



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2011 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: R Barker (Chairman), P Blagden, J Bull, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, G Puddephatt, A Philips (until 10:15) P Wingfield and the Clerk

To receive Apologies: Cllrs: P Challis, N Kiley and A Thorpe.

Also in attendance Cllr G Mayes (WBC)

11/175 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** Cllr J Earl 11/183, Cllr J Morden 11/201 (xiv), Cllr A Philips 11/201(viii), Cllr J Bull 11/201 (ix).

11/176 **To approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 8 September 2011:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th September 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

11/177 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):** None

11/178 **To Receive Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Morden reported that the Planning Committee had met once on the 21st September 2011 to comment on planning applications received by West Berkshire Council:

11/01636/HOUSE 12 Stephens Close. Front Porch. No objections.

11/01811/HOUSE 38A West End Road. Rear conservatory & detached timber clad shed. No objections.

11/01675/FUL Mortimer St Mary's C of E Junior School. New detached single storey classroom. Whilst the Parish Council have no objection in principle to an extra classroom they have grave concerns about the existing parent-parking on The Street which this proposal might exacerbate.

11/01646/FULD 26 Stephens Close. Demolish existing single storey annex, which also alters the existing house and build two separate residential properties in its place. Object: Overdevelopment of site and out of character with existing properties and danger of setting a precedent. Existing parking already an issue.

11/01439/CERT Certificate of Lawfulness: Little Park Farm. As reported last month (8.9.11) the Parish Council have been asked to either support or contradict by documentary evidence. The claim by the applicant that the vehicle repair and maintenance business has been carried on for in excess of 10 years. The Parish Council has replied that it has no documentary evidence but have no reason to doubt the veracity of W E Froom & Partner's statement. The Parish Council support this application.

11/01154/FULD Squirrels Lodge, West End Road, to demolish existing house and replace by 4 x four bed detached houses with garages has been withdrawn.

11/01017/FUL, Calleva, Longmoor Lane to demolish existing and erect new 4 bedroom house and garage has been withdrawn.

The following decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council:

11/00629/HoUSE 46 Stephens Close. Garden room to rear. Granted.

11/00918/HOUSE 6 St John's Road. Two storey rear extension and replace garage. Granted.

11/00929/CERTP 5 Fairfield Park, West End Road. Replacement Garage. Refused: fails to comply with Town & Country Planning (Permitted Development) Acts – within 2m of boundary and over 2.5m high.

11/00940/HOUSE Serena, Birch Lane. Ground floor extension and loft conversion. Granted.

Padworth Common: WBC is submitting a proposal to the Minister of State to fence Padworth Common. The trees on Padworth Common were destroyed by fire some years ago resulting in the common reverting to low land heath an essential habitat for many endangered species, birds, bugs, butterflies, reptiles etc. A stock proof fence 1.1m high will encircle the common on both sides of

