



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road (behind the Library), Mortimer.**

#### **Present:**

##### **Councillors:**

Cllr. C. Lewis, (Chairman), Cllr. S. Beard, Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. J. Bull, Cllr. N. Carter (arrived 7.50pm), Cllr. D. Ives, and Cllr. J. Wells.

##### **Officers:**

Mrs. L. Hannawin

##### **Public/Press:**

There was one member of the public and no members of the press present.

#### **Part I**

##### **19/30 Public Questions**

###### **Summerlug**

- Mr Haines attended the meeting to listen to the update on Summerlug. He reported that chunks of ivy had been cut away from trees in the area and asked if this was part of works commissioned by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC). It was confirmed that SMPC had not authorised any work of this nature. Cllr. Bridgman reported that there had been another case of a similar incident in the Stephens Road area where ivy had been removed from trees, but it is not known who has commissioned or undertaken this work either. West Berkshire Council (WBC) have recently removed ivy from trees along the footpath behind the old police houses for the purpose of inspecting the trees as part of a tree survey.

##### **19/31 To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Kilshaw and Cllr. K. Johnson.

Cllr. L. Jones was absent, and no apologies received.

## **19/32 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations**

None

## **19/33 Minutes of last meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September be **APPROVED** as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **19/34 Clerk's report**

The Clerk's report was received and the actions taken following the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September were noted.

## **19/35 Committee Reports**

### **1. To receive an update on the Summerlug car parking area.**

Summerlug Common borders houses on the northern and eastern side. A strip of Summerlug Common, owned by the "Woodlands" property, is maintained by and used for parking by the residents of Woodlands. It is believed that use of privately owned common land for parking is not allowed. Cllr. Bridgman will seek further advice from WBC officers before deciding if further action is required.

**ACTION: GB**

### **2. To receive an update on the tree surveys.**

**Summerlug and Brewery Common:** It was noted that local residents feel that Summerlug is a wildlife haven and good for biodiversity and have requested that work is undertaken in line with maintaining the natural habitat of the area. Recommendations of the tree survey do include removing some healthy trees due to the nature of the tree i.e. Sycamore which self seed. Further advice will be sought from the arboriculturist regarding the recommendations in respect of biodiversity and occupier's liability.

**ACTION: CLERK**

It is believed that WBC are responsible for the maintenance of Summerlug and Brewery Commons and that the surveys should be passed onto Jon Winstanley/Michelle Sherman for further advice.

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **Windmill Common**

Initial work to be undertaken will be considered for high and moderate priorities and coppicing as identified in the trees survey. Cllr. Bull will assist with the specification so that quotes may be sought. Windmill Common is covered by a "blanket" tree preservation order and permission will be needed prior to the commencement of any work.

It was noted that WBC have reserved money for managing Ash dieback which is likely to cause significant issues.

**ACTION: JB**

### **3. To receive an update on the Committee Terms of Reference**

The recommended changes to the Committee Terms of Reference were noted for approval at Full Council.

## **19/36 Items to be taken in private session**

None.

## **19/37 Items for consideration and resolution**

### **1) West End Road Car Park Hedge**

- a) To review the condition of the hedge and actions and associated expenditure.

Cllr. Bridgman proposed that, subject to a maximum spend of £2,000, the Clerk be authorised to obtain quotes and organise the removal of the hedge and the installation of a post and rail fence to match the existing fence near the fire station.

Seconded by Cllr. J. Bull

**RESOLVED** unanimously.

### **2) Non -Fairground Benches**

- a) To receive a report on the benches and resolve to seek quotes for the required work.

Cllr. Lewis proposed that quotes should be sought for the proposed work and a courtesy letter should be sent to WBC.

Seconded by Cllr. Bull

**RESOLVED** unanimously.

### **3) SID ANPR**

- a) To receive an update on the SID ANPR and agree actions to be taken.

It was noted that the ANPR camera that SMPC are proposing to buy takes black and white images and this is not currently Speedwatch compliant. A colour equivalent should be available by the end of January. Any order needs to be placed prior to the end of March to qualify for the West Berkshire Members' Bid match funding as previously granted.

Cllr. Lewis proposed that if Westcotec can provide a camera that is Speedwatch compliant, prior to the end of March, than an order should be placed and if this is not possible, alternative options shall be considered.

Seconded by Cllr. Beard

**RESOLVED** unanimously

### **4) Brewery Common/Windmill Road Ditch**

- a) To review the ditch maintenance required and agree actions and associated expenditure.

It was noted:

- The agenda title should have read Hammonds Heath/Windmill Road Ditch.
- As per the Committee Terms of Reference, the ditch falls under the responsibilities of the Fairgrounds and Cemetery Committee.

## **19/38 Items for Information Only**

### **1) Minor Matters:**

- As reported to the Clerk by Cllr. Field, a traffic accident occurred on Mowbray Hill on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020. A resident has previously complained to WBC about the speed and maintenance of this stretch of road and SMPC have previously requested vegetation to be cut back. Cllr. Bridgman reported that there appears to be an issue with drainage which causes black ice. The Clerk will liaise with WBC regarding an update.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- Cllr. Ives raised the question as to whether there should be a further deployment of WBC's SID. The Committee agreed that this would be appropriate, but no one is currently able to organise it. Cllrs. Bridgman and Carter can pick up and drop off the equipment when required.
- Cllr. Bull raised the issue of SMPC taking over the grass cutting which is currently the responsibility of WBC. This is being followed up by the Strategy Working Group.
- Cllr. Ives raised the issue of subsidence and the uneven alley footpath between Victoria Road and Croft Road and Croft Road and West End Road. The Clerk will raise this with WBC.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## **19/39 Finance**

### **1) Roads, Footpaths and Commons Budget**

- a. To review the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee's budget spend for the year 2109-2020.

The budget spend for the year 2019-2020 was reviewed and it was noted:

- The £7,000 for the café footpath work was not required as the Council took the decision not to proceed with the proposals.
- An order for £2661.60 has been placed for the speed cushions for St John's car park.

### **19/40 Communications:**

No items were identified.

### **19/41 Future Agenda Items**

- Future agenda items were identified as follows:
- SID deployment

**ACTION: CLERK**

### **19/42 Exclusion of Press and Public**

Not required.

## **Close**

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.