



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of

the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 8 November 2012 @ 7.30 p.m.

at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: G Puddephatt (Chairman), P Blagden, P Challis, A Colaço, M Dennett, J Earl (from 7:35pm), D Ives, N Kiley, M Lock, J Morden, D Morsley, A Phillips, and P Wingfield.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public & Press: None

The Clerk advised that the result of the by-Election was uncontested and Austin Colaço had therefore been duly elected unopposed. She confirmed that his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Members' Interest Forms had been completed. The Chairman welcomed Austin to the Council.

12/215 **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr: J Bull.

12/216 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** None.

12/217 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 11 October 2012:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 11 October 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
Cllr Earl arrived.

12/218 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**

12/171: New information was received on 6 November clarifying the interpretation of the law relating to the granting of Councillors' dispensations prior to any discussions taking place relating to any budget or precept setting. The Clerk will arrange the necessary paperwork for councillors to complete before any future meeting relating to budgets or the setting of the precept.

Every local council have been asked not to formally approve its Precept request until The Government announcements regarding Excessive Council Tax Increase triggers (to be set by the Secretary of State in late January 2013), the publication of The Chancellor's Local Government Finance Report in early December 2012 and until West Berkshire Council (WBC) sets/issues the revised Band D council tax base figures.

12/111: Cemetery Extension: Progressing well and the solicitors are drawing up the Lease.

12/203: The Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee met on site with a company representative from a Public Conveniences Provider. The quotations received to purchase a single occupancy unit (a popular choice for parks) was £59,000 (or £21,295 pa to rent) plus £13,000 pa cleaning and maintenance and these figures will need to be considered by the Council at a later date.

12/188: Christmas Tree: Everything is in order and the tree is being delivered and erected on Wednesday 28th November in time for the start of Advent. Thanks to The Englefield Estate for kindly providing the Tree and to Mortimer Maintenance for putting up the lights.

12/202: The new Multiplay Unit and stepping stones package have been ordered and this is scheduled to be installed during the second week in December (weather permitting).

12/198: Parish Council Office. The Chairman and Clerk met with WBC as arranged on 16 October. This has been followed up with further correspondence. As the current Lease is due to expire at the end of March 2013 it was agreed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F & GP) on the 6th November to escalate negotiations to the CEO at WBC and also to investigate any other options available.

12/169: Possible closure of Fire Station. This has been held over to the December Meeting as a response has not yet been received.

The installers of the Adventure Area on the Fairground, Kompan Ltd, contacted the Parish Council on the 8th November to advise that are upgrading the safety surface under both the Octanet and large swing at no cost to the Parish Council. This will comprise of a new sponge layer being placed on top of the existing matting adding 20mm of top soil then a layer of turf and new grass matting on the top over these two very large areas.

- 12/219 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 22.10.2012 & 01.11.2012:**
The Minutes of these Meetings were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 12/220 **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:
- 12/01898/HOUSE 26 Windmill Road. Retrospective front porch and single storey side extension. Approved.
- 12/01901/HOUSE 3 Bilberry Gardens. Single storey rear extension, new velux window. Approved.
- 12/02247/HOUSE: Starvehill House, Lockram Lane. New garage, mower store, changing room, gym/hobbies in roof space. Swimming Pool, garden wall and Green House. Cllr Morden spoke at the WBC Eastern Area Planning Committee on 7 November 2012 objecting to this application. However, WBC Officers recommendation to approve prevailed but the following conditions were imposed.
1. Swimming Pool must not be covered (made indoor)
 2. Building not to be converted to dwelling space.
- Approved.
- 12/221 **To receive update on SMPC's Community Right to Bid List:**
The Clerk advised that under the Community Right to Bid Provisions a draft list of potential assets had been submitted to WBC. WBC responded advising that under Regulation 6 of the Provisions SMPC will need to re-submit each nomination with specific information and also be able to meet certain criteria in relation to each community nomination. The draft list will therefore need to be re-assessed and then re-submitted. It was agreed to circulate this information once this has been done.
- 12/222 **To receive current financial update from the RFO:** The Clerk confirmed that the current year's budget is reasonably on target but there may be a need for some virements. It was also confirmed that on the 24th October 2012 SMPC's internal auditor duly completed a six month review of the Council's systems of accounting and internal control and had found everything to be in order.
- 12/223 **To receive a brief verbal update from the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting of the 6th November and any resultant Agenda Items:** Cllr Wingfield gave a brief update on items not on this Agenda from the F & GP Meeting held two days' earlier on the 6th November. Discussions at that meeting were restricted on all agenda items relating to next year's budget because of the letter received that day regarding dispensations (see Clerk's Update above) as all members had a pecuniary interest. SMPC will need to consider costs associated with the Cemetery extension, Neighbourhood Plan, Garth Hall, Parish Council Office, routine expenditure, new projects etc. It was agreed that before setting the budget it would be necessary to work up the details of the Fairground and Cemetery charges.
- 12/224 **To agree the details/arrangements for the Community Gathering Event for local organisations on the 19th November:** This item was discussed and details and the plan of order for the evening were made.
- 12/225 **To receive update on the Garth Hall project:** A meeting and site visit has been arranged between Parish Council members, Barry Newton, Royal British Legion (RBL) and Mr Alex Houghton of the Commercial Department of the RBL HQ. In the meantime a condition survey of the hall has been commissioned by the Parish Council at an approximate cost of £550. This is essential before any financial decision can be made. Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the Chair to retrospectively agree this and this was unanimously resolved.
- 12/226 **To receive update from PCSO for October 2012:** The update, previously circulated, was accepted and received. Cllr Ives was asked to look into the provision of the Speed

Indicator Devise (SID) and a new list of Councillor volunteers to receive training is to be drawn up.