- the Reading Road (Burghfield to Tadley) in order to introduce White Park Cattle and ponies to graze the common to prevent it reverting to woodland. Report received and noted.
- 11/179 **To receive report from Hampshire County Council Regulatory Committee on the 28.09.11 re the extension to sand and gravel workings at Welshman's Road Mortimer West End and a temporary conveyor gantry crossing:** The application to extract gravel from Benyon's Enclosure south of Welshman's Road was considered by Hampshire County Council on 28th September 2011. Cllr Morden attended and spoke on behalf of SMPC raising their concerns that the quarried material was to be carried by an overhead gantry across Welshman's Road to the existing processing plant to the south. The conveyor under Rampton's Lane had proved unworkable resulting in 96 dumper truck crossings per day across the lane. The Hampshire County Council Regulatory Committee, whilst accepting the argument that the gantry conveyor may prove unfit for purpose, approved the application by 12 votes to 2. However, they made it clear to the representative from Hansons that they must not move material across Welshman's Road by dumper truck without prior permission and this was likely to be refused necessitating in the relocation of the processing plant to the south of the road. Hansons propose to set up a liaison committee for Parish Councils and interested parties to meet twice a year.
- 11/180 **West Berkshire Station Accessibility Audit Consultation Mortimer Station:** Cllr Morden reported this study lists 42 recommendations most of which are cosmetic. Only one, provision of lifts to allow access (disabled) to both platforms requires a feasibility study. There is no mention of increased car parking. There are many recommendations regarding the ticket office i.e. height of counter, doors, no step etc. at a time when First Great Western are proposing to close the ticket office. It was agreed that Cllrs Puddephatt and Morden would complete and return the questionnaire before the deadline date.
- 11/181 **To consider the implications and way forward for the Parish Council for the proposed new National Planning Legislation:** Cllr Morden reported that under the old planning system Village Design Statements (VDS) were adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). SMPC's VDS was adopted in November 2007 as a material consideration in planning decisions. Cllr Morden is to attend the District Parish Conference on 18th October 2011 where there will be a presentation on planning changes and he will report back to the November meeting.
- 11/182 **To receive update on the provision of Allotments and current Planning Application:** This matter is progressing. A planning application 11/01949/AGRIC will be considered by SMPC Planning Committee on 17th October 2011 for the installation of a hardcore area for the parking of vehicles relating to a proposed allotment use of an area of field amounting to 3 acres. This area relates to the allotments not the hardcore. As reported last month this is the field adjacent to St Mary's Church.
- 11/183 **To receive update on the Permitted Development Application for a storage building on the Fairground:** The Parish Council have been advised by the Planning Department at WBC that as the Youth Club is not a function of the Parish Council the permitted development rights do not apply and in order to avoid the application being refused the Parish Council have withdrawn the application. If the Youth Club wish to proceed a full planning application will be required at a cost of £170. It was agreed that Cllr Morden would speak to WBC to see what other options are available and report back to the next meeting.
- 11/184 **To consider WBC's proposal for further minor amendments to the road layout at the war memorial junction (drawing of nearside hatching):** An outline drawing from WBC showing a possible scheme for white line hatching on the road surface on the approach to the junction of Hammonds Heath with The Street was tabled. The Council considered this proposal and it was agreed the priority was to further cut back the roadside hedges to improve the sight line and then if necessary review the need for hatching in due course. Clerk to action.
- 11/185 **Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee (F T & A):**
i. **To receive Monthly Play Area Inspection Report:** The Clerk reported that generally the equipment is in good order. The few outstanding problems are in hand and should be rectified shortly.
- 11/186 **To receive update on the provision of an electricity supply on the Fairground:** The Clerk reported that she had met with the contractor on site and the electricity supply and meter box is scheduled to be connected within the next 2/3 weeks.

