



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on 13 June 2013 @ 7.30 p.m.
at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road Mortimer

Present:

Councillors: P Wingfield (Chairman), P Blagden, J Bull, P Challis, A Colaço, M Dennett, J Earl, D Ives, N Kiley, J Morden, M Lock, D Morsley and A Thorpe.

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Public & Press: 6

13/103 **To receive Apologies for Absence:** None

13/104 **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** None

13/105 **To resolve to Approve Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 9 May 2013:**
The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting of 9 May 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13/106 **To receive Clerk's Update (for information only):**

- **13/101:** The By-Election notice was displayed and the Returning Officer at West Berkshire Council (WBC) has subsequently advised the Parish Council that a By-Election has been called by the required ten electors to fill the vacancy and that he is now trying to fix a date for the election and find hall availability etc. The Parish Council has been advised that the cost of poll cards will be in the region of £1,000. It was unanimously agreed to issue poll cards for the By-Election if more than one candidate is put forward for nomination.
- **13/07:** Parish Council Office. No progress since the last Parish Council meeting.
- **13/91:** Abandoned Van in West End Road Car Park: WBC have advised that the owner of the car has claimed it and so they are now unable to do anything regarding the abandoned car. TVP were subsequently contacted and have now put a notice on it because it does not have tax or SORN. The Clerk will follow up with TVP.
- The trees in ownership of WBC in West End Road Car Park: WBC were surprised to find out that in accordance with the Lease with the Parish Council that this strip of land belonged to them but they have now put in place the urgent tree work needed on the strip of land. The resident from the adjoining property thanked the Parish Council for their help in this matter.
- **13/97:** The WBC Members bid has been submitted for a new acrylic coating for the surface of the tennis courts. We are still awaiting the decision.
- **13/101:** Mortimer Football Club apology. The apology did not go into the June issue of the newsletter but an apology was printed in the Newbury Weekly News on 6 June 2013.
- **13/102:** The agenda item for the Willink has been held over until the July meeting in order to get the relevant information etc together and it was agreed that Cllr Dennett will carry out the relevant data analysis.
- WBC enforcement officer is looking into both the planning regulations for the new Auto Centre in King Street and the encroachment onto the surface of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field from the Fairfield Mobile Home Park boundary fence.
- Further reminders and duplicate hire forms have been sent to all users of the Fairground and the documentation (including the required insurance documents) or payment has not been received from the tennis club. No payment has also yet been received from the Hunt.
- WBC have advised that following a complaint from a resident about detritus/grit (also raised at the SMPC APM) in the lower part of The Street and following a site visit by Mr Nick Carter (CEO) WBC all the road gullies and drains have been checked, swept and cleaned. Because of the parked cars this had to be undertaken at 6am on a Saturday

morning when the road was free of parked cars. WBC also advised that the gravelled byway leading to St Mary's church is being damaged close to the junction, probably as a result of parents for the school using it as a turning area. The rutting and damage is loosening the surface and this is being washed into the carriageway and causing some of the dirt build-up on The Street. Their Highways Maintenance team will be investigating whether this section of the byway can be surfaced in tarmac to remove this continuing street cleansing and maintenance concern, subject to appropriate funding being available for the task. WBC is also to deal with the overgrown vegetation on the footpath and grass verge in The Street.

- On bank holiday Monday there was a problem with the fixing of one of the pendulum seats on the Titan play equipment. This was promptly reported to the manufacturer (SMP) and Clerk and Cllr Dennett subsequently met on site with the Technical Director subsequently who identified the problem as the locking pin. The manufacturer will return to site in the near future to rectify the problems.
- During the evening of the 4 June there was an attempted break in to the Parish Council shed in the tennis court compound. This resulted in damage to the tennis court gates, fences, locks and the shed itself but access was not gained. The various companies have been on site to repair the damage. This was reported to the Police but unfortunately there was no evidence to be able to take the incident further.
- WBC advised the Clerk on 4 June that they planned to carry out the remedial work to Windmill Road (to involve a road closure) on Saturday 15 June. The Clerk advised WBC that a large event was taking place in the grazing area on that day. WBC re-scheduled the work for Friday 14 June.

