

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee Meeting

held on Monday 28th November 2016 @ 7.30 pm

at The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH

Present:

Councillors:	Cllr. P. Blagden (Chairman), Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. J. Earl, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. P.
	Challis, Cllr. M. Johnson, Cllr. N. Kiley, Cllr. M. Lock.

Clerk: Haydn Selwyn-Jones – Parish Clerk

Public/Press: No members of the public and no members of the press present.

16/14 16/15	Public Questions None	
16/15	None	
16/15		
	To receive any apologies for absence	
	Apologies were received from Cllr. A Richardson.	
16/16	To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations	
	None	
16/17	To receive update on 19 th July 2016 Minutes and any outstanding actions	
	None	
16/18	Fairground Conservation Area	
	The Clerk gave an update on the fencing that had been put in and reported that WBC are looking to repair the footpath across the Conservation Area, but budgets are still an issue. The Clerk has asked what the cost would be if SMPC paid for the repairs, but no answer received yet.	
16/19	Fairground boundary fencing	
	The Clerk reported that the proposal agreed at the last Fairground, Trees & Amenities meeting to re-wire the fencing along the boundary with Windmill Road did not go ahead as barbed wire, which is currently in place and needs replacing, is not permitted for such fencing. Quotes have been received but difficulties arranging action with the Contractors due to their work pressures	
	It was proposed by Cllr. P. Blagden, seconded by Cllr. J. Earl that the fence should be re-wired with smooth wire and to proceed with the removal of the fallen down wooden fencing along boundary with Hammonds Heath, which was AGREED unanimously.	Clerk
16/20	To receive an update on ponds	
	The Clerk reported that conversations had been had with a number of pond experts, but none had the expertise to manage the Ponds on the Fairground and by the Memorial at the top of Hammonds Heath.	
	However contact had today been made with a new contractor for other aspects of maintenance on the Fairground who also had a team with the expertise that we are looking for a meeting is being set up to look at the fairground as a whole as well the ponds.	
16/21	Gorse removal and clean-up of trees and shrubs	

The Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand to start the second scheduled phase of Gorse removal and general clean-up of trees and shrubs along the boundary of the Fairground and Hammonds Heath. The quote for this work is still valid.	
To receive an update on MVP's offer to fund the suggested new power supplies for the Fairground	
The Clerk reported that a quote had been received but the costs were such that in accordance with our Financial Regulations we would not be able to proceed until two further quotes were obtained.	
Cllr. N. Kiley expressed his concerns about being able to get two further quotes due to the time pressures he is currently under and it was AGREED that Cllr. M. Johnson would support him in achieving this and would meet with the Clerk to walk through the details.	MJ
To receive an update on the re-surfacing of the Car Park	
The Clerk reported that in talks with contractors it would be better to carry out the work in the Spring after the Winter snow and frosts and the seeking of quotes would deferred till then. In the meantime it was AGREED that the Clerk would seek help in the scoping document for the work from Cllr. P. Wingfield.	Clerk
To receive and decide on a request to use the Fairground for Under- 14's evening football training sessions	
The Clerk reported on emails that had been received requesting the use of the Fairground between Victoria Road and the Play Area for evening football training for Under-14s.	
After discussion the Clerk was requested to reply recommending that they approach the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trustees as they are looking to provide sporting facilities and have floodlights in place.	Clerk
To receive minor matters, correspondence and future agenda items for information only	
The Clerk reported that the surface of the Tennis Courts was breaking up due to foreign objects embedded in the macadam surface and that, despite contact being made with the suppliers, there had been no response and was instructed to write a firm letter threatening legal action if this is not responded to very shortly.	Clerk
Questions were asked about the delay in getting locked gate into the children's play area repaired and the Clerk explained the impasse in getting contractors to do the work. A suitable contractor has now been found and is due on site w/c 12 th December to inspect and quote.	
In discussion it was AGREED that the need for two gates was not necessary and now that the second gate needs replacing as well the Clerk should proceed with getting quotes to shut off the gate alongside the footpath and for the replacement of the gate facing the Community Centre.	Clerk
Concern was expressed at the lack of action on the holly cave, attracting antisocial behaviour, in the boundary tree line by the Children's Play Area. The Clerk advised that this had been ordered to be cleared, as agreed, by our contractors but despite repeated chasers to and promises from our contractors the work was still open. Further communications are currently in hand and assurances are being given.	
A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr. P. Blagden for the efforts of Cllr. J. Earl and Cllr. J. Bull in collecting the Christmas Tree for the Fairground and for its installation and decoration, which unanimously AGREED .	
	scheduled phase of Gorse removal and general clean-up of trees and shrubs along the boundary of the Fairground and Hammonds Heath. The quote for this work is still valid. To receive an update on MVP's offer to fund the suggested new power supplies for the Fairground The Clerk reported that a quote had been received but the costs were such that in accordance with our Financial Regulations we would not be able to proceed until two further quotes were obtained. Clir. N. Kiley expressed his concerns about being able to get two further quotes due to the time pressures he is currently under and it was AGREED that Clir. M. Johnson would support him in achieving this and would meet with the Clerk to walk through the details. To receive an update on the re-surfacing of the Car Park The Clerk reported that in talks with contractors it would be better to carry out the work in the Spring after the Winter snow and frosts and the seeking of quotes would deferred till then. In the meantime it was AGREED that the Clerk would seek help in the scoping document for the work from Clir. P. Wingfield. To receive and decide on a request to use the Fairground for Under- 14's evening football training sessions The Clerk reported on emails that had been received requesting the use of the Fairground between Victoria Road and the Play Area for evening football training for Under-14s. After discussion the Clerk was requested to reply recommending that they approach the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trustees as they are looking to provide sporting facilities and have floodlights in place. To receive minor matters, correspondence and future agenda items for information only The Clerk reported that the surface of the Tennis Courts was breaking up due to foreign objects embedded in the macadam surface and that, despite contact being made with the suppliers, there had been no response and was instructed to write a firm letter threatening legal action if this is not responded to very shortly. Questions were asked about th

	Cllr. J. Earl expressed his thanks also for the James and Will Strang for the help they also provided in hiring SMPC the trailer used for collection and the help on site to get the tree installed and decorated. It was requested that the Clerk write to them to express the appreciation of the Council for their help.	Clerk
16/26	To decide next meeting date TBA for no later than mid February 2017	
16/27	Exclusion of Press and Public	
	It was proposed by Cllr. P. Blagden, seconded by Cllr. M. Lock to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, Item 16/28 on the Agenda due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed, which was AGREED unanimously.	
Part II		
16/28	To discuss and decide on budget proposals for 2017-2018	
	The Clerk gave a verbal report on the structure of the Fairground budget for 2016-2017 and the spend to-date.	
	This was then discussed and it was decided Special Projects should remain at the same level and include Spring Bulbs	

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.