



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of

the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 13 December 2012 @ 7.50 p.m.

at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public & Press: 9 Members of the Public (until 8:10pm end of item No 12/238)

- 12/235 **To receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs: J Bull, D Morsley, A Phillips, M Lock.
- 12/236 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** Under The Localism Act 2011 dispensations to discuss any matter relating to the Precept were granted by the Clerk to all members present.
- 12/237 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 8 November 2012:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8 November 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 12/238 **To discuss issues raised in a letter received from residents regarding the management of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field:** Further to representations from the members of public present prior to the start of the meeting and ensuing discussions regarding the management of the Alfred Palmer Field it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council writes to the Alfred Palmer Trustees to ask that they consider drawing up in consultation with Mortimer Football Club, Residents and other interested parties a strategic plan for the future use of the field.
- 12/239 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**
12/198: Parish Council Office: Response received from WBC and the requested meeting with CEO WBC is to take place on 8th January 2013
11/21: Addition to the Community Centre Sub Lease: The CiC's solicitors have now confirmed that they are now progressing the necessary legal work in conjunction with the Parish Council's solicitors (WBC).
12/202: The new Multiplay Unit in the children's play area is being installed this week and should be completed by the 19th December 2012.
12/206: The steam cleaning of the stone work on the war memorial has been completed and the re-pointing and waxing of the plaques is scheduled to be carried out in the New Year.
- 12/240 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 08.11.2012; 26.11.2012 and verbal update from Planning Committee Meeting 13.12.2012:**
The Minutes of these Meetings were received, endorsed and adopted.
12/02003/LQN Proposed variation to premises licence The Victoria Arms, 54 Victoria Road to include live and recorded music Monday to Thursday from 12:00 to 24:00, Friday and Saturday 12:00 to 01:00 and Sunday 12:00 to 23:00 (indoors). The Parish Council observation is to object to the extension of the extended times on a daily basis for live and recorded music in a residential area under The Prevention of Public Nuisance Regulations.
- 12/241 **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:
12/02405/FULD Land at Loves Wood. Erection of 2 detached dwellings, Refused:
1. Loss of trees subject to TPO 201/21/25
2. Fails to secure an appropriate scheme of works or off site mitigation measures.

12/02872/ Greengates, The Street. To allow revision to front elevation of new
NONMAT house following Appeal. Approved.

12/02363/HOUSE 35 West End Road. Convert part of integral garage and erect rear conservatory. This application has been withdrawn.

- 12/242 **To receive report and recommendation from SMPC Community Planning Sub Committee to proceed with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Morden presented a paper advising that the members of the Planning Sub Committee, charged with examining this topic, attended a Neighbourhood Planning Event organised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). This highlighted the potential benefits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. These policies would have as much force as any other Statutory Planning Policy (i.e. would be a material consideration). The concept of a Neighbourhood Plan, enabling local people to shape their surroundings, is a principle of the National Policy Framework (published by the Government in 2012) and this is reiterated in the West Berkshire Core Strategy. A Parish Council is the only body empowered to deliver a plan in a Parish and therefore it is felt that the SMPC should provide the opportunity for the residents to contribute to planning and it could be argued that not doing so could be regarded as a dereliction of the Parish Council's duties. It was emphasized that it would take a lot of time and effort up to a two year period; the cost for producing such a plan is not definitive. The Planning Sub Committee, however, feels that on balance it is appropriate to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Stratfield Mortimer. Cllr Morden proposed the following, to:

- Seek assistance from bodies that have been set up to help those interested local councils.
- Engage with West Berkshire Council on this matter.
- Communicate (via the Parish Council Newsletter) the background and the need to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to the community of Stratfield Mortimer.
- Develop a draft outline project plan.
- Have a presentation to obtain support to develop a Neighbourhood Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2013.

This was seconded by Cllr Kiley and unanimously resolved.

- 12/243 **To resolve that SMPC confirms the terms of a proposed lease for 150 years of the Cemetery Extension at St Mary's Church at a rent of £250 per annum, reviewable every 10 years to be made between The Englefield Estate Trust Corporation Limited and the Council as set out in the Heads of Terms between the two parties is agreed and authorised to be completed. Further that the Clerk of the Council is authorised and delegated the authority to execute the said lease on behalf of the Council:**

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

- 12/244 **To receive the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F & GP) Meeting Minutes of 06.11.2012 and 26.11.2012. To receive and consider the recommendations from the F & GP Meeting of the 26.11.2012:**

The Minutes of the 6.11.12 and 26.11.12 were received, endorsed and adopted.