13/107 **To receive Planning Committee Minutes of 09.05.2013 and 28.05.2013:**

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

13/108 **To receive planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council (WBC):**

Cllr Morden reported that the following decisions had been received from WBC:

13/00420/XHOUSE 12 Victoria Road. Rear extension and garage. Renewal of approved application 10/01281 has been granted.

13/00520/NONMAT 9,11,13 and 13A Victoria Road (Budgens) minor amendments. Approved.

13/00672/HOUSE Cherry Tree House, Drury Lane. Conversion and extension of existing garage into a home office.

Approved. Attention is drawn to condition 4: The development hereby permitted shall not be used at any time other than for the purposes incidental/ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Cherry Tree House. The development shall not be separately sold, rented, leased, used as a separate dwelling or otherwise separately disposed of or used as a commercial unit and no separate curtilage shall be created.

13/00680/HOUSE 12 St John's Road. Single storey rear extension. Approved.

Notice of Appeal

13/00485/FULD Land at Loves Wood. 2 detached dwellings. An Appeal has been made against the decision by WBC to refuse to grant planning consent. The Appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations. Any written representation must be with the Planning Inspectorate by the 9.07.2013. All previous representations have already been forwarded to the Inspector and will be considered by him when determining the Appeal.

13/109 **To consider appointing (Minute number 13/85 refers) further members to Parish Council Standing Committees:** It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Earl onto the Fairground Trees and Amenities Committee. There were no other appointments.

13/110 **To formally respond to West Berkshire Council's (WBC) draft parking proposals for The Street (lower part) and Victoria Road (near to Doctor's surgery):**

The plan and parking proposals received from WBC were carefully considered and

- a) it was unanimously agreed to recommend that no changes be made to the Victoria Road proposal.

- b) Cllr Earl proposed that the Parish Council recommended a change to the proposal/plan for The Street (lower part) to allow for less parking restriction (more car parking) west from Byway 7 (to the church) to the turning for Church Farm Barns. This was seconded by Cllr Bull, put to the vote and carried by six votes in favour to five against with two abstentions. The Clerk to respond to the consultation with the recommendations.

13/111 **To receive update on the Mortimer Link Service:**

Representatives from the Parish Council were recently invited to attend a meeting at WBC to meet with the transport team at WBC and the rail operators. Cllrs Wingfield and Dennett attended the meeting on the 23 May. WBC has offered to lend technical support to look at options for a 'better bus service'. One outcome of this meeting is that 'WBC will lend technical support to look at options for possible alternative services' They are keen that SMPC talk to Burghfield and Beech Hill Parish Councils to see if there is any way of having a viable and wider ranging service and whether in principle the councils feel there is a demand for such a service and whether they would be willing to financially support it. The Clerk confirmed that contact has now been made with the Parish Councils regarding this matter and await their responses.

13/112 **To receive update on car parking associated with the railway station:**

Cllr Dennett reported that the car parking situation at and around the station was discussed at the above meeting. All present agreed that there was insufficient parking; First Great Western estimated 95% occupancy of the car park during most working days. WBC is happy to have minuted that they would not oppose an additional car park on strategic policy grounds. This was one of the reasons why the last application was turned down. WBC, in conjunction with all parties, will conduct some surveys at the station and work up feasibility studies with options for parking at the station.

13/113 **To receive a précis of the Play Space RoSPA Safety Inspection Report 2013:**

The Clerk reported that the overall risk rating for the play space on the Fairground is a Medium Risk (a medium risk is a risk score of between 8 to 12 and one piece of equipment was scored a medium risk (of 8) which is the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which affected the whole overall rating. The inspector explains that there is nothing wrong with the MUGAs but this is just the universal risk rating for a MUGA. The other scores for all the other equipment were in the very low and low risk categories. The inspector also commented 'what an excellent play area! Congratulations on the new equipment.

13/114 **To receive written report from the District Councillors:** These were received and accepted.

13/115 **Finance - To resolve to agree accounts for payment for June:**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations all the following items for payment were considered together. Cllr Wingfield proposed from the Chair that these be paid which was carried unanimously.

