



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Community Projects Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2019 in The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, (behind the Library), Mortimer at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. P. Wingfield (Chairman), Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. N. Kiley, Cllr. D. Kilshaw, Cllr. M. Dennett

Co-opted:

Mrs. D. Morsley, Mr. T. Barber

Officers:

B. O'Reilly (Assistant to the Clerk)

Public/Press:

There were two members of the public present and no members of the press.

Part I

18/32 Public Session:

The Treasurer of the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau introduced herself to the Committee and briefly described the work of the volunteers who provide a transport/taxi service for elderly and other residents in the area who cannot travel independently. She advised that, as their annual grant from West Berkshire Council for running costs had been significantly reduced this year, they were seeking additional funding from Burghfield, Mortimer Parish Councils and The Good Exchange to make up the difference in order to keep running the service. The Chairman advised that this matter would need to be raised to Full Council and requested that Mrs. Seward send details of the proposal to the Clerk.

ACTION: CLERK

18/33 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Hill and Mrs. S. Carter

18/34 To receive from Members, in respect of any items included on the agenda for this meeting, disclosure of any interests in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and gifts and hospitality in line with Government legislation:

None

18/35 To receive and approve the minutes for the NDP Community Projects Committee meeting held on Thursday, 21st June 2018:

The Minutes were received and **AGREED** as being a true record of the meeting with abstentions from Cllrs. Dennett, Kilshaw and Carter as they were not in attendance at this meeting.

18/36 To receive progress updates on active projects and consider way forward:

Footpath and Cycleway Connecting Mortimer and Burghfield

A response from the landowner of Wokefield Common is still awaited regarding permission to use their land along the proposed route. Cllr. D. Kilshaw agreed to chase them up and approach contacts at West Berkshire Council and the Wildlife Trust. Cllr. Kilshaw aims to be able to move forward on this project in April or May this year.

ACTION: DK

Extension of Station Car Park

Cllr. N. Kiley advised on some key changes in strategy agreed at Full Council on 10th January including the increase in car parking spaces required from the initially proposed 100 to now include 150 spaces. The traffic and topographical surveys were now completed for the car park extension and, although some further work is required to cover WBC concerns, SMPC intends to submit the planning application to West Berkshire Council in early spring 2019.

Great Western Railways are making a financial contributing towards the additional work required for the planning application.

A public consultation will be held on 26th February, managed by Pro Vision, to obtain public feedback on the proposed car park layouts and to prepare a short statement on the community involvement section for the Planning Statement.

An indicative timeline points to the planning decision from WBC being received in June when GWR would take over project for the implementation of construction works.

ACTION: NK

Extension of Sports and Active Leisure Facilities

The Committee received an update on the tennis court working group advising that the order for the electronic access gate has been issued and installation due to be completed for the spring. The Parish Council tennis courts will now be registered under the Lawn Tennis Association's Community Registration Tier with access to a Clubspark account for court bookings and LTA's support with tennis programmes. The Parish Council will continue to support the Mortimer Tennis Club with activities throughout the year.

ACTION: PW, CLERK

Cllr. N. Kiley advised that further to visiting the outdoor fitness area created at Tadley/Pamber Heath, cost estimates have been received from contractors and the ideal location for an outdoor fitness area in the village would be on the Fairground. It was noted that there was the possibility of utilising fitness equipment sourced from natural obstacles which may be well suited for a 'nature gym' in locations such as Windmill Common.

ACTION: NK, SH

Biodiversity and Green Space Projects

Mr T. Barber confirmed that Acorn Ecology had completed an ecological survey outlining recommendations for the Fairground and conservation area, together with the proposed green space on the new development. The Fairground and Cemetery Committee has now taken on the recommendations for the Fairground, incorporating these into the grounds maintenance contract for the next three years, and pond restoration work has begun in accordance with the survey report. Work within the conservation area will begin later in the year.

ACTION: NK

Recommendations for the green space on the development have been shared with T.A. Fisher. They have been asked to comment on the Acorn proposals. Cllr. D. Kilshaw will follow up with contact at T.A. Fisher.

ACTION: DK

The issue of when this area could be made into a 'Green Space' was also raised. Cllr Wingfield was delegated to try and find out.

ACTION: PW

Schools Project

Cllr. P. Wingfield advised there had been no further progress but referred to Agenda item 18/37 to be discussed later at this meeting.

Traffic Management

This project has now been transferred to the Roads, Footpaths & Commons Committee to look at taking forward traffic management issues. It was noted that the village speed gates are now up in place at several street entrances to the village.

ACTION: DM, CLERK

Tree Preservation Order

West Berkshire Council have served notice to the residents of St. John's Road relating to the Preservation Orders (TEMPO) on the trees situated on the land adjacent to the new development and an update would be requested.

ACTION: CLERK

Mortimer Heritage Trail

This project has been transferred to the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee (RFC) to take relevant activities forward.

Youth Project

Berkshire Youth are currently undertaking sessions with students at the Willink School following on from the earlier youth survey report on facilities in the village and should be completed in May. Although it was suggested this project work could merge with similar activities being run by NAG, the Committee felt this was not necessary.

Support to the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust

- a. The Committee is awaiting a brief on the proposed pre-planning application from the APMF Trust and a meeting with the Trustees is being scheduled in February.
- b. Cllr. D. Kilshaw confirmed that the mobile floodlights were only moved off the playing fields for the annual firework event. The Committee would ask the Clerk to clarify this usage with the insurance company.
- c. The Committee saw no issue with assisting the Trustees with the removal of the old permanent flood lights from the playing fields.

ACTION: CLERK

Installation of electric car charging points in the village

Cllr. N. Carter presented some ideas on the installation of electric car charging points in the village and, further to discussion on several of the points raised, the Committee asked Cllr. N. Carter to look at the various systems available, potential locations, what options other councils have used and to prepare a proposal to present to Full Council in May.

ACTION: NC

18/37 To consider request to utilise the development land behind Mortimer St. John's Church of England Infant School:

Following an enquiry relating to St. John's Infant School utilising the plot behind the school on the new development, the Committee considered the issue of the review clause, which has another three years to run, and the question of whether the Parish Council has the authority to make a decision on the use of this piece of land. Cllr. N. Kiley offered to contact Englefield Estates to confirm ownership and Cllr. P. Wingfield suggested the Parish Council write with a response to the school and arrange a meeting if required.

ACTION: NK, PW

18/38 To discuss the Community Projects budget and spending:

The up-dated paper on the Community Projects Budget for 2018-2019 was received.

18/39 To discuss future arrangements for taking projects forward:

Discussion on the arrangement for initiating future projects was held after it was proposed that this Committee does not meet again and other SMPC Committees take up responsibility and set up working groups on the individual projects. These working groups would make decisions and would be able to take actions forward.

No major expenditure is envisaged until after May 2019 when the new Parish Council and Committee membership are set up. SMPC accepts it needs to spend on new projects from funds such as CIL and that the source for new projects ideas should remain open.

18/40 Minor matters for information only:

None.

18/41 Items for Communications

- Work carried out on the Fairground ponds over the winter with photographs of the team at work in waders.
- Information on the proposal for the installation of electric car charging points

ACTION: CLERK, DK

18/42 Proposed agenda items:

None.

Close

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Subject To Approval