



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Minutes of
the Parish Council Meeting
held on 9th February 2012 @ 7.30 p.m.
at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present: Councillors: R Barker (Chairman), P Blagden, J Bull, P. Challis, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, N Kiley, J Morden, D Morsley, A Philips, G Puddephatt and A Thorpe and P Wingfield.

Also in attendance The Clerk

To receive Apologies: Cllr: M Lock.

To receive any Declarations of Interest: Cllr J Bull 12/38 (x).

12/21 **To approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 12.01.2012:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 12th January 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

12/22 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**

11/187: Permanent hole for Christmas Tree. This has now been completed.

11/226: Overhanging hedge. No update since last meeting.

11/211: Storage shed. No update since last meeting.

12/23 **To Receive Planning Committee Meeting Minutes of 02.02.2012:** The Minutes of this meeting was received, endorsed and adopted.

12/24 **To Receive Planning Decisions and Information:**

Cllr Morden reported that the following decisions have been received from West Berkshire Council:

11/00686/HOUSE Chichester, 16 King Street. Alterations to existing kitchen and conservatory. Approved

11/01917/HOUSE 37-39 King Street. Change of use from office into B2. Refused. Reasons stated a general industrial (B2) use is inappropriate for a predominantly residential area.

11/02231/HOUSE Mortimer Hill Cottage, 1 The Avenue. Double storey side extension and part infill (single storey) at rear. Approved.

11/02261/FUL 6 Victoria Road (Budgens – south side). New shop front – DDA compliant, automatic door and electric shutter. Approved.

11/02352/HOUSE 9 St John's Road. Conservatory. Approved.

The Clerk advised that WBC's Senior Enforcement Officer, Planning had advised that he has served notice on the owners of the large towed advertisement trailer and the owners of 17 Victoria Road (Budgens Car Park) to remove the unlawful large towed advertisement trailer parked and secured in the car park (under the town and Country Planning (control of advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007).

12/25 **To consider carrying out urgent tree works in Windmill Common at a cost of £1,580 plus VAT:** It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the tree work as long as a second competitive quotation is obtained.

12/26 **To receive report from Cemetery Meeting 08.02.2012:** Cllr Morsley advised that the Tier One Report for the Cemetery extension has now been received in which the Environment Agency (EA) had raised a couple of queries regarding the small ditch and that a tier 2 or 3 assessment may be required. After further consultation the Committee agreed that as the consenting powers for works to ordinary water courses will transfer from the EA to WBC to recommend that rather than commission the reports in 12/28 to (in accordance with the agreed budget) to proceed to

1. Engage the services of Berkshire Archaeological Services to initiate the Archaeological Evaluation at a cost of £2,012.20. and

2. Engage the services of Dr Christopher Stanford, Architecture CPS to initiate a planning application at a cost of £950.

This was proposed by Cllr Morsley and seconded by Cllr Kiley and carried unanimously. The Clerk to action.

12/27 **To receive recommendation of scale of Cemetery Fees for 2012:** Cllr Morsley proposed that in line with the unanimous recommendation from the Cemetery Committee that all the Cemetery Fees be increased by 50% as from the 1st April 2012, this was seconded by Cllr Wingfield and carried

