



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Fairground, Trees & Amenities Committee

Meeting held on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 8:15 pm in the Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road Mortimer.

**Present:** Cllrs: P Blagden (Chairman), J Bull, T Audsley, M Dennett, M Lock and Cllr N Kiley

Clerk: Mrs J Kirk

Member of the Public: None

1. **To receive any Apologies:** Cllrs J Earl and A Richardson
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **To receive a verbal update from the Clerk on any current, ongoing or outstanding matters including outstanding maintenance work for 2014/2015:** The Clerk appraised and discussed with the Committee work yet to be carried out in the current financial year as follows:
  - Hedge and ditch cutting on the outside edge of the Fairground (already put in hand before nesting season). The Committee discussed this and agreed to continue to budget to carry out this work twice a year.
  - Outstanding tree work as identified in the Tree Works Condition Survey (by Sapling Arboriculture Ltd dated 13.3.2014 – Full Council Minute No 14/77 10 April 2014). A quotation for the tree works on The Fairground of £4,326 plus VAT has been received. The Committee asked the Clerk to obtain one more quotation (to be taken to the full Council) in order that the work can be put in place before the deadline date of 31.3.2015.
  - Work on cutting the gorse at Badgers Croft and beyond the edge of the cricket outfield.
  - It was agreed to go ahead, in this financial year, to widen the concrete areas to each side of the car park barrier near to the Community Building. This is to make access easier for users on mobility scooters, pushchairs etc.
  - The Clerk was also asked to contact the contractors to use a strimmer and not weed killer around obstacles next year.
  - The Clerk was also asked to write to BT to ask them to reimburse the Parish Council for the bulbs damaged and to reinstate the ground during their work on the new cabinets etc near the Fairground fence on The Street.
  - A vote of thanks was offered to the Custodian and Cllr Bull for erecting and installing the new shelter in the Tennis Courts.
  - It was also confirmed to recommend that the contract with WBC for emptying the waste bins is finished at the end of the financial year and that the Custodian carries out this task and disposes of the waste in the Grundon bin. Clerk to action.
4. **To receive financial update for 2014/2015:** The Clerk gave a financial update as at the 30.11.2014.
5. **To receive an update on the outcome of the tennis court refurbishment project:** The Clerk reported that further to Minute No 14/215 of the 13 November 2014 she had been in contact with MSc-consultants Ltd, the Consultants appointed by Sport England to sort the situation out, that they were pressing Blakedown to give a date for the completion of the works in

order that payment could be released. The Clerk will give a further update to the full Parish Council Meeting on the 15 January 2015.

6. **To consider any items for the 2015/2016 budget for non-maintenance items for the Fairground:**

The Committee discussed various potential projects and agreed to recommend the following projects to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be considered for inclusion in the 2015/2016 budget:

- To resurface and mark out the Fairground Carpark.
- To renovate and provide additional Information Boards.
- To provide bat boxes and other wild life projects.

7. **To consider ordering further saplings from the Woodlands Trust to replace and extend the hedge.** Cllr Blagden advised that as approximately 60% of the new trees planted at the edge of the grazing area have died Cllr Blagden proposed that SMPC apply for another batch of 'free trees' from The Woodlands Trust and this was agreed.

The next Committee Meeting to be scheduled for mid-February 2015 date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 9:12 pm.