



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held on Tuesday 24th September 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. G. Bridgman, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. D. Kilshaw (arrived 8.06pm), Cllr. J. Wells

Officers:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

Public/Press:

There were no members of the public or press present.

Part I

19/14 Public Questions:

None

19/15 To receive any apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. N. Carter and Cllrs. S. Hill. Apologies were also received from Cllr.D. Kilshaw who arrived at 8.06pm.

19/16 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations:

Cllr. Dennett declared an interest in 19/19-2.

19/17 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting of the 28th May 2019:

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

19/18 Actions from the previous meeting not otherwise on the Agenda.

- 19/07 Brewery Common: The vegetation on the left hand side of the road/hill from Goring Lane to Brewery Common still requires cutting back. Highways have previously been informed. A complaint regarding speeding has been received along

this stretch of road. The Clerk will contact West Berkshire Council (WBC) regarding the complaint.

ACTION: CLERK

- 19/12 Overgrown hedge, The Avenue: As this is a private road, no further action has been taken.

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

1. Footpath Registration

This is progressing under the guidance and support of WBC.

2. Mortimer Café Footpath

The results of the design and feasibility study has been received from WBC, who have been asked to provide an estimated cost of the proposed works. Once this has been received, Full council will be asked to approve the expenditure up to a fixed amount of £15,000.00.

ACTION: CLERK

19/20 To receive an update on other items and consider the way forward:

1. St John's Church Car Park

WBC have suggested installing speed cushions, but some concerns have been raised. It was **AGREED** for Cllrs. Lewis, Bridgman and Bull to undertake a site visit with WBC to review the proposal and concerns.

ACTION: JB, CL, GB, CLERK

19/21 To RESOLVE to place an order for the cutting of the hedge from Stephen's Close to Stephen's Firs:

The responsibility for maintaining the footpath is unclear but, further to a recent Land Registry search, it is now believed that the footpath is owned by Sovereign Housing Association Ltd. Several complaints have been received regarding the state of the overgrown hedges along the footpath. The one off cost of cutting back the hedges, whilst the overall responsibility for the maintenance of the footpath is established, is £320.00.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to place the order for cutting back the hedges from Stephens Close.

ACTION: CLERK

19/22 To receive an update on the Summerlug car parking area.

It was **AGREED** for Cllr. Bridgman to undertake further investigative work with WBC.

ACTION: GB

19/23 To receive an update on data from the recent SID deployment:

No reports have been received from WBC to date.

19/24 To receive an update on SID/ANPR and associated licence:

The WBC SID Licence is being finalised. The suitability of the Westcotec ANPR/SID for Community Speedwatch purposes is being reviewed at the Community Speedwatch Strategic board meeting in October. Cllr. Kilshaw reported that the Westcotec units are being used for Community Speedwatch purposes in Durham and at Heathrow Airport.

19/25 To review Committee Terms of Reference with regards to Roads, Footpaths and Commons:

It was **AGREED** for Cllr. Lewis and the Clerk to establish the potential changes needed, which accurately reflect the status of the commons and SMPC run land. Cllr. Bridgman will review the proposed changes prior to taking to Full Council in November.

ACTION: GB, CL, CLERK

19/26 To RESOLVE to accept the quote from Sapling Arboriculture Ltd:

At the previous Roads, Footpath and Commons Committee meeting, it was agreed that Cllrs. Lewis, Beard, Bull and Hill would 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. Prior to the site visits, it was thought a tree survey of both areas should be undertaken first.

Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, with one abstention, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Sapling Arboriculture Ltd for the tree surveys.

ACTION: CLERK

19/27 To decide on communications following on from this meeting:

- Footpath registration update.
- Mortimer Café footpath update.
- Proposal for St John's Car Park.
- Stephens Close/APMF footpath hedge maintenance.
- Summerlug and Brewery Common tree survey.

ACTION: CL, CLERK

19/28 Minor Matters for information only:

- A gate on the public right of way, 163/18/1, has been closed with a padlock. This falls under Hampshire and will be reported accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

- The post office grey boxes are still waiting to be removed.
- The bench near the corner of King Street has sunk, Cllr. Bull will undertake a survey of all non-Fairground benches throughout the village.

ACTION: JB

- Due to the lack of use, BT wish to remove the public telephone box. A formal 90 day consultation period has begun which ends on 23rd December 2019. The phone box can be adopted by the community for £1. This will be discussed at Full Council in October.

ACTION: CLERK

19/29 Future Agenda items:

- Review of maintenance of Five Oaken.
- Survey of non-Fairground benches - JB
- Heritage Trail signage – NC

ACTION: CLERK

Close

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.