



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of

the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 11th October 2012 @ 7.30 p.m.

at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), P Blagden, J Bull, M Dennett, J Earl (from 8:25pm), D Ives, J Morden, D Morsley, A Phillips, A Thorpe and P Wingfield.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Also in attendance: District Councillor G Mayes

Public & Press: One

To receive Apologies for Absence: Cllrs: P Challis, N Kiley and M Lock.

12/195 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** Cllr J Bull 12/211(v)

12/196 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 13 September 2012:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 13 September 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

12/197 **To receive reminder from Chairman of Councillors expected behaviour:** The Chairman reminded Councillors of their expected behaviour as elected members.

12/198 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**

12/169: As the Fire Authority had not responded to the question regarding the holding of a public meeting it would not now be feasible to arrange this before the end of the consultation on the 22nd October and the possible closure of the Fire Station will be put on the Council Agenda in November.

12/171: Councillor Declaration of Interest Forms. These are to be scanned in by West Berkshire Council (WBC) and will be available on SMPC website in the near future. WBC have been in contact regarding the one missing form.

12/173: Councillor Vacancy and By Election Details. It was confirmed that the Council would be informed within the next two days as to whether a contested by-election would be held. Deadline for nominations is 12 Noon 12th October (tomorrow).

12/192: Letter sent to Reading Collection Office. No response received yet.

Renewal of Lease for the Parish Council Office in the Library Building: The Clerk advised that WBC Estates Department had written advising that they do not envisage renewing the Lease to SMPC on a similar basis to the current Lease due to expire in March 2013. A meeting has been arranged with the Chairman and Clerk and representatives of WBC to discuss this on Tuesday 16th October.

12/199 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 17.09.2012 & 08.10.2012:**

The Minutes of these Meetings were received, endorsed and adopted.

Cllr Morden also reported that at the Planning Committee Meeting on the 17th September the following was resolved:

- The formation of a Community Development Plan Sub Committee was considered and it was agreed that Cllrs J Morden, P Wingfield and M Dennett would form the Sub Committee. They will look into the feasibility of carrying out a Community Plan and report back to the Planning Committee in due course. The first action of the Sub Committee is to register SMPC's interest in attending the NALC/CPRE Neighbourhood Planning Workshop in November.
- A letter had also been received from West Berkshire Council Heritage Forum saying the Heritage Forum is to implement a local listing in West Berkshire. 'A local Listing means whereby a heritage asset (a building, archaeological site, park or garden, landmark, monument, artistic feature, outdoor furniture, or signage) which is not listed, scheduled or registered by English Heritage can be designated locally as of

exceptional local significance by which that exceptional local significance can be determined. Local listing will be treated as a material consideration for any planning application affecting that asset or its setting.'

The letter also stated that the Heritage Forum needs a sufficient number of assessors (who will receive training) and they asked if SMPC could put forward a nomination by the 27th September. It was agreed that Cllr M Dennett would be put forward as an Assessor.'

The Chairman proposed that the two actions above be endorsed and adopted by the full Council. This was carried unanimously.

12/200 **To Receive Planning Decisions and Information from West Berkshire Council (WBC):** Cllr Morden reported that the following decisions had been received from West Berkshire Council:

12/00680/FULD Tower House, The Street. Demolition of existing and erection of 4 new dwellings. Approved.

12/01726/HOUSE Kenmuir House, Mortimer Lane. Part single storey and part two storey side extension. Approved.

12/0409/FULD 41 King Street. Erection of new detached house. Application withdrawn.

12/01010/CERTE 71A West End Road. Used since 28 November 2005 as two separate flats. WBC has received a Statutory Declaration in support of the application.

12/01007/FULD Squirrels Lodge, West End Road. Demolish existing and replace with 4 x four bedroom houses. WBC has notified that their decision to refuse has been sent for Appeal. The Appeal is to be decided on the basis of written statements. Notwithstanding that all papers with WBC which include SMPC's objection will be passed to the Inspector. The Committee agreed that as this is a very controversial application SMPC should expand on its support of WBC's refusal. A letter has been sent to the Inspector not only reiterating the Parish Council's view that the entrance to the site on West End Road is inadequate but also setting out data from the Traffic Speed Surveys of 2005 and 2008 showing that 72.27% of traffic travelling west out of the village and 86.12% east into the village exceeded the 30mph limit.

Cllr Earl arrived.

12/201 **To receive Fairground Trees & Amenities (FT&A) Committee Minutes of 03.10.12:**

The Minutes of this meeting were received, endorsed and adopted.

12/202 **To consider recommendations and further information from FT & A on the urgent options for the multiplay unit in the children's play area (currently out of action for safety reasons):** Further to Minute No. 5 of the F T & A Committee Meeting of the 3.10.12 the Full Council considered further information regarding the multi play unit. It had become apparent that further to the Committee Meeting, if the Council modifies the multi play unit in any way it would lose the protection (as the unit was manufactured before the standards were introduced) of not having to comply with European Standard EN 1176. The Clerk had obtained a revised quotation for a replacement unit (to include removal of existing, installation and safety surface etc) at a cost of £14,895. The Chairman then proposed that it be put to the vote.

