



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

**Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held on
Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 7.30pm at The Parish Council Office, 27
Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH.**

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. C. Lewis (Chairman), Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. M. Locke,
Cllr. T. Reade, Co-opted Dist. Cllr. G. Bridgman (non-voting)

Officers:

B.O'Reilly (Assistant to the Parish Clerk)

Public/Press:

One member of the public was present and no members of the press.

Part I

18/78 Public Questions:

None

18/79 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr K. Johnson, Cllr. L. Jones, and Cllr. D. Kilshaw.

18/80 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:

Cllr. J. Bull declared an interest in item 18/87 but was advised that this would not prevent him contributing to the discussion.

18/81 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting of 11th September 2018:

The Assistant to the Clerk advised that requested amendments had been incorporated into the Minutes which were received and unanimously **APPROVED** to be signed as a true record of the meeting.

18/82 To review the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee's budget spend for the 2019-2020:

The draft Committee Budget for 2019-2020 was presented by Cllr. T. Reade as a working copy going to the Finance and General Purposes Committee this week. It was noted that figures were estimates and, in some instances, only placeholders at present where future projects were still to be defined and would be subject to amendment before going to Full Council in early 2019.

Cllr. C. Lewis advised that committees can amend agreed spending within their budgets, after approaching Full Council for the necessary approval.

Cllr. C. Lewis thanked Cllr. T. Reade for the work done on preparing the draft budget.

18/83 To resolve to take no further action on extending the speed limits on Brewery Common.

Further to the conclusion that the issue was one of inappropriate speed as opposed to excessive speed on the bend, it was **AGREED** not to take further action on extending the speed limit along Brewery Common but to look at getting the hedges cut back to improve sight lines on the bend and to consider if signage for "concealed entrance" appropriate.

Cllrs. J. Bull and N. Carter volunteered to take a study of this section of the road and report observations back to the Committee.

ACTION: JB, NC

18/84 To receive an update on the acquisition of village gates.

The Committee was advised by Cllr. C. Lewis that West Berkshire Council had funding available and confirmed they would supply and install the white villages speed gates for the village. These would be installed at four identified locations shortly.

The Committee appreciated that work has been done on road signage around the village to clean and clear them of obstructions, and requested the Clerk write and thank the person responsible at West Berkshire Council.

ACTION: CL, CLERK

18/85 To receive an update on the Footpath Registration Project:

Cllr. C. Lewis reported that evidence forms have been submitted from members of the public to support the registration of the initial 3 footpaths. There was still more support required, especially for the route between Windmill Road and The Bevers, and a further promotion would be sent out to the public via Facebook and the website before Christmas. It was noted the deadline to submit response to WBC would be beginning of March.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr. C. Lewis and the Clerk would review and tabulate the evidence forms to ensure evidence observed covered the required 20-year period and report at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: CL, CLERK

The Assistant to the Clerk was asked to supply copies of the evidence forms and maps to Cllrs. M. Lock and S. Hill.

ACTION: ASST. TO CLERK

18/86 To receive an update on the dropped kerb pavement outside Mortimer Café, Victoria Road.

Cllr. C. Lewis summarised the current situation and advised that a proposal to get design work done had been received from West Berkshire Council. After a brief overview of options that had been looked at previously, the Committee was advised that a meeting would be set up with WBC to consider the preparation of a proposal.

ACTION: CL, JB, NK, CLERK

18/87 To resolve to investigate raising the curb and/or putting up bollards across West End Road entrance to St. John's Church car park and recommend appropriate action to Full Council:

As this car parking area is currently classified as a roadway, and owned by Highways, no offence is committed by cars using it as a cut through. As a roadway, no planning application would be required to change the layout. Further to discussion, it was suggested the addition of a spur or alternative form of restriction on the The Street entrance would force cars entering or exiting to slow down, but not restrict deliveries and school drop offs. Cllr. J. Bull was asked to look at the entrance and take measurements and also would discuss the issue with St. John's Church for their information.

ACTION: JB

Before making any recommendations to Full Council, the Committee agreed to investigate whether:

- a. West Berkshire Council could change the status from roadway; and
- b. a spur created at The Street entrance.

The Clerk was requested to write to the relevant representative from WBC with a view to setting up a meeting to discuss the issue further and confirm who was willing to attend.

ACTION: CLERK

#Cllr. N. Carter left the meeting at 8.35pm

18/88 To discuss the concept and use of Lengthsman.

Further to clarifying the definition of a Lengthsman and in what capacity they could be engaged, it was agreed to postpone any decisions until Cllr. D. Kilshaw could prepare a discussion paper to take forward at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: DK

18/89 To decide on communications following on from this meeting:

- 1. Overgrown hedges along footpaths and pavements.
- 2. Installation of village gates.
- 3. Footpath registration ongoing.
- 4. Situation in the carpark outside St. John's Church being investigated.

ACTION: DK

18/90 Minor Matters for information only

The need for hedge cutting for winter:

Cllr. J. Bull to identify hedges that need cutting back for winter and drop WBC hedge information leaflets. The Clerk will contact landowners to take action if necessary.

ACTION: JB, CLERK

The footpath outside St. John's School:

A section of footpath at St. John's School continues to be prone to flooding and this will be raised with West Berkshire Council again.

ACTION: JB

The need for signage at the junction of Summerlug/Drury Lane:

As Summerlug is a private road, it is not possible to erect road signage. The hedge at the junction of Summerlug and Drury Lane has been cut back by resident to improve sight lines for traffic.

The replacement of the Village noticeboards:

The new village noticeboards are on order and are due to be installed in the next two to three weeks. APMF have agreed to the proposed site at the playing fields but will store the noticeboard until the location is ready. On the St. John's Road site, a resident has cut the hedge back so that a noticeboard can be installed at the site.

ACTION: JB, SH

The West End car park hedge:

The hedge at West End car park is now tall enough to obscure sight lines at the exit causing safety issues for drivers and pedestrians. Cllr. J. Bull to look at proposals for either cutting back or removing the hedge.

ACTION: JB

Car parking on Victoria Road:

Several large cars had been noted regularly parking outside the hairdresser on Victoria Road, and blocking the path of pedestrians. It was requested that the Assistant to the Clerk informally approach the hairdressers to investigate.

ACTION: CLERK

18/91 Future Agenda Items

Tree survey to be undertaken by the Fairground & Cemetery Committee, including Windmill Common. The title deeds to Windmill Common to be clarified and Cllr. J. Bull offered to look at drawing up proposals for development of Windmill Common.

ACTION: JB

18/92 Exclusion of Press and Public:

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

It was **AGREED** to exclude members of the public and the press due to the confidential nature of the information to be discussed under Agenda Item 18/93.

Part II

18/93 To agree the supplier of the SID and resolve that the Clerk and Committee Chairman can place the order up to an agreed figure:

In order to clarify the exact specifications of the SID being ordered, the Committee requested that the revised specification be shared with members and West Berkshire Council.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Clerk and Committee Chairman can place the order up to an agreed figure.

ACTION: CL, CLERK

Close

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.