



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors: R Barker (Chairman), P Challis, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Thorpe, P Wingfield and the Clerk

To receive Apologies: Cllrs: A Philips, N Kiley, P Blagden and G Puddephatt

11/116 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** None

11/117 **To approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 9th June 2011:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th June 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

11/118 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**

10/103: The Clerk advised that the new bank mandate and change of signatories was now in place.

11/32: Provision of Allotments: Englefield Estate Office advise that this is still being considered.

11/58: The Clerk confirmed that the payment of fees has been received from the Cricket Club.

11/119 **To Receive Planning Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met twice on the 13th and 23rd June 2011 to comment on planning applications received by West Berkshire Council:

11/00629/HOUSE 46 Stephens Close. Garden room extension to rear of property (front porch and rear dormer shown – considered permitted development). No objection.

11/00872/HOUSE 22 Orchard Road. Single storey rear extension and enlargement of existing rear dormer. No objection.

11/00837/HOUSE Greengates, The Street. Construction of new house and garage. Demolition of outbuilding and formation of new vehicular access to rear of existing house. No objections but would require the hedge adjacent the public footpath to be retained and maintained.

11/01055/HOUSE Greengates, The Street. Alterations and extensions and construction of new garage. No objection but would require the hedge adjacent the public footpath to be retained and maintained.

11/00918/HOUSE 6 St John's Road. Two storey rear extension and replacement attached garage. No objection.

11/00940/HOUSE Serena, Birch Lane. Ground floor extension to lounge and entrance hall. Extension to roof with loft conversion to provide bedrooms and bathrooms. No objection.

11/01017/FUL Calleva, Longmoor Lane. Demolition of existing house and erection of new 4 bedroom house and garage. No objection subject to dormer window on the south elevation being obscure glass to avoid overlooking of adjacent properties.

The following decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council:

11/00554/HOUSE Cherry Tree House, Drury Lane. Rear ground floor extension. Approved.

11/00661/HOUSE 8 Windmill Corner. Demolition of outbuildings and provision of two storey rear extension. Refused: reasons

1. Tight relationship with surrounding properties.
2. Overlooking, a reduced level of privacy.
3. Overbearing effect to properties at rear.

Notice of Appeal enquiry 5 July 2011

10/02007/FUL Little Park Farm, Beech Hill Road. Retrospective Change of use of part agricultural barn to vehicle repair. Cllr Morden attended the Enquiry at WBC offices and later at the site and spoke in support of the appellants. A decision is expected within 5 weeks.

West Berks Core Strategy Examination – Inspector's Note

East Kennet Valley. 'It is clearly the Council's (WBC) intention that the 2 service centres of Burghfield and Mortimer will be the focus for development in the area and I (the Inspector) that such a focus is sound. The policy rightly acknowledges sites which could be allocated to these villages.'

11/120 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee:**

i. To receive Committee Meeting Report from 16.6.2011: In the absence of Cllr Blagden the Clerk reported on the items that are not Agenda items below. The Committee reviewed and

agreed a response to a letter regarding noise etc on the Fairground. The Committee are to investigate a local loo scheme with local businesses by contacting other councils that operate this system. It was agreed to ask the contractors to cut the ditch and hedge line along Hammonds Heath and Windmill Road as per the budget.

