



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Finance & General Purposes Meeting

Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in The Parish Office, Victoria Road, Mortimer at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs: P Wingfield, (In the Chair), D Ives, D Morsley, M Dennett, P Blagden, J Morden, G Puddephatt (from 8:50pm)  
Clerk: Mrs J E Kirk

01. **To receive apologies:** Cllr G Puddephatt for first part of meeting.
02. **To receive Declarations of Interest:** None
03. **To receive update on the renewal of the Parish Council Office or the provision of an alternative Parish Council Office:** The Clerk advised that further to the previous meeting she has written to Mr N Carter, the CEO at West Berkshire Council asking for a meeting to discuss. Cllrs Wingfield, Ives and the Clerk have also viewed an office for rent in the village.
04. **To receive update on the renewal of the Part Funded PCSO Contract from April 2013:** Further to the previous Minutes the Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Superintendent Robin Rickard, Police Area Commander TVP. The letter was read out and assures that Thames Valley Police seeks to ensure that 100% of the part funded PCSOs contracted hours would be carried out in the three Parishes, as described in The Parish Councils email to them of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012, except in exceptional operational circumstances would the PCSO be deployed away from the Parishes. Both the Letter from Superintendent Rickard and the email of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 would sit alongside the contract if agreed and signed. The Clerk and Cllr Ives confirmed that both Burghfield and Sulhamstead partner Parish Councils are more than happy that this clarifies the situation and their council's will now sign the new contract. Cllr Ives also said that he was happy that this clarifies the situation and would recommend to that SMPC enters into a new 2 year tripartite contract to 2015 (SMPC's annual contribution £7,715). Cllr Wingfield was of a different opinion and proposed from the Chair that the Council did not go ahead with the renewal of the 2 year PCSO contract. This was put to the vote and failed with one vote in favour and five against. The recommendation from the F & GP is therefore to proceed.
05. **To receive update on the Garth Hall Project including the condition survey:** The meeting between the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Parish Council took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and Mr Alex Houghton of the Commercial Department of the RBL HQ is to further clarify the intentions of the RBL and the trust deed etc for the hall. It was agreed that no provision would be made in next year's budget for this and if necessary SMPC could look to take out a loan.
06. **To consider/agree demands on next year's budget:** Additional items to be considered for next year's budget included Year 1 of 3 for Superfast Broadband Scheme (£6,542 p.a.), Possible provision for a new Parish Council Office (approx. est. £4,000 p.a.) if the lease is not renewed; Production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Mortimer (approx. est. £10,000); possible additional set up costs for the Cemetery Extension; Mortimer Link (Mini bus to the station (£3,192 amount unchanged); in addition to the PCSO Partial Funding (see Minute No. 4 above) and SMPC's contribution to Willink Leisure Centre (£9,100 p.a.). The Clerk was asked to look at SMPC's contract for WLC to find out what the notice period is.

07. **To consider/agree budgeting strategies for next year's budget:** See Minute Numbers 4,5,6,7 and 9.
08. **To receive update on the current year's budget and estimated year end position:** The Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) advised the overrun on expenditure against budget for the current financial year (2012/13) is to be more or less on target.
09. **To consider the amount of SMPC grant funding for local organisations for 2013/2014:** Cllr Ives proposed that due to the tight constraints on next year's budget no provision at all be made for grant funding for local organisations. This was seconded by Cllr Wingfield and carried unanimously. It was agreed that an article explaining this would be placed in the next Parish Council Newsletter and on the website.
10. **To consider and draw up a provisional budget for 2013/2014:** The Councillors considered the budget headings including the possible additional items. The RFO will now re-work the figures for both the routine/statutory/new expenditure and present a draft budget to the F & GP again in early January (once the Government's proposals have been made known and WBC have set the Council Tax Base Figures). The Committee can then consider all the budget figures, prioritise them in order to make a recommendation for the 2013/2014 budget and precept request to the full Council for a decision. (Cllr Puddephatt arrived half way through this Agenda item).
11. **To consider/agree on proposals to take to the full December PC Meeting:** It was agreed in order to assist with the budget making process to recommend to the December Full Parish Council Meeting the following:
  1. The Council proceeds with the renewal of the PCSO 2 year contract.
  2. Continue with the partial subsidy for the Mortimer Link mini bus service to Mortimer Railway Station at an annual cost of £3,192.
  3. In order to assist with making savings that no grants be awarded by the Parish Council to local organisations in the financial year 2012/2013.

Meeting Closed at 9:50pm