



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held on Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7.30pm at The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. C. Lewis (Chairman), Cllr. S. Beard, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. K. Johnson, Cllr. J. Wells

Officers:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

Public/Press:

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

Part I

19/01 Public Questions:

19/08 Mrs A. Haines stated that due to the proximity of her property to the common, she would like the edges of Summerlug to be cleared and the trees maintained to reduce the fallout from tree debris. West Berkshire Council (WBC) have previously visited the site and have liaised with Mrs Haines regarding the maintenance of the area but no further action was taken.

19/02 To receive any apologies for absence:

Cllrs. L. Jones.

19/03 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:

Cllr. Dennett declared an interest in 19/06

19/04 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting of 19th February 2019:

The Minutes were received and **APPROVED** to be signed as a true record of the meeting with 4 abstentions.

19/05 To receive an update on SID and discuss a Policy Working Group and an Operational Working Group:

Cllr. Lewis summarised the current position and the following was noted:

- The revised spec of the combined mini SID and ANPR will comply with the Members' Bid.
- The Westcotec does not have Home Office approval and cannot, therefore, be used in a criminal court. It has, however, been tested out by other police forces.
- WBC have issued Portable SID Policy Guidance and a licence for signing that confirms the conditions under which a SID may be deployed. WBC do approve the locations where SIDs are placed under the current system.

Further to the discussion it was **AGREED**:

- Cllrs. Lewis, Kilshaw and Wells would form the Policy Working Group.

ACTION: CL, DK, JW

- To establish with Westcotec how the machine is calibrated.
- To ensure Inspector Alan Hawkett agrees with SMPC's plans to purchase and implement the SID/ANPR, working with Community Speedwatch prior to placing the order with Westcotec.

ACTION: CLERK

- To distribute the Portable SID Policy Guidance and licence to the Committee to review.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr. Ives reported that 4 volunteers are interested in assisting SMPC with the current SID management and WBC are providing SID training on the 7th August 2019. It was **AGREED** to take this to Full Council on the 13th June for the approval of the use of volunteers for SID.

ACTION: CLERK

19/06 To receive progress updates on active projects and consider the way forward:

1. Footpath Registration

WBC have confirmed the receipt of the application for registration and the relevant evidence forms for each of the 3 footpaths. SMPC now need to confirm land ownership of the paths and issue a notice to each affected owner confirming that an application has been submitted.

2. Mortimer Café Footpath

WBC have been commissioned to undertake a design and feasibility study which should be completed early June.

19/07 To receive an update on other items and consider the way forward:

1. Brewery Common Slow Signage

WBC have confirmed they will undertake an inspection of the road signage and rectify as necessary. The Clerk will follow up the request, made via WBC, for the roadside vegetation to be cut back.

ACTION: CLERK

2. St John's Church Car Park

As no further communication has been received from WBC since initial contact was made, the Clerk will follow up on the request for a site visit to review the options available to stop drivers cutting through the car park.

ACTION: CLERK

3. Windmill Common

Cllr. Bull is still investigating the proposals for developing Windmill Common.

ACTION: JB

19/08 To review the use of SMPC Commons and AGREE any actions:

The ownership of Summerlug was discussed and Mrs Haines' comments noted. It was **AGREED** for Cllrs. Lewis, Beard, Bull and Hill to form a Working Party and undertake a site visit to both Brewery Common and Summerlug to review the use of the commons and establish any maintenance required.

ACTION: CL, SH, SB, JB

19/09 To receive a report on overgrown hedges and AGREE on action to be taken:

Overgrown hedges continue to be an issue throughout the village and along The Street. It was **AGREED** for Cllrs. Bull and Ives to identify problem areas and provide WBC leaflets, on maintaining hedges, to house/land owners.

ACTION: JB, DI

19/10 To receive an update on the Summerlug car parking area:

In the absence of Cllr. Bridgman, it was **AGREED** to postpone this agenda item to the next Committee meeting.

19/11 To decide on communications following on from this meeting:

Cllr. Carter will write a summary to include the following

- The new SID
- Footpath registration
- Mortimer Café footpath
- Summerlug Working Party

ACTION: NC

19/12 Minor Matters for information only:

- Cllr. Johnson raised the issue of a seriously overgrown hedge on The Avenue which is obscuring a speed sign and causing issues for the neighbours opposite and those using the road.

19/12 Future Agenda Items

- Summerlug car parking area - GB
- Heritage Trail signage – NC

- SID – current and new systems – CL/DI
- War Memorial junction road signage – KJ
- Use of pedestrian crossing – SH

ACTION: CLERK

Close

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.