- ii. To receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that everything is in order.
- 11/121 **To receive Annual Play Safety Inspection Report.** Held over until the September Council Meeting.
- 11/122 **To retrospectively agree recommendation from F T & A Committee to treat the Cassula Helsii in the pond adjacent to the War Memorial by Waterland Management Ltd at a cost of £325 plus VAT:** (Held over from last year (Minute No 10/107(i) refers): Cllr Barker moved this from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.
- 11/123 **To retrospectively agree to the emergency repair of an area beneath a section of tennis court fence at a cost of £87:00:** Cllr Barker moved this from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.
- 11/124 **To agree in principle to the replacement of the diseased horse chestnut trees at the front of the Fairground:** Cllr Wingfield reported that he and Cllr Blagden had met with the WBC tree officer who confirmed that all the horse chestnut trees along the edge of the Fairground are suffering from 'Bleeding Canker'. The trees will die in approximately 3/5 years and he recommended that they are all replaced (at the same time) and re planted with lime trees. Cllr Barker proposed from the chair that all the horse chestnut trees are taken out and replaced with an avenue of lime trees and this was carried unanimously. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether any WBC S106 funding would be available to fund this project. An update to advise residents is to be reported in the Parish Council Newsletter.
- 11/125 **To consider the procedure for gaining emergency access to the Fairground and gate keys:** Cllr Barker reported that a situation arose where no keys to the barrier padlock had been available. It was agreed that the Clerk purchase new padlocks and keys and have a sign made advising how to obtain a key in an emergency situation.
- 11/126 **To receive update on the provision of an electricity supply and Parish Council Festive Tree on the Fairground:** Contact has been made with Southern Electric and a proposition will be placed on the Agenda for the September meeting.
- 11/127 **To receive update on the HM The Queen's Jubilee Beacons 4th June 2012:** Cllr Wingfield advised that The Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee considered this and recommended that a simple event (with a bonfire) be held in the grazing area that would encourage wide participation of the village. A working party (Cllrs Earl, Dennett and Blagden) will work on this and report back to the September Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the event would be covered by the Council's Insurance if it meets the conditions outlined in the guidelines.
- 11/128 **To receive update regarding suitable sites identified for the temporary and permanent placing of the two cricket sight screens on the Fairground (Minute No 11/69 (I and ii) refers):** Cllr Barker advised that no progress had been made on this and it has been held over until the September meeting.
- 11/129 **To receive update/recommendation on the joint application with MVP for a Community Planning Grant for 2011/2012:** Cllr Earl advised that the working party had identified three project options:
1. Replacement trees for the diseased horse chestnut trees (see 11/124 above)
 2. To identify and mark out three new walks within the Parish
 3. To purchase equipment to start a Youth Club for older children (15 to 18 year olds)
- Cllr Earl proposed that the tree project be the first option with the walks project as the second option. This was seconded by Cllr Ives and unanimously resolved. A firm proposal will be placed before the Council at the September meeting.
- 11/130 **To receive update from WBC regarding War Memorial Junction Project:** Cllr Ives reported that he and Cllr Barker met on site with Mr N Stacey of WBC. It was agreed that WBC would carry out further hedge cutting to maximise visibility for pedestrians. Regular maintenance will also be required which is to be carried out by WBC.

