



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting held online on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.

#### Present:

##### Councillors:

Cllr. C. Lewis (Chairman), Cllr. S. Beard, Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Ives (arrived at 19.50), Cllr. J. Wells.

##### Officers:

Mrs. L. Hannawin

##### Public/Press:

There was 1 member of the public and no members of the press in attendance.

#### Part I

##### **20/013 Public Questions (for agenda items only)**

The member of the public raised the issue that they did not think any work had been undertaken on Brewery Common. However, this was in error as they were thinking about work required for ditches alongside the Fairground. They also expressed an interest in carrying out the work needed under agenda item 20/019 2. This was noted.

##### **20/014 To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Carter.  
Cllr. D. Kilshaw did not attend and no apology was received.

##### **20/015 To receive any declarations of interest**

None.

##### **20/016 Minutes of Last Meeting**

**To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee Meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.**

**RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

## **20/017 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)**

**To receive an update outlining actions taken following the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and other updates.**

**Summerlug:** Cllr Bridgman summarised his understanding of the Common (and promised to circulate a note). In essence, although it was accepted that Woodlands owns a piece of Summerlug Common, his research indicated that this did not affect its status as common land and that no-one has exclusive rights (for parking or otherwise) over common land. He suggested writing to the owners of the houses adjoining the common to this effect, but first confirming matters with Michelle Sherman at West Berkshire Council. It was agreed this should be followed up by Cllrs Bridgman and Lewis in conjunction with the Clerk. **ACTION: CLLRS. BRIDGMAN, LEWIS/CLERK.**

# