

# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 29/07/2021

St John's Hall

Agenda item 21/054 3: To RESOLVE:

- a. to make a grant of £500 towards the refurbishment of the public area outside St John's Hall.

This decision can be taken under LGA 1972 s.133: Provision of parish and community buildings.

- b. that the Fairground and Cemetery Committee consider relocating the current bench to the Fairground.

## BACKGROUND

The trustees of St John's village Hall plan to refurbish the public area outside the hall, that currently contains a bench, a bin and a tree stump. Whilst this piece of land probably falls under the hall's ownership, it is aimed at public use, being directly adjacent to the footway.

The refurbishment is being done to make the area more appealing for people to sit for a chat and take up an offer from a member of the flower circle to pay for a new bench.

The proposed refurbishment comprises:

- Supply and install of the new bench
- Re-siting the (new/repared) waste bin further away from the bench
- Adding clearer signage of the hall name.
- Adding two planters to make the area more appealing.
- Adding railings to separate/protect the public area from the car park.

The proprietors of the Baobab have agreed to stock and maintain the planters.

Lawrence Picking was an active member of Mortimer Dramatic Society and respected former Chairman of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.

There is an opportunity for the parish council to publicly recognize Lawrence Picking, its respected former chairman, and promote its role, by paying towards the cost of the planters, such that they will be identified as being in his memory of our former chairman.

## Costs

The estimated total cost of the project is £3000 to include the use of volunteer labour and the efforts of the Baobab.

The requested contribution from the parish council is £500, reflecting most of the £560 material cost of *one* of the two planters.

If the council approve this payment the two planters will be identified as in Lawrence's memory with his association with SMPC being stated.

## Recommendation

1. The council **approve** making a £500 contribution to this project, helping make this central location more welcoming as a sitting/meeting area whilst serving to acknowledge the contribution of its former chairman, and the council as a whole, to the community.
2. The Fairground trustees/committee be asked to inspect the old bench, which is of sturdy metal construction, with a view to re siting it on the fairground if the hall trustees can get it out in one piece. It is understood the metal was formed by a retired local blacksmith and it just needs rubbing down and painting and some mortar being put around the exposed concrete reinforcement to prevent later splitting.



*Figure 1: proposed planter*



*Figure 2: existing bench*



*Figure 3: example new bench*

Councillor Nick Carter  
14 July 2021