- 11/131 **To re-appoint the Parish Council nominated trustee on the Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity until the 10.6.2015:** Cllr Barker proposed from the Chair that Cllr Puddephatt be the Parish Council nominated trustee on the Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity until the 10.6.2015. This was unanimously carried.
- 11/132 **To agree Parish Council Representative on the Wokefield Common Advisory Committee:** Cllr Barker proposed from the Chair that Cllr Puddephatt be nominated as the Parish Council's representative. This was unanimously carried.
- 11/133 **To receive update on a suitable recognition for the late Steve Clark:** This was held over until the September meeting.
- 11/134 **To receive Meeting Report from Willink Leisure Centre JAC 13.6.2011:** Cllr Morden attended the Joint Advisory Committee meeting on the 13th June 2011. WBC has appointed Mr Chris Jones as the new Arts and Leisure Manager. It is now apparent that the 10 swims for the price of 8 (currently being limited to one calendar month) is applied differently over the various West Berks Leisure Centres. This inconsistency is to be resolved, probably with a more lenient time constraint. In order to increase local awareness of the Leisure Centre more publicity is required. The Parish Council Newsletters in both Burghfield and Mortimer can report up to date information by contacting the Centre Manager. Quotations for the resurfacing of the outdoor tennis/netball courts at the Willink Leisure Centre range from £24,000 to £32,000. Further quotations are being obtained.
- 11/135 **To retrospectively agree payment for BALC New Councillor Training x 4 held on the 11th July 2011 at a total cost of £140.00:** Cllr Barker moved this from the Chair and it was carried unanimously.
- 11/136 **To receive a statement from Parish Council Chairman on the Annual Parish Meeting held in St John's Hall on the 20th April 2011:** The Chairman made a statement regarding the circumstances as to why the Annual Parish Meeting did not go as planned. It was unanimously agreed that the F&GP Committee draw up a definitive document to be brought back as a recommendation to full council in September.
- 11/137 **To receive report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that at the beginning of July she received notification of which Day Centres were to close. Windmill Court was not mentioned. A further email was received on the 7th July which advised that from Friday 7th July all those cared for in Windmill Court Day Centre were to be sent to Tadley or Calcot Day Centres. It was proposed that the Parish Council would write to WBC concerning the undue haste for the closure of Windmill Court Day Centre.
WBC has advised residents in the St John's Road, Summerlug area that they are responsible, as owners, for the payment for the maintenance work for the blocked surface water drains.
Cllr Mayes reported that Thames Water have carried out a survey on The Street (from Tun Bridge to Mortimer Lane). This is preparatory work to increase the capacity of the rising main from Tun Bridge Pumping Station to Mortimer Lane. As yet there is no time frame when the work is to be carried out which will have implications on road surfacing in the area (see below). WBC have publicised that St Catherine's Hill and the Street (from Kiln for 50m west) will be resurfaced during 2011/2012. The District Councillors are pushing for additional road resurfacing and proper pothole/gully repairs to be carried out before next Winter on The Street, Lambswood Hill to the District Border on the Grazeley Road.
- 11/138 **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 Barker proposed from the Chair that these be paid which 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
 - vi. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15 inc VAT.
 - vii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £21.60 (£7.80 McColls, £11.80 Post Office and 2.00

Service Charge)

- viii. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £177.94 inc VAT
- ix. Open Spaces Society (annual subscription)
- x. BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Councils) new councillor training £140.00
- xi. Playsafety Ltd (annual play area safety inspection) £178.80 inc VAT
- xii. J R Bull (emergency repair to tennis court fence) £87.00
- xiii. R B S Solutions (annual account package support) £118.80 inc VAT
- xiv. S & C Slatter (final payment to complete the ball court (concrete edging) £3,195.60 inc VAT
- xv. T B Estate Services Ltd (to cut ditch and hedge line along Hammonds Heath and Windmill Road) £216.00 inc VAT
- xvi. Thames Valley Police (part funded PCSO quarter 1) not received.
- xvii. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying invoice) £188.58 inc VAT
- xviii. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) £634.38 inc VAT
- xix. British Telecom (Parish Office) Direct Debit £119.76 inc VAT
- xx. SLCC (purchase of reference book) £12.00
- xxi. Dads Shop Ltd £66.55 inc VAT
- xxii. Mr A Thorpe (reimbursement of expenses) £40.00

11/139 To receive Correspondence:

- WBC advising they are carrying out a statutory review of polling district/places/stations. Stratfield Mortimer remains unchanged.
- WBC advises that the Youth Service is to withdraw the provision of the 'Blue Bus' on Mortimer Fairground from July 2011.

11/140 To receive Minor Matters (for information only):

- The Clerk advised that someone has removed the wreaths from the War Memorial.
- Cllr Dennett advised that Mr Andrew Garratt of WBC attended the NAG Meeting on the 28th June and parking enforcement issues were discussed. SID (Speed Indicator Device) training is to be offered to parishes. A public consultation Meeting is to be held in August or early September date to be advised.

11/141 To receive Future Agenda Items:

- Cllr Morsley asked if the Council's advertising policy could be reviewed. This is to be passed to the next F & GP Meeting.
- Cllr Ives reported that the PCSO update meeting was held on the 30th June and this will be an agenda item in September.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th September 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:36 pm