- 11/187 **To receive update on the provision of a Christmas Tree etc:** The Clerk advised that Englefield Estates have kindly offered to donate a Christmas Tree, deliver and erect it and the rest of the arrangements are in hand.
- 11/188 **To receive details of the SMPC Community Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree (supported by TIM and MVP) on 17.12.11 at 5:45pm:** A small joint working party has been set up to arrange the event(s).
- 11/189 **To receive update for the Queen's Jubilee Beacon/Celebration Event:** The minutes of the Jubilee Working Party were received and noted.
- 11/190 **To receive up to date information on available S106 Open Spaces monies for the Fairground:** The Clerk gave a breakdown on the total amount of S106 monies available after allocated and agreed projects have been carried out.
- 11/191 **To receive detailed costing for the supply, planting and 2 year maintenance cost for 21 new lime trees including the removal/disposal of the diseased horse chestnut trees at a total cost of £11,142.85 plus VAT and to consider whether this could be funded using SMPC S106 monies:** Cllr Blagden proposed that the Council accept the above costing to supply, plant 21 new lime trees with 2 year maintenance to include the removal/disposal of the diseased horse chestnut trees at a cost of £11,142.85 plus VAT using SMPC S106 monies, this was seconded by Cllr Lock and carried unanimously. Clerk to action.
- 11/192 **To receive update on hitching rail for the storage of the two cricket sight screens on the Fairground (Minute No 11/69 (I and ii) refers):** Held over until next meeting.
- 11/193 **To receive update on the Cemetery extension. To progress to the first step in the process which would be a Tier One Assessment for the EA at a cost of up to £1,000 plus VAT:** Cllr Morsley advised that she and the Clerk met on site with the Estate Manager for Englefield Estates regarding a Cemetery extension. The meeting was positive and Englefield have confirmed that they would be willing to lease the Parish Council land adjacent to the existing Cemetery. Cllr Morsley gave a brief outline of the history and data for the existing Cemetery and advised that the Clerk had obtained information from various cemetery development companies who all recommend that the first step in the process must be a tier one environmental assessment of the proposed site. Cllr Morsley moved that the Council progress to the first stage and engage Peter Mitchell Associates to carry out a Tier One Assessment at a cost of up to £1,000 plus VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Ives and carried unanimously. Clerk to action.
- 11/194 **To consider publicising the Unadopted Full Parish Council Meeting Minutes on the Parish Council Notice Boards and website:** Cllr Wingfield moved the above motion; it was seconded by Cllr Morden and carried unanimously.
- 11/195 **To consider distributing all SMPC Committee Minutes to all Councillors with the full Council Meeting Agenda:** Cllr Wingfield moved the above motion in order that they could be taken as read at that meeting.. This was seconded by Cllr Morden and carried unanimously.
- 11/196 **To receive Meeting Report from the Willink Leisure Centre JAC Meeting held on 26.09.11:** Cllr Morden attended the JAC meeting on the 26.09.11. From January 2012 prices will rise by 3 to 5% but will take account of other local facilities, i.e. Tadley so not to price Willink out of the market. Refurbishment of the tennis and netball courts is still subject to further questions. Usage shows a steady increase over previous years figures, not considerable but still in the right direction. The geographical spread of the Willink users shows a surprising wide spread with pockets of users from Purley, Calcot, Theale and Thatcham.
- 11/197 **To receive PCSO Report for September and consider any issues in relation thereto:** The PCSO partially funded activity report for September 2011 was received and noted. The Clerk and Cllr Ives are to check terms of engagement regarding the post of the PCSO and report back.
- 11/198 **To receive NAG Meeting Notes of 30.08.11:** The Minutes of the NAG Meeting of the 30.8.11 were received and noted.
- 11/199 **To receive update on a suitable recognition for the late Steve Clark:** Cllr Philips is to look into this and report back to the next meeting.
- 11/200 **To receive report from District Councillors:** Cllr Lock reported that Mortimer residents have been issued with new cadies and a supply of special bags for recycling waste food and details of the new proposed collection arrangements. The Veolia waste site at Padworth will become fully operational on 31st October and residents will be able to take household and green rubbish to the

site. Cllr Lock also reported that the adoption of the Public Open Space on Mortimer Hill estate is progressing and hopefully will be resolved shortly. Cllr Mayes reported that he has assessed the flooding and pollution sites in the Parish with an officer from WBC. Thames Water will be upgrading the rising main from Tun Bridge Pumping Station to Mortimer Lane over the next few weeks. The culvert under the road in Pitfield Lane is to be repaired or rebuilt. This conveys surface water from the fields to the west to the open ditch behind Blewburton Close and the cleaning out the ditch remains the Riparian owners (adjacent properties) responsibility or at their cost.

11/201 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 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 £2.00 (Service Charge)
- viii. Ian Philips Farm and Garden Service (grass cutting Cemetery) £177.94 inc VAT
- ix. Dads Shop Ltd £39.10
- x. BT (Parish Office) £86.41 inc VAT (Direct Debit)
- xi. West Berkshire Council (photocopying invoice) £15.96 inc VAT
- xii. West Berkshire Council Election Costs for May 2011 PC Elections £2,277.89 inc VAT
- xiii. Thames Valley Police (part funded PCSO salary Q2) £1,928.75
- xiv. Mr J Morden (travelling expenses) £39.97
- xv. APD Printing (Newsletter) £350.00

11/202 To receive Correspondence:

- Letter and documents from Open Spaces Society advising that the Society is to be incorporated.
- Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) invitation to councillors to attend AGM to be held on Saturday 5th November at 10:30 at Grazeley Village Hall.
- Invitation from Mortimer British Legion to the Chairman to a Remembrance Day Ceremony at Windmill Court Garden.
- Letter from a resident regarding various traffic and parking problems within the village. The Clerk to respond.
- Letter from a resident regarding the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman advised that she had replied advising that the matter had already been addressed at the Sept Council Meeting (Minute No 11/147 refers).

11/203 To receive Minor Matters (for information only):

- The Clerk advised that The Boundary Commission for England published on 13.9.11 its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in England and it appears that no change for Mortimer is proposed.

11/204 To receive Future Agenda Items:

- To consider making adjustments to the Council's Agenda schedule to enable meetings to keep to time and be shorter in length.
- To supply councillors with a list of all proposed meetings for the forthcoming month.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th November 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:23 pm