:**
Apologies: Cllrs: S Clark, R Barker, N Kiley
Declaration of Interest: Cllrs Blagden, Morsley and Lock declared a prejudicial interest in item No 11/59 as members of the MVP. Cllr Phillips declared a prejudicial interest in item No 11/59 because of a family connection.
- 11/56 **To Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 10th March 2011:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10th March 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. One small amendment was made the words 'at The Red House' were inserted into 11/42 after '..that the new development'
- 11/57 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):** 11/42 The Clerk confirmed that this had been actioned with WBC Street Naming Department.
- 11/58 **To receive Finance & General Purposes (F & GP) Committee Report:** The Chairman reported that the F & GP Committee met on the 4th April and the items discussed not already on this agenda were: Mortimer Football Club had provided some further information on providing an all weather pitch at the Alfred Palmer Field and further details are to be supplied. The Clerk was instructed to send out the 2011 annual invoices for the Fairground to the Cricket Club, Tennis Club and business users as soon as possible. The next meeting is on Wednesday 4th May at 1:30pm. 7:37pm. Cllrs Blagden, Morsley, Lock and Philips left the room.
- 11/59 **i. To determine whether each grant application received is eligible in accordance with the Council's 2011 Adopted Grants Policy.** Cllr Davies proposed from the chair to inform the Cricket Club that they are in breach of the policy and as a retrospective application their grant application will be rejected. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment to the motion that the Council accept 50% of the total cost of the project as this was not in breach as this money had not been paid. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and the revised motion was carried by 4 in favour and 2 against with 1 abstention. Every other grant application met the criteria of the Policy.
- ii. To decide the allocation of grants within the agreed total of £5,000 and to determine the amount of each grant to be awarded.** Details previously circulated.
- a. Mortimer Hornets, grant request £340 (total cost of project £340). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.
 - b. Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre (CiC), grant request of £1,300 (total cost of project £1,300). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment of a grant of £1,000. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and the amended motion was carried by 5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.
 - c. Mortimer Cricket Club, grant requested £1,250 (total cost of project £2,500). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment of a grant of £1,140. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and the amended motion was carried by 5 in favour and 2 abstentions.
 - d. Alfred Palmer Memorial Playing Field, grant requested £800 (total cost of project £1,200). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.
 - e. The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice Charity, grant requested £1,609 (total cost of

project £1,609. Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment that no grant be made, this was seconded by Cllr Morden. Cllr Thorpe proposed a further amendment that a grant of £800 be made. This was seconded by Cllr Ives and the further amended motion was carried by 4 in favour and 3 against.

- f. Mortimer Fun Run, grant requested £500 (total cost of project £5-6,000). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment that no grant be made, this was seconded by Cllr Colaço and the amended motion was carried by 6 in favour and 1 abstention.
- g. M S Charity, grant requested £180 (total cost of project £868). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair. Cllr Wingfield proposed an amendment that no grant be made, this was seconded by Cllr Thorpe and the amended motion was carried by 5 in favour and 1 against.
- h. Mortimer Village Partnership, grant requested £762 (total cost of project £15,000). Cllr Davies moved this from the Chair and it was carried by 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

Total amount of grants awarded for 2011/2012 £4,842.

8:21pm. Cllrs Blagden, Lock, Morsley and Philips returned.

11/60 **To approve recommendation from F & GP Committee that the SMPC Complaints Policy be adopted:** Previously circulated. Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.

11/61 **To approve recommendation from F & GP Committee that the SMPC Persistent Complainants Procedure be adopted:** Previously circulated. Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.

11/62 **To agree that SMPC may apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness under the Town & Country Planning Act from WBC in relation to the installation of a shed on the tennis courts at a cost of £167.50:** Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.

11/63 **Further to Minute No 11/21(iv) to consider recommendation from the F & GP Committee that a shed (size Length 15 ft x Width 7ft x Height 6ft 7in) be purchased:** Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.

8:35 pm Cllr Blagden declared an interest in this item and left the room.

11/64 **To agree recommendation from the F & GP Committee to grant a Licence to Mortimer Youth Club for the use of the new shed (Minute No 11/63):** Previously circulated. Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously. Clerk to action.

11/65 **To agree recommendation from the F & GP Committee that the yearly rental for the Licence to Mortimer Youth Club (Minute No 11/64) for the year 2011/2012 be £50.00:** Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.

8:39 pm Cllr Blagden returned.

11/66 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once on 16th March 2011 to comment on planning applications received by West Berkshire Council.

10/00231/HOUSE Myrtle Cottage, 14 Windmill Road. Demolish of existing single storey rear extension and replace with two storey rear extension. No objections.

10/00201/AGRIC Great Park Farm. New agricultural building. No objections subject to no adverse affect on public footpath No 11.

The Following decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council (WBC)

10/03127/HOUSE 6A King Street, orangery rear extension. Approved.

11/00201/AGRIC Great Park Farm. New agricultural building. General Permitted Development.

10/03163/HOUSE 42 King Street. Garage to a family room. First floor extension. Approved.

10/00283 9-13 Victoria Road (Budgens). Variations regarding bat survey, landscaping, temporary parking, BREAM, temporary supermarket store etc. Approved.

Amendment to 10/03163/HOUSE: Pine Lodge, 42 King Street. A side extension to which the Committee previously raised no objection has been subject to an amendment resulting in the fascia and rainwater goods overhanging the adjacent property. Unless this is rectified WBC has been advised that the Parish Council's observations have to be changed to object.