12/227 **To receive Minutes from Burghfield & Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group 09.10.12 and any items to be put forward to the next meeting:** The draft minutes were received and accepted.

12/228 **To receive report on AWE Local Liaison Committee:** A report from AWE dated 15th May 2012 re The Lay-person's alternative guide to REPIR (Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations) relating to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston and Burghfield. The report was received and accepted. Cllr Earl advised that the next AWE Local Liaison Committee meeting is on the 5th December 2012 and a report will be given to the full Council Meeting on the 13th December 2012.

12/229 **To receive Flooding and Pollution Meeting Report:** Cllr Geoff Mayes' comprehensive notes relating to the Stratfield Mortimer Flooding and Pollution Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd October 2012 with representatives from WBC, SMPC and Thames Water (previously circulated) were received and accepted. A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr Mayes for his dedication and efforts.

12/230 **To receive written report from the District Councillors (circulated):** The reports were received and accepted.

12/231 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for November:**

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. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) £1,016.32 inc VAT
- ii. R M Weavers (grass cutting Fairground) £108.00 inc VAT
- iii. R C Saunders Ltd (hedge cutting and maintenance) £810.00 inc VAT
- iv. Mant Leisure (deposit for new Multi Play Unit) £6,050.88 inc VAT
- v. Thames Valley Police Authority (PCSP part funding Quarter 2) £1,928.75
- vi. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15
- vii. Ed's Garden Maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £110.00
- viii. Hampshire Association of Local Councils (training fee) £36.00 inc VAT
- ix. West Berkshire Council (uncontested election fees) £60.00 inc VAT
- x. R C Saunders Ltd (hedge and tree work Heath End Pond area) £312.00 inc VAT
- xi. Claire Connell (internal audit fee) £235.00
- xii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £16.26 (First Great Western £4.50, Martin McColl £9.76 and £2.00 card fee)
- xiii. Clerk's Reimbursable Expenses £92.36
- xiv. Dads Shop Ltd £18.97
- xv. Burghfield Parish Council (Nag Meeting Hall Rental) £20.00
- xvi. Royal British Legion (poppy wreath) £20.00

12/232 **To receive Correspondence (for information only):**

- Correspondence received from a resident asking if SMPC could consider the feasibility of long term residents of the village being able to reserve a plot in the Parish Council Cemetery. This is to be passed to the Cemetery Committee.
- A chain of correspondence between the Parish Council and a resident regarding the Parish Council Planning Committee's statutory observations for the planning application for 'Alvernia' The Street.
- BALC (Berkshire Association of Local Councils) AGM details to be held on 10th November 2012 at Grazeley Village Hall. Cllrs Wingfield and Dennett are to attend.
- MERL (Museum of English Rural Life) annual lecture on The British Countryside in 2020; speaker Richard Benyon MP.
- The Clerk confirmed that all correspondence/enquiries received regarding the erection of new floodlights without planning consent by Mortimer Football Club on the Alfred Palmer Playing Field have been forwarded to the WBC Planning

Enforcement Officer.

12/233 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**

- Cllr Earl reported that The Mortimer Music Festival group has split into 2 groups one to organise smaller events and one for larger events. The Group's first 3 smaller events will be held in local pubs with a bigger event being planned for June 2013 on the Fairground.
- The members of the Community Development Plan Sub Committee and the Clerk are to attend a Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning - getting started one day workshop.
- Cllr Morden advised that WBC's Eastern Area Planning Committee had not passed a planning application for a traveller and showman site at Beenham.
- The dangerous wall reported to WBC around the boundary of Foudry House in The Street has had the top half of the bricks in the wall have been removed.
- Cllr Blagden reported that a bag of daffodil bulbs had been planted by the War Memorial and thanks were offered to Cllr P Wingfield and Mr M Bradberry in this regard.
- To clean the steps of the War Memorial before Remembrance Sunday on the 13th November.
- Mrs Val Drake has retired from Mortimer Post Office after 25 years service and it was agreed that the Chairman using his allowance would send a card and flowers on behalf of the Parish Council.

12/234 **To receive next Agenda Items:**

- To consider the problem of cars (approx 14) parking daily on the lower part of The Street.
- In relation to the above to consider parking provision at Mortimer Railway Station.
- To formally co-opt Cllr Colaço onto Parish Council Standing Committees.
- To consider items for submission for the next applications for WBC Community Grant Scheme.

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

The Meeting closed at 8:58 p.m.