



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

**Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held on
Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 7.30pm at The Parish Council Office, 27
Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH.**

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officers:

Bernise O'Reilly – Assistant to Parish Clerk

Public/Press:

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

Part I

18/94 Public Questions:

Mr. Kennedy requested the Committee look at the issue of the pavement width along The Street between St. John's School and St. Mary's School. A section opposite Kiln Lane was identified as very narrow due to overgrown holly and soil encroachment which could be reported to West Berkshire Council by either the Parish Council or a member of the public. As there seemed to only be recommendations made on the width of pavements, Cllr. G. Bridgman advised he would write to WBC to clarify this, and the Committee would look at this issue again to request a cut back if still necessary.

18/95 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Dennett, and Cllr. J. Bull. Cllr. D. Kilshaw sent in his apologies during the meeting.

18/96 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:

None.

18/97 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting of 4th December 2018:

The minutes were received and **APPROVED** to be signed as a true record of the meeting.

18/98 To receive an update on SID and to RESOLVE to set up a working group to operate the SID

Cllr. C. Lewis confirmed that SMPC would go ahead with the purchase of the SID once West Berkshire Council (WBC) confirmed that the amended specifications comply with the terms of the grant.

ACTION: GB, CLERK

Cllr. D. Ives pointed out that it had been a while since the current SID machine had been deployed and he would, therefore, arrange its collection and operation for a few weeks in order for new volunteers to be shown the set up and use of the machine.

ACTION: DI

18/99 To review the condition of the hedges and white lining of West End Road car park

The hedge has now been trimmed back prior to nesting season and sightlines were not considered to be a problem for the time being. The Committee would take no further action at present but monitor and consider again later in the summer.

The issue of repainting the white lines in the car park would be postponed until a future decision on the location of electric car charging spaces in the car park was confirmed.

18/100 To review progress updates on active projects and consider the way forward:

1. Footpath Registration

The collating of evidence forms is progressing and will be submitted to WBC shortly. Copies of the evidence forms will be kept at the Parish Council office.

ACTION: CLERK

2. Mortimer Café

Cllr. C. Lewis advised that Cllr. P. Wingfield and Cllr. J. Bull had met and subsequently the Clerk and Cllr. Lewis had written to WBC regarding the proposal for the dropped curb outside the café on Victoria Road. A response was awaited from WBC.

18/101 To receive an update on other items and consider the way forward:

1. Brewery Common

Further to the study undertaken by Cllrs. J. Bull and N. Carter, requests for cutting back vegetation at several points along the road were submitted to West Berkshire Council to improve sight lines on the bends and would be followed up on by the Clerk. It was considered unnecessary for the addition of further signage on the sides of the road approaching the bends but Cllr. C. Lewis would survey the painted "SLOW" road surface signs and where faded, request WBC that they be repainted.

ACTION: CL, CLERK

2. Village Gates

The Committee was advised by Cllr. C. Lewis that West Berkshire Council have installed the white villages speed gates for the village and cleaned the adjacent speed limit signs. It was noted that only one gate appears in some locations due to the topography of land along sides of the roadway.

3. Village noticeboards

The date for installation is still to be confirmed and the Clerk will follow this up with the supplier to report to the Chairman and Cllr. J. Bull.

ACTION: CLERK

4. St. John's Church car park

The placing of a planter across the north entrance has been discussed with WBC and SMPC will cover the cost of supply and installation and a response is awaited.

5. Hedge cutting

As well as the bends along Brewery Common, several other sights had been identified for cutting back and these had been reported to West Berkshire Council in January. The Clerk will follow up with WBC where requests are outstanding.

ACTION: JB, CLERK

6. Footpath outside St. John's School

Work has been done to empty the gully outside the school entrance and this is now clear. The Committee observed that remedial work is still required along the section to the public house and will need to be followed up with WBC.

ACTION: JB, CLERK

7. Windmill Common

Proposals for the development of Windmill Common are still pending and would be addressed on the return of Cllr. J. Bull.

ACTION: JB

18/102 To decide on communications following on from this meeting

1. Hedge along West End Road car park trimmed.
2. Decision on white lines in West End car park postponed until electric car charging points identified.
3. Footpath registration update.
4. Repainting of road markings outside Dad's Shop.

18/103 Minor Matters - for information only

Car Parking outside 56 Victoria Road

Cllr. M. Locked advised that a letter had been sent to the business operating at the location where parked cars were blocking pavement access on Victoria Road.

Road Markings and Repairs

WBC have repainted the road markings outside Dads Shop on West End Road including the yellow lines at Mortimer fire station.

The roundabout on Drury Lane/West End Road has also been repainted. It was noted, however, that the lights are still awaiting repair at the roundabout.

The roadworks currently being undertaken on The Street by the conservation area will be completed by the end of February.

18/104 Future Agenda Items

The issue of additional car parking space on the grass on the Fairground would be forwarded to the Fairground & Cemetery Committee.

The issue of parking on the common at Summerlug would be discussed by Cllr. G. Bridgman and Cllr. C. Lewis before coming back to the Committee.

Close

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.