Provision of Allotments and Proposed Extension to the Parish Council Cemetery: Cllr Morden

together with the Clerk met with Mr Ken McDiarmid, Englefield Estate Manager on the 12th April 2011 in the Parish Office. The Englefield Estate is willing to consider leasing to the Parish Council a suitable area of land, subject to planning permission, for the provision of allotments. Subject to negotiation the suggested lease would be for 50 years at an annual rent of, say, £150 p.a. per acre with annual review lined to RPI. The proposed extension to the Parish Council Cemetery also met with a positive response. This would be on a 150 year lease at say, £250 pa per acre also subject to annual review. Englefield Estate are to write to the Parish Council with formal proposals shortly.

11/67 **To receive update from Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee:** Cllr Ives reported that the Committee had not met this month and WBC have still not rectified the sight lines near the war memorial junction. The Clerk was asked to contact WBC for an update into the replacement statutory gateway (speed limit) and direction signs on Brewery Common promised at the beginning of January.

11/68 **To receive report from Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee (F, T & A) Meeting:** Cllr Blagden reported that the Committee met on the 5th April and the items discussed not already on this agenda were: an update on the 2010 RoSPA Safety Inspection Report where the Clerk reported that all but one of the 7 outstanding items on the 2010 inspection had been carried out. The only item remaining is to re-paint the underneath of the multiplay and this is to be carried out by a small working party after the Easter school holidays. The 2011 RoSPA Safety Inspection (including the new Adventure Area) has been booked and is scheduled to be carried out during April. The Committee considered a request from the Mortimer Fun Run for a new start area and a modified route at the start and Cllr Blagden and the Clerk are to carry out an assessment. The Committee were shown several photographs of both the reparations in the recreation and grazing areas and it was agreed that these had been completed satisfactorily and that the grass is starting to grow. The maintenance working party could take out a small tree that has fallen down by the entrance to the Fairground adjacent to Badgers Croft (after consultation with the residents). It was agreed that quotations could be obtained from contractors to remove all the main holly trees/bushes and yew trees along the Hammonds Heath border of the recreation area, including a quotation for waste removal. Cllr Blagden confirmed that no work would take place until this had been agreed by the Council and not before the end of the nesting season.

i. **To consider recommendation from F T & A Committee to purchase two metal guppy litter bins at an approximate cost of £246.77 each (plus installation costs and VAT) for the Adventure Area:** Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried unanimously. It was agreed to fund this from S106 (Open Spaces) money. The Clerk will action.

ii. **To retrospectively agree cost of safety sign for the Adventure Area at a cost of £98.40 inc VAT and brackets:** Cllr Davies moved this motion from the Chair and it was carried by 8 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

iii. **To receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that the play area is in good order; the only area of concern is the large amount of stones around the new ball court (these were brought to the surface by the construction works). A working party is to be arranged to pick up and remove as many as possible of the stones.

11/69 **To consider an application from Mortimer Cricket Club to:**

i. **grant retrospective permission for the temporary placing of two cricket sight screens (size approx. H4.5m x W5m) chained to the Fairground Car Park Rail:** The Clerk was instructed to request that the Cricket Club remove the sight screens from the guard rail around the Fairground. In principle the Council are happy for the use of sight screens during matches; and as the storage of them at other times needs to be agreed will be happy to meet with the Cricket Club so that a suitable storage proposal can be placed before the Council.

ii. **for the permanent placing of the two screens on the outfield to be secured by metal rings embedded into concrete anchors to be sunk into the ground:** The Parish Council agrees in principle and in accordance with the Cricket Club Licence are happy for the use of the sight screens whilst matches are in progress. At other times for them to be secured at an agreed suitable location on the Fairground. Further to above Minute it was agreed that Cllrs Blagden, Thorpe and Challis, and the Clerk would arrange to meet with members of the Cricket Club to find a suitable site.

- 11/70 **To receive update from Cemetery Committee:** No report.
- 11/71 **To receive Report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that the consultation of the three year plan for Highway repairs is due to be considered by Individual Decision on 21st April. These include to re-texture The Street starting by Kiln Lane and ending 50 metres west of Kiln Lane (50 metres length in total) and to grip fibre St Catherine's Hill from Victoria Road to West End Road (662 metres). The Government has given WBC an extra £900,000 for snow damage repairs and Cllr Lock will ensure that Mortimer receives part of the allocation. Library charges incurred for overdue Children's books are to be dropped. The cost to have up to five household items collected is now £27.00. People using concessionary bus passes are now not able to use them before 9:30am.
- 11/72 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for April:**
 The Clerk advised that on the 4th April Cllr Philips checked the PAYE and found all to be correct and in good order. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Davies proposed from the Chair that these be paid and was 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 £88.30, (McColls £7.80, Post Office £78.50 and £2.00 Service Charge)
 - viii. West Berkshire Council (rates for Parish Council Office for 2011/2012) £736.10
 - ix. West Berkshire Council (SMPC annual contribution to Willink Leisure Centre) £8,577.69
 - x. Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) annual subscription £797.89
 - xi. BT (Parish Office) DD £33.60 inc VAT (retrospective year 2010/2011)
 - xii. Dads Shop Ltd £48.40 inc VAT
 - xiii. Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (annual subscription) £90.00
 - xiv. R M Weavers (Grass Cutting Fairground) £129.00 inc VAT
 - xv. Engravaservice (safety sign Fairground) £98.40 inc VAT
 - xvi. BT (Parish Office) £102.28 inc VAT
- 11/73 **To Receive Correspondence:** None
- 11/74 **To Receive Minor Matters (for information only):**
 The Clerk formally advised that there will be a contested Parish Council Election to be held on the 5th May 2011. There are 16 candidates for 15 positions on the Parish Council.
- 11/75 **To Receive Future Agenda Items:** None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th May 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:05 pm