



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Fairground and Cemetery Committee held on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 7.30pm at The Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer. RG7 3SH.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. J. Bull (Chairman), Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Morsley.

Officers:

B. O'Reilly (Assistant to the Clerk)

Public/Press:

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

Part I

19/34 Public Questions

A question was raised about the outcome of the recent public consultation and Cllr. Morsley advised this will be reported to Parish Council next month and shared at the first opportunity.

19/35 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Beard.

19/36 To receive any declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr. J. Bull declared an interest in item 19/40(2), (4) and (6).

19/37 To receive and approve the minutes for the Fairground and Cemetery Committee meeting held on 26th November 2019

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

19/38 Update from previous Committee Meetings

An update outlining actions taken following the meeting held on the 26th November 2019 was discussed.

It was noted under:

19/28(1) confirmation was awaited from PCC on the cemetery footpath;
19/28(4) Cllrs. Beard and Hill had cut some gorse back on the Fairground;
19/28(9) would be discussed further under 19/40(3) below.

ACTION: CLERK

19/39 Items to be taken in private session

It was determined that items 19/40(1), 19/40(4) and 19/40(6) of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

19/40 Items for consideration and resolution

2) Cemetery Extension

To receive an update on the bridge plans and AGREE additional expenditure for recommended report.

Cllr. Dennett proposed the Clerk should seek advice from WBC on the revised bridge drawings and that additional expenditure be agreed for the recommended report to cover design changes.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley

RESOLVED unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

At the request of the Committee, Cllr. Dennett took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3) Brewery Common/Windmill Road ditch

To review the ditch maintenance required and **AGREE** action and associated expenditure.

Cllr. Dennett proposed work is done to cut back low vegetation to fence line and Clerk to seek confirmation from contractor if can be done now or wait until September.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

RESOLVED, with one abstention.

ACTION: CLERK

7) Grass Cutting Regime

To consider and AGREE an amended grass cutting regime.

Cllr. Morsley proposed that the amended grass cutting regime be accepted.

Seconded by Cllr. Bull

RESOLVED unanimously.

19/41 Items for Information Only

1. Minor Matters

None

19/42 Finance

1) Fairground and Cemetery Budget

- a) To review the Fairground and Cemetery Committee's budget spend for the year 2019-2020.

This was reviewed and any additional funds required for tree works would be taken to Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval at Full Council.

Cllr. Morsely advised that it was not clear yet if the Fairground Security Measures could be covered by CIL.

ACTION: DM

19/43 Items for Communication

None outlined at meeting

19/44 Future Agenda Items

- Election of a Deputy Chairman of the Committee.
- Hedging Plants – planting locations.
- Table Tennis – new location if required
- Reconsider Pond Dipping Platform
- Excavation to deepen Fairground ponds
- Requote for redecoration of Fairground benches
- Nesting boxes
- Developments from recent public consultation.

ACTION: JB, CLERK

19/45 Exclusion of Press and Public

Exclusion of Press and Public:

To pass a resolution to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, items identified at 19/26 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

It was **AGREED** unanimously to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting at Part II, items 19/40(1), 19/40(4) and 19/40(6) on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Part II

19/40 Items for consideration and resolution

1) Cemetery and Fairground Tree Works

To review the quotes received and **AGREE** the work to be undertaken for:

- a) Fairground:

The Committee considered the quotes received to date for the moderate works recommended in the recent tree survey and noted the issue of one oak on the Fairground.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed with the work and award the contract to C&D Grounds Maintenance (leaving 10ft of the oak tree standing).

ACTION: CLERK

b) Cemetery

The Committee acknowledged that work should proceed at the Cemetery prior to the bridge construction.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed and award contract to Tree World Services.

ACTION: CLERK

4) Pillbox

To receive an update on the pillbox clearance and maintenance and **AGREE** the gate to be installed, subject to approval by Englefield Estate.

Cllr. Beard meeting with Englefield Estate this week and organising the clearance of vegetation at the weekend. It was noted that the VE75 Committee considered the quotation for the gate rather high and fencing would be used to secure the location.

It was **AGREED** to secure the pillbox for the VE75 Day but not the installation of the gate.

ACTION: SB

6) Fairground Security Measures

To receive an update on the Fairground security and consider:

- a) The need for a dedicated Group for Fairground Security.
- b) Quotes received and **AGREE** actions to be taken.

Quotations for the supply and installation of bollards and a height restrictor barrier were still awaited from contacted parties. It was the Committee's preference that the bollards and barrier be in place by May and the grazing area entrances are a priority. The Clerk will follow up with contractors.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr. Bull advised that the 3m protection necessary around the roots of the lime trees means a ditch is not possible and any bank would need to be right up against the fencing.

The Parish Council would have to go back to the Fairground Trustees with this update.

Close

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 19th March 2020.