Re-paint and repair - 4 votes

Replace up to a value of £15,000 (from S106 monies) - 6 votes.

It was therefore resolved to replace the multiplay unit. The Clerk to action as soon as possible as currently part of the existing unit is out of commission.

12/203 **To receive report from the F T & A on the feasibility study and recommendation regarding the provision of public toilets on the Fairground:** As a portable type unit would not be feasible because of practical/security/vandalism etc it was unanimously resolved that the F T & A Committee look at this again to draw up an outline of different types of permanent buildings with appropriate costings, to determine if such a provision would be cost effective.

12/204 **To receive current financial update from the RFO:** The RFO advised that all committees

- (except the Fairground Committee) are within budget. Fully updated accounts will be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the 6th November. The half yearly Internal Audit is to take place on the 24th October.
- 12/205 **To agree a methodology for considering new Parish Council projects (in addition to routine/standing expenditure) for possible inclusion in the 2013/2014 budget:** If Members wish to propose any projects for the financial year 2013/2014 to please forward to the Clerk by 1st November 2012.
- 12/206 **To re-consider specialist repair work and possible cleaning of the War Memorial:** Cllr Ives gave an update on work required to the war memorial (including cleaning) and advice from the War Memorial Trust and a detailed specification from stonemasons A F Jones. It was unanimously resolved to proceed with repair work/cleaning up to £3,000 subject to advice from both the War Memorial Trust and A F Jones.
- 12/207 **To agree the details for the Community Gathering Event for local organisations:** An invitation list is being compiled by the Communications Committee along with an invitation letter. This is to be sent out in due course. All Councillors were encouraged to attend if they could.
- 12/208 **To receive update on the Garth Hall project:** It was agreed that Cllrs Blagden, Puddephatt, Morsley, Wingfield, Bull and the Clerk would meet on Wednesday 17th October to discuss the options and a way forward.
- 12/209 **To receive update from the PCSO for September 2012:** Previously circulated. Accepted and received. The Clerk advised that a meeting regarding renewal options for the partially funded PCSO is to be held with Inspector McKeown on 17th October.
- 12/210 **To receive written report from the District Councillors (circulated):**
Cllr Mayes' report was received and accepted.
- 12/211 **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 Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that these be paid which was carried unanimously.
- i. Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd (new seats, picnic benches etc. £2,129.18 inc VAT
 - ii. Mortimer Maintenance Ltd (installation and repair work Fairground) £2,190.00
 - iii. Advance Printing & Design (Newsletter) £390.00
 - iv. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15
 - v. Dads Shop Ltd £157.76 inc VAT
 - vi. Ed's Garden Maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £110.00
 - vii. Burghfield Village Hall (hall hire charge NAG Meetings) £20.00
 - viii. Mant Leisure (surfacing for table tennis table) £1,740 inc VAT
 - ix. Redlynch Leisure Installations Ltd (table tennis table) £2,970.00 inc VAT
 - x. Thames Water (Fairground) Direct Debit £8.11
 - xi. BT (Parish Council Office) £124.90
 - xii. West Berkshire Council (photocopying) £35.82 inc VAT
 - xiii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £196.08 (Staples £50.48 inc VAT; First Great Western £30.50; Martin McColl £8.10; McVeigh Parker & Co £105.00, fencing materials; card fee £2.00)
 - xiv. Clerk's Reimbursable Expenses £126.28
 - xv. Waterland Management Ltd (pond treatment for crassula helmsii) £336.00 inc VAT
- 12/212 **To receive Correspondence (for information only):**
- Letter received regarding dogs on the Fairground in the Adventure Area. This was discussed at the Fairground Meeting and a response is to be sent.
- 12/213 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**
- Cllr Earl reported that The Mortimer Music Festival group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting. The next meeting is on 16th October in the Methodist Church Hall. It was agreed that this would be a Parish Council Agenda item for the next meeting.

- Congratulations were extended to Cllr Alan Thorpe who has been conferred the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his eminent services rendered on behalf of WBC and the residents of West Berkshire over a period of time.
- The previously reported abandoned mini bus in Longmoor Lane was moved on by a Police notice and it is now parked (for several weeks) in the Parish Council Car Park in West End Road. The Clerk to report to WBC.
- Cllr Dennett in conjunction with the Clerk is to apply for and try to secure £10,000 Awards for All Grant towards outdoor adult gym equipment.
- The Clerk advised that she had reported to WBC the dangerous wall on the boundary of Foudry House. WBC had replied that they did not judge the wall to be immediately dangerous and there was no obvious reason why the bricks should fall off or for the wall to collapse. They are to contact the owners to get it repaired to halt its deterioration.

West Berkshire Council have launched a portal to report problems on roads, footways, verges, public rights of way, car parks and public open spaces under the control of West Berkshire Council. http://www.westberks.gov.uk/frontline/describe_case.aspx

12/214 **To receive next Agenda Items:**

- Possible closure of Mortimer Fire Station.

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

The Meeting closed at 9:25p.m