



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting held online on Thursday, 29th April 2021 @ 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. C. Lewis (Chairman), Cllr. S. Beard, Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. D. Kilshaw, Cllr. J. Wells

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin
Ms. B O'Reilly (Assistant to the Clerk)

Public/Press:

There were no members of the public and no member of the press in attendance.

Part I

21/001 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None

21/002 To receive any apologies for absence

None.

21/003 To receive any declarations of interest

None.

21/004 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of the 26th January 2021.

RESOLVED with one abstention that these minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

21/005 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

To receive an update outlining actions taken from the meeting held on the 26th of January and other updates.

Brewery Common Ditch Work: Cllr. Lewis reported that further to the query on the yellow tape seen marking cables in the ditches, West Berkshire Council confirmed the actual cables were a long way beneath the current level of the ditches.

West End Road Car Park: Cllr. Lewis advised that the hedge along the front of the car park had now been trimmed.

West End Road-Victoria Road Footpath: trimming back of vegetation along footpaths from West End Road to Croft Road (STRA/33/1) and to Victoria Road (STRA/33/2) was carried out in late March.

West End Road White Lines: it was confirmed that the white lines on the section of West End Road from St Catherines Hill to Mortimer West End had now been installed by Hampshire County Council.

21/006 Items to be taken into private session

None.

21/007 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Windmill Road/The Bevers, Stephens Firs/Stephens Close and Stephens Firs/Victoria Road Footpath Registrations

To receive an update and consider and agree the next action(s).

The Committee received an update from the West Berkshire Council Definitive Map Officer confirming that notice orders will be published for the registration of the two footpaths at Stephens Firs/Stephens Close and Stephens Firs/Victoria Road. The registration for a footpath claimed between Windmill Road/The Bevers had failed to meet the requirements and an order would not be issued. Latest date for objections to the orders is 21st June 2021. Further to discussion on the points on making an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate on the footpath between Windmill Road/The Bevers, the Chairman proposed to accept the current decision and not appeal this decision.

RESOLVED unanimously.

2. Summerlug Common – Privately Owned Area

To receive an update on the status and resolve to approve the proposed letter for the residents.

Cllr. Bridgman gave a review on the situation related to the gravelled area that forms part of the common and the confirmation received from West Berkshire Council. There was no objection to residents parking there to access their properties but not marking it as private parking as it was part of the common area.

The proposed letter was received by the Committee and **RESOLVED** unanimously to send. A similar letter will go out to other residents of Summerlug. **ACTION: CLERK**

3. Windmill Common Tree Work

To consider the queries/recommendations from the West Berkshire Council Tree Officer and agree the responses and actions.

Cllr. Lewis and Cllr. Hilll outlined the queries from the Tree Officer on the tree work application and the responses were clarified:

- In terms of replacements, is the intention to replant and to ask the Tree Officer if there were any recommendations;
- Intention is to leave a few of the dead trees as standing deadwood monoliths where appropriate;
- Intention is to add to the list the removal of the dead pine close to 8 Woodside Close;
- For the holly, only suckers and younger trees will be removed.

RESOLVED to send out the responses to the WBC Tree Officer. **ACTION: CLERK**

4. ANPR/SID

- To receive an update and consider and agree future actions.

Cllr. Wells reported that Westcotec Limited had offered an alternative device to meet new police specifications for use with Speedwatch and would refund £2,000 to the Parish Council for the original ANPR equipment that had been returned to Westcotec. The new Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) did not require a Speed Indicator Device (SID) system as it was intended to only monitor speeds for Speedwatch.

It was noted the licence signed with West Berkshire Council would need to be amended slightly to cover the change of the specification and in accordance with Thames Valley Police policies.

Cllr. Lewis proposed to proceed to purchase the ASWC subject to confirmation from Thames Valley Police that they will take the data.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

RESOLVED with one abstention.

Cllr. Lewis and the Clerk will write to West Berkshire Council to clarify new specifications of ASWC comply with the grant and licence. Post meeting note: it was subsequently decided to write to Thames Valley Police in advance of correspondence with WBC. **ACTION: CLLR. LEWIS/CLERK**

On the issue of the SID machine, Cllr. Lewis proposed we approach Westcotec to provide a stand-alone SID machine to comply with their original contract requirements and if the cost comes to less than the £2,000 refund then the Clerk has the authority to place an order.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennet.

RESOLVED by a majority with one abstention and one against. **ACTION: THE CLERK**

- To resolve the purchase of a computer for use with the ANPR/SID equipment up to a budget of £1,000.00.

Not required as laptop integrated with the ASWC.

21/008 Items for information only

None.

21/009 Communications

The following item was identified for communicating:

- Forthcoming roadworks and closures planned by Thames Water on West End Road over May-July 2021. **ACTION: CLERK**

21/010 Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items identified at the meeting and Chairman requested members to consider any issues that could be brought to the Committee at a future date.

21/011 Exclusion of Press and Public

To pass a resolution to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, items identified at 19/184 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Not required

Part II

Close

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

The next meeting – date to be confirmed.

Subject to Approval