- i. Co-Operative Bank Visa Direct Debit £2.00 (Card Fee)
- ii. Stewarts Coaches Ltd (Mortimer Link) £919.15 inc VAT
- iii. Ed's Garden Maintenance (grass cutting Cemetery) £150.00
- iv. C & D Facilities Ltd (grass cutting Fairground) £372.00 inc VAT
- v. Clerk's reimbursable expenses £46.01
- vi. Playsafety Limited (Annual RoSPA Inspection) £168.00 inc VAT
- vii. Playsafety Limited (weekly inspection sheets) £36.00 inc VAT
- viii. SLCC Berkshire Branch (training day fee) £25.00
- ix. CPRE (annual membership fee) £29.00
- x. B & S Chains Ltd (safety surface repair kit) £71.05 inc VAT and carriage
- xi. Dads Shop Ltd £10.90
- xii. Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd (annual software maintenance accounts package) £128.40 inc VAT
- xiii. Thames Water (Fairground) direct debit £14.44
- xiv. C & D Facilities Ltd £672.00 inc VAT

xv. Open Spaces Society (annual subscription) £45.00

13/116 **To receive Correspondence (for information only):**

- A letter received from Burghfield Parish Council regarding the volume of fly posters being put up in their Parish from organisers of events being held on The Fairground in Mortimer. Posters from events such as the Circus and Mortimer Fun Day and the Mortimer Music Festival, especially the large banners on the railings at the junction of Hollybush Lane and Reading Road, have caused not only a traffic obstruction but an eyesore and Burghfield Parish Council instructed for them to be removed. They ask for SMPC's assistance in advising all future hirers of the Fairground that Burghfield Parish Council do not wish its parish to be littered with unsightly or ill placed advertising posters.
- A letter received from a resident drawing the Parish Council's attention to the amount of signage/posters/banners around the village and stating that the village is becoming littered and very untidy. They also ask what the Parish Council's guidelines/policy is in regard to this.
- A letter received from Beech Hill PC regarding concern over the proposed large developments within Shinfield and whether SMPC would like to join in a concerted effort to fight this. This was noted and the Clerk to reply to decline.
- A letter received from Insp. W McKeown of Thames Valley Police advising of an operation in Mortimer taking place over the next few weeks and the extra policing of the area. A copy of this was previously forwarded to all councillors.

13/117 **To receive Minor Matters (for information only):**

- Cllr Morsley advised that West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agent Scheme is a charity working together with the Community Council Berkshire, are co-ordinating a Pilot Volunteer Village Agent Project in 10 parishes in West Berkshire, Stratfield Mortimer is one of the areas chosen. The Village Agent would be recruited from within each parish area and will therefore provide a trusted, friendly face for those in the community local groups, will assist local people to access services and information, to help maintain independence in their homes and communities. Cllr Morsley advised that she was already attending the meeting on the 19 June as a representative of the MVP and it was agreed that she would also gather information for the Parish Council and report back to the next meeting.
- The Chairman advised that in accordance with section 3 of the 3rd Schedule of the Conveyance for the Alfred Palmer Field it is the gift of the Parish Council Chairman to nominate a Trustee for the Charity and he has nominated Mrs Rebecca Barker for this position.
- Cllr Dennett reported that WBC is currently inviting representations on their CIL Draft Charging Schedule. The Parish Council had commented on the Preliminary version and some of its concerns appear to have been addressed in the latest draft. It was agreed that the Parish Council could respond in a similar manner to those concerns which still remain, in particular the proposed level of CIL charge to developers.
- Cllr Challis advised that it appears that the cats eyes in the road going down The Street are not continuous and were not replaced as and when re-surfacing work has been carried out. Clerk to make enquiries.
- Cllr Morden raised concern about the current situation with the Co-Op Bank as the Parish Council's bankers. The Clerk is to take advice and look into the situation.

13/118 **To receive future Agenda Items:**

- Update on the Willink Liaison Meeting and usage statistics.
- Mortimer Link Mini Bus Service.
- Report from AWE Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11 July 2013.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.