- unanimously.
- 12/28 **To receive recommendation from Cemetery Committee that Stage 1a and 1b survey reports be commissioned at a cost of £3,380 plus VAT:** This item was withdrawn.
- 12/29 **To receive recommendation from the Cemetery Committee on agreed contractor for grass cutting in 2012:** This item was moved to Part II Confidential section.
- 12/30 **To receive update from the SMP C Queen's Jubilee Beacon Working Party:** Cllr Earl updated the Council on the progress being made by the Jubilee Working Party for the event on 4th June 2012.
- 12/31 **To receive update on the Superfast Broadband Public Meeting:** Cllr Puddephatt gave an overview on West Berkshire Council's proposal for an infrastructure improvement programme to provide Superfast Broadband across Berkshire including the parish of Mortimer. The arrangements for the Public Meeting arranged for Saturday 25th February 2012 in the Methodist Church Hall at 10am were discussed.
- 12/32 **To receive response from WBC re the Parish Plan Surgery 22.11.2011.** The response from West Berkshire Council was received and noted.
- 12/33 **To receive update on the new National Planning Legislation:** In view of Councillors attending the forthcoming Community and Neighbourhood Planning Workshops it was agreed that this would be held over until the next meeting.
- 12/34 **To consider any items for submission to NAG Meeting on 14.02.12:** There were no items.
- 12/35 **To receive Willink Leisure Centre JAC Meeting 06.02.2012 report:** Cllr Morden attended the Joint Advisory Committee on the 6th February 2012. Mr A Piggot has been appointed as Centre Manager as of 9 January 2012. Usage for the period September to December 2011 was 27908, up from 16,794 for the same period in 2010 notwithstanding the swimming pool was closed for essential maintenance for 14 days in December. Cleanliness continues to be a problem and is receiving urgent attention. Continued prodding by Cllr Morden has born fruit as the tennis courts are to be re-surfaced during the February school half term. Varied sports use the surface which needs to be of the correct standard to meet the needs of users. Use of the swipe facility on the WBC Library/Leisure facilities card show that 75% of the users live in Burghfield/Mortimer.
- 12/36 **To consider making an application for the Community Parish Plan Grant:** It was agreed that Cllr Puddephatt would meet with the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) to discuss whether there are any potential projects could be identified from the Parish Plan Refresh for a grant application.
- 12/37 **To receive report from District Councillors:** The District Councillors report was read out and noted.
- 12/38 **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 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 Expenses
 - v. Custodian's Salary
 - vi. New Custodian's Salary
 - vii. RBWM
 - viii. Stewarts of Mortimer Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15 inc VAT.
 - ix. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £240.19 (McColls £8.10; Lafford Buildbase (Xmas tree base £105.11 inc VAT; Asgard, key for secure shed £18.00; House of Frazer £33.00; Grabloader Ltd, topsoil for Cemetery £66.00 inc VAT; Amazon, docking station £7.98; and card fee £2.00)
 - x. Dads Shop Ltd £41.98 inc VAT
 - xi. SSE Contracting Ltd (new 100 amp supply at the Fairground inc Meter, RCD Sockets etc. £840.00 inc VAT (s106)
 - xii. C & D Facilities & Ground Maintenance Ltd (tree contract works Fairground) £13,371.42 inc VAT (s106)

- xiii. T B Estate Services Ltd (new dragons teeth Heath Elm Common Pond) £835.20 inc VAT (s106)
- xiv. Fieldwork Rest & Play Ltd (new safety surfaces play area)(£2,721.60 inc VAT (s106)
- xv. T B Estate Services Ltd (ditch & hedge works Hammonds Heath/Windmill Road) £216.00 inc VAT
- xvi. SLCC Enterprises Ltd (conference fee) £364.80 inc VAT
- xvii. Mortimer Maintenance (installation costs for permanent hole for Christmas Tree) £75.00
- xviii. Thames Water (water trough Fairground) £11.88

12/39 **To receive Correspondence:**

- Update from Burghfield & Mortimer Neighbourhood Police Team for February. Noted and received.

12/40 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**

- The Clerk advised that S106 Open Spaces developer monies of £2,115.58 had been received from West Berkshire Council and that an update of S106 monies would be presented to the Council at the next meeting.
- Cllr Barker reported that the 2012 Community Award has been awarded to Mrs Jean May which is to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.
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12/41 **To receive Future Agenda Items:**

- The Clerk advised that she has received a quotation to install 2 no electricity supplies to the grazing area. This is to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- The Parish Council representative on the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau and its constitution. This has been passed to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- A problem with the surface of Footpath No 10. The Clerk advised that a member of the public had already reported this to West Berkshire Council.
- A broken BT cover opposite the junction with Mortimer Lane.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th March 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:16 p.m.