



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of

the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on 11 April 2013 @ 7.30 p.m.

at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: G Puddephatt (in the Chair), P Blagden, J Bull, P Challis, A Colaço, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, N Kiley, J Morden, M Lock, D Morsley, A Phillips, A Thorpe and P Wingfield.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public & Press: Three

- 13/64 **To receive Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 13/65 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** None
- 13/66 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 14 March 2013:** The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14 March 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 13/67 **To receive Clerk's update (for information only):**
12/238: Re letter to Alfred Palmer Memorial Field (APMF) Trustees 11 January 2013 re strategic document for APMF: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC) has now received a response from the Trustees saying that they have not had a meeting since February.
13/11: The promised hire fees from the Hunt have still not been received. A further reminder has been sent.
13/07: Parish Council Office: The terms of reference for the new lease from West Berkshire Council (WBC) has not yet been agreed or signed and is still being negotiated. The current lease expired on 28 March 2013.
13/30: Parking at the bottom of The Street: Mr A Garratt, Principal Traffic and Road Safety Engineer will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on the 17 April 2013 to discuss parking issues in the village.
13/55: Garth Hall: The Community Right to Bid Nomination Form and supporting papers has been submitted to WBC and the application will be determined at a meeting at WBC on 16 April 2013.
13/56: Picnic Table: This has been ordered and is to be delivered and installed in the next couple of weeks.
13/62: Parish Council representative on Clarke's Charity: The Clerk confirmed that the current term of office runs to May 2014. The Charity has written to the representative about non-attendance and will keep SMPC informed of the outcome.
13/54: New Grass Cutting Contract The Fairground: The contract has been awarded to C & D Facilities & Grounds Maintenance Ltd.
- 13/68 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 26.03.2013:**
The Minutes of this Meeting were received, endorsed and adopted.
- 13/69 **To Receive Planning Decisions and Information from West Berkshire Council (WBC):**
Cllr Morden reported that the following decisions had been received from WBC:
12/02781/FUL Alfred Palmer Field. Erection of 4 flood lights. As reported last month this has been approved. Conditions:-
1. May be illuminated Monday to Thursday 5:30pm to 8:00pm and shall only operate when the football pitch is used. At all other times the floodlights will be switched off.
2. The floodlights shall not be used until the position, materials of baffles to be attached to rear of lights have been submitted to an approved by the Local Planning Authority and the baffles have been

constructed in accordance with the approved details.

3. Within 2 months of the date of permission (18.03.13) a written lighting report in line with the guidance contained within the Institution of Lighting Engineers Guidance notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (2005) shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

12/03036/FULD 41 King Street. Retrospective permission to demolish existing prior to re-development to provide 3 detached houses. Approved.

13/00065/HOUSE Monktons, The Street. Single storey side and rear extension. Approved.

13/00072/HOUSE 44 The Avenue. Rear and front extensions and loft conversion. Approved.

13/00160/HOUSE Springfield, The Street. Detached garage in front garden. Approved.

13/00205/HOUSE 52 Windmill Road. Front extension. Approved.

13/70 **To receive update on the SMPC Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Cllr Dennett reported that Cllrs Morden, Winfield, Dennett and the Clerk met with Bryan Little (Principal Planning Policy Manager) and Jo Naylor (Principal Planning Officer (Communities)) at WBC on 11 March. This was a helpful meeting and following the Parish Council's resolution to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan WBC confirmed they would support the Parish Council. Details of the process were discussed and the next stage in the process is for the Parish Council to submit a formal application to WBC to proceed. There is the possibility that work carried out by the Parish Council could be incorporated into the Core Strategy. The possibility of a new government grant scheme (for up to £7000) was highlighted. WBC is of the firm opinion that a Neighbourhood Plan would need to have a Sustainability Appraisal Assessment.

13/71 **To receive Willink Leisure Centre Performance Figures and notes of JAC Meeting 23.1.2013:** These were previously circulated and duly noted.

13/72 **To receive update on the Cemetery Extension Lease:** Cllr Morsley confirmed that the counterpart lease had been received to be signed by the Clerk and a Statutory Declaration which needs to be sworn by the Clerk before an independent solicitor. The invoice for £1,440.00 inc VAT for the Landlords Solicitors' fees also need to be settled. The Cemetery Committee are to meet within the next month to go through the next steps in the process once the lease has been granted.

13/73 **To receive update on the Mortimer Link Bus Service and its future operation:** Cllr Dennett presented a paper which stated that as West Berkshire will be terminating their grant of £6000 per year towards this service year from the end of September it appears that substantial additional funding will be required to be able to continue the service. Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the chair that a letter be sent to WBC asking them to justify their statement regarding Stratfield Mortimer in their transport plan. The future of the service is to be discussed at the May Parish Council meeting.

13/74 **To resolve to use The General Power of Competence:** Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council satisfies all of the conditions under the power of The General Power of Competence and it is therefore eligible to use the general power:-

- 100% (15) of its Councillors are elected.
- The Clerk must hold at least one sector specific qualification: The Clerk holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) with distinction and
- The Clerk has passed the 2012 CiLCA module on The General Power of Competence.

Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council resolve to use the General Power of Competence and this resolution was carried by 14 votes in favour to one abstention.

13/75 **To receive written report from the District Councillors:** Cllr Puddephatt proposed from the Chair that the Clerk be asked to write to District Councillor Mayes advising that all District Councillor reports to Parish Council Meetings need to be submitted (electronically)

to the Clerk, at least seven days in advance of the meeting. This also should advise that the report should not repeat or include any matters being discussed/reported by the Parish Council, such as planning applications and decisions. This was unanimously agreed.

13/76

Finance - To resolve to agree accounts for payment for April:

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. Ed's Garden Maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £150.00
- ii. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15 inc VAT
- iii. Co-Operative Bank Visa, Direct Debit £16.43 (Amazon - stationery) £14.93 inc VAT Card Fee £2.00)
- iv. Clerk's reimbursable expenses £18.70
- v. West Berkshire Council (SMPC annual contribution to Willink Leisure Centre) £9,478.09
- vi. Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) annual subscription £90.00
- vii. Blandy & Blandy Solicitors (Landlord's solicitors fees in connection with the new lease for the Cemetery extension) £1,440.00 inc VAT
- viii. Advance Printing & Design (April Newsletter) £390.00
- ix. Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) (annual subscription) £941.45 inc VAT.

13/77

To receive Correspondence (for information only):

- Invitation to Councillors from TIM (Together in Mission) and The Willink School to the launch of the Burghfield and area School Pastors Project on Wednesday 1 May at The Willink School. Cllr Colaço offered to attend on behalf of the Council.

13/78

To receive Minor Matters (for information only):

- The arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 17 April were discussed.
- Cllr Puddephatt advised that as he was moving from the area at the end of May he would tender his resignation from the Parish Council at the May meeting.
- Cllr Lock advised that the court hearing regarding the fire last year at AWE Aldermaston has been deferred until May.
- Cllr Earl advised that Mortimer Music has published/circulated a list of upcoming events to be held over the next two months.
- Cllr Challis reported rubbish by the newly installed kissing gate on Hammonds Heath and also on Footpath 10 (parallel to the west side of The Avenue). Cllr Lock and The Clerk are to report this to WBC.
- Cllr Lock advised that Budgens had come across yet another small problem with their planning consent for the new store but hopefully this will be resolved in the near future.

13/79

To receive future Agenda Items:

- Cllr Lock advised that the deadline date for the next round of WBC Members' bids for capital projects up to £5,000 is the 30 May 2013. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- To discuss at a future meeting Willink Leisure Centre usage statistics etc by Mortimer residents with a view to considering the Parish Council's continued support in future years.

Date of Next Meeting: Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Thursday 9 May 2013.

The Meeting closed at 08.50 p.m.