



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 12th July 2012 @ 7.30 p.m.

at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), P Blagden, J Bull, P Challis, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, M Lock, D Morsley, A Philips, A Thorpe and P Wingfield.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public & Press: Six

- 12/148 **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs R Barker, J Morden and N Kiley
- 12/149 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** Cllr J Bull 12/162 (x) and 12/144.
- 12/150 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 14th June 2012:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th June 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 12/151 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**
08/128: West Berkshire Council (WBC) Highways Department advise that they have sent a letter to all land owners adjoining the ditch running east of Pitfield Lane (Blewburton Close, Gordon Palmer Close, Pit Cottages, Oak View and Church View Pitfield Lane) requiring them under the Land Drainage Act 1991 as 'Riparian Owner' to clear the ditch and remove silt and vegetation to allow/improve the free flow of water in the ditch. Once this work has been undertaken, WBC can then clean the culvert under Pitfield Lane to eliminate the flooding which occurs here.
- 12/152 **In pursuant with the Localism Act 2011 to adopt the revised Code of Conduct for members of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (Previously Circulated):** In line with Minute No 12/153 below Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that the Council adopt the SMPC Code of Conduct form with the exception of Sections 4 which relate to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests until this has been suitably clarified. This was carried unanimously.
- 12/153 **In pursuant with the Localism Act 2011 The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 to adopt and complete Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council's Declaration of Interest Forms:** A question was raised asking 'does a Council have a right to legally disclose/publish 3rd party information without that person's consent or will it be in breach of data protection.' It was unanimously agreed not to take this forward until this concern has been suitably clarified. The Clerk is to look into this.
- 12/154 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 03.07.2012:** The Minutes of this meeting were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 12/155 **To Receive Planning Decisions and Information:**
In the absence of Cllr Morden the Clerk reported that the following decision has been received from West Berkshire Council:
12/00905/CERTP 42 West End Road. Proposed Garage. A Certificate of Lawfulness has been granted. Notwithstanding that two earlier applications, 10/02921 and 10/01279 to build on this site were refused and the decision upheld on appeal the proposed garage has been deemed Lawful within the meaning of Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. There appears to be nothing that West Berkshire Council or the Parish Council can do to refuse this proposal.
The following application has been withdrawn.
12/00890/HOUSE, 11 Bilberry Gardens. Side and Rear extensions, new parking area and removal of car port. The Parish Council had objected.

Notice of Appeal:

11/008937/FULD: Greengates, The Street. Construction of new house and garage to the rear of existing house. Appeal against WBC's refusal. The appeal to be decided by exchange of written statements.

Cllr Morden attended WBC's Eastern Area Planning Committee on the 4th July 2012 and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council on the following application:

12/01007/FULD: Squirrels Lodge, West End Road: Demolition of existing house and erection of 4 x four bed houses. The WBC Officer's recommendation was for approval but the Parish Council had objected on traffic grounds. Both Cllr Morden and District Councillor Lock spoke against the proposal. The Officer's recommendation was overturned on the grounds of overdevelopment and lack of adequate parking.

- 12/156 **To receive update on outstanding issue with the Musical Chimes and solution:** Cllr Blagden advised that following further vandalism and total destruction of the remaining eye chimes the contractor Kompan has now totally removed the base from the site and made safe. Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that the Fairground Committee proceed to order a suitable piece of replacement equipment within the limit of the credit note. This was unanimously resolved.

- 12/157 **To agree further payments for the Jubilee event (retrospective):**

1. Big on Bouncing (Bouncy Castle) £ 40.00:
2. Aldermaston Recycling (skip hire) £144.00:

Cllr Puddephatt proposed the above from the Chair and it was unanimously resolved.

- 12/158 **To receive any Parish Council Matters raised at the Annual Parish Meeting:**

1. That the Council look into the feasibility of providing public toilets on the Fairground. This has already been passed to the Fairground Committee to look into.
2. To ask Thames Valley Police to include statistics from the British Transport Police regarding Mortimer Railway Station in their future monthly reports. This has been actioned.

A subsequent request had been received suggesting that the Open Forum part of the Annual Parish Meeting be earlier on the Agenda after the Chairman's Report and before the reports from local organisations. It was agreed that this should be done in future years.

- 12/159 **To Receive report regarding a large tree trunk abandoned on Parish Council Land adjacent to the highway in Longmoor Lane and its removal:**

Cllr Ives reported that a large tree trunk had been dumped/abandoned on Parish Council Land at the edge of Windmill Common adjacent to the highway. As this posed a danger if not removed the Parish Council had to arrange for a tree surgeon to cut and dispose of it.

- 12/160 **To receive update from PCSO Joint Meeting 12.07.12:**

The Clerk gave an update of the joint PCSO Meeting which had been attended by representatives from the three Parish Council's, Sgt Auferio and PCSO Baker-Jones. Cllr Ives proposed that a presentation on the PCSO provision be put on the Agenda during the Autumn to ascertain whether SMPC will wish to renew the PCSO contract at the end of the term particularly as it appears that the PCSO may be being used outside of the participating parishes.

- 12/161 **To receive written report from the District Councillors (circulated):**

These were received.

- 12/162 **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 Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that these be paid which was carried unanimously.

- i. Miss L Behrens (grass protector 12/134) £185.00
- ii. Big on Bouncing (Jubilee) £40.00
- iii. Ed's Garden maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £110.00
- iv. Thames Valley Police Authority (PCSO part funding Quarter 1) £1,928.75
- v. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground May) £629.87 inc VAT
- vi. Custodian's Reimbursable Expenses £9.00

- vii. Clerk's Reimbursable Expenses £41.84
 - viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £259.90 (Post Office Ltd £5.90; Aldermaston Recycling (Jubilee) £144.00 inc VAT; Grabloader Ltd (soil) £108.00 inc VAT and card fee £2.00)
 - ix. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15 inc VAT
 - x. Dad's Shop Ltd £60.61 inc VAT
 - xi. Advance Printing Ltd (Newsletter) £390.00:
 - xii. BT (telephone Parish Office) £124.69 Direct Debit
 - xiii. SLCC (purchase of reference books) £42.25
 - xiv. West Berkshire Council (quarterly photocopying) £114.96
- 12/163 **To receive Correspondence (for information only):**
- A second letter from the PCC regarding the Parish Council's allocation of grants to community bodies was read out along with the proposed reply.
 - A further letter of complaint was received from a resident reiterating his concerns regarding the Parish Council's expenditure on the Village Jubilee Event.
 - A copy of a letter to and response from WBC from Miss Roy regarding traffic issues in Mortimer.
 - A letter from Thames Valley Police asking for nominations for the Community Policing Awards 2012.
- 12/164 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**
- The Clerk is to report an overhanging limb to a tree on Footpath 15.
 - Cllrs Ives is to co-ordinate councillor training to operate a SID (Speed Indicator Device) Machine.
 - The MVP are to rectify the small amount of damage caused to the area of the Fairground around the Hammonds Heath gate caused by the wet weather during the Fun Day.
- 12/165 **To receive Future Agenda Items:**
- Presentation prior to the September Meeting regarding the possible closure of the Fire Station.
 - Renewal of the PCSO contract (as above).
 - A proposed village organised music festival and how the Parish Council may be able to assist.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th September 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9:39 p.m.