The Chairman proposed the following recommendation from the F & GP from the Chair:

1. The Council proceeds with the renewal of the PCSO 2 year contract.
This was put to the vote and carried by 7 in favour and 3 against.
2. Continue with the partial subsidy for the Mortimer Link mini bus service to Mortimer Railway Station at an annual cost of £3,192.
This was unanimously resolved.
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.
This was put to the vote and not carried with 3 votes in favour and 5 against with 2 abstentions.

Cllr Wingfield subsequently proposed the agreed items 1 & 2 (above) be taken back to the F & GP Committee for further consideration. Cllr Thorpe then proposed an amendment to this proposal in that the first two proposals above stand as agreed/resolved and the third

proposal be held in abeyance until the Parish Council understands the financial position. This was seconded by Cllr Kiley and the amendment was put to the vote and carried by 6 votes in favour 4 against.

- 12/245 **To consider the co-option of Cllr Colaço onto Committees:** Held over until the next meeting.
- 12/246 **To consider the issue of all day parking at the lower end of The Street following the receipt of numerous letters of concern for residents:** As previously reported (Min No 12/234) all correspondence has been forwarded to the Highways Department at WBC who have subsequently advised that as the road width is over 8 metres for a considerable length from the roundabout junction up to Foundry House is generally sufficient to be able to accommodate on-street parking together with two way traffic. As the speed limit is 30mph this should ensure that drivers are able to anticipate and react to opposing traffic. WBC advise that by clearing roads of parked cars can often have the effect of increasing traffic speeds and so in certain circumstances the presence of parked cars can have a beneficial impact, as they may act as a form of traffic calming. WBC also advise that providing a long-term solution through formal parking restrictions and yellow lines would take a considerable time, as the legal processes involved with parking schemes are complex and subject to public consultation, with the potential for formal objections from other road users which further delays implementation but that this can be investigated as part of the next parking scheme in the area, but their works programme for next year has not as yet been approved. Cars that are not parked in accordance with the Road Traffic Act e.g. partially on the pavement, too near a junction etc. is purely a matter for the Police and should be reported directly to them.
- 12/247 **To consider the provision of additional car parking at Mortimer Railway Station:** Held over until February Meeting.
- 12/248 **To consider response to WBC's Statutory Public Consultation on the proposed parking schemes for The Street and West End Road:** The Parish Council's only comment was to recommend that the proposed 2 hour limited waiting fronting the four shops be restricted to business hours only.
- 12/249 **To receive update regarding the threat to close Mortimer Fire Station: (Minute No. 12/169 refers):** A joint meeting is to be arranged for early January 2013 between all the Parish Councils affected by the proposed closure of Mortimer Fire Station and the WBC Cllr representative on the Fire Authority Committee. Cllrs Challis, Ives and Dennett are to attend.
- 12/250 **To receive update from the PCSO for November 2012:** Received and accepted. PCSO is to address the Parish Council prior to the Meeting on the 14th February.
- 12/251 **To receive report on AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting 05.12.2012:** In the absence of Cllr Lock the Clerk read out a brief report which was accepted.
- 12/252 **To consider an application for WBC's Community Grant Scheme:** Held over until the next meeting pending any proposals requiring a grant scheme.
- 12/253 **To receive written report from the District Councillors:** A report from Cllr Mayes was received and accepted.
- 12/254 **Finance - To agree accounts for payment for December:**
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. C P Stanford (Condition Survey for Garth Hall) £550.00
 - ii. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15
 - iii. Ed's Garden Maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £165.00
 - iv. P J Legg (sign writing) £25.00
 - v. The Society of Local Council Clerks (annual subscription and institute membership) £247.00
 - vi. Thames Water (Fairground) £14.19 Direct Debit
 - vii. Advance Printing & Design (Carol Sheets) £55.00

- viii. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £65.00 (Post Office £12.60, Thames Print Room (maps) £50.40 (inc VAT) and £2.00 card fee)
- ix. Clerk's Reimbursable Expenses £94.17 (£22.13 refreshments Community gathering; £19.19 inc VAT consumables for Fairground; £27.95 travel; £24.90 inc VAT broadband and calls)
- x. Mortimer St John's Village Hall (hall rental) £44.00

12/255 **To receive Correspondence (for information only):**

- A letter from a resident in St John's Road regarding the condition and unadopted status of the road. As this is in the remit of the Highways Department at WBC this has been forwarded to them who are responding to the request.

12/256 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**

- The Clerk advised that the tennis courts had been temporarily taken out of use due to moss and algae on the court surface. Quotations for professional cleaning will be obtained in the New Year.
- The clock at St Mary's School seems not to have been working for a period of time and the Clerk was asked to contact the school.

12/257 **To receive next Agenda Items:**

- To agree a process for Parish Council Working Parties.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10th January 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 10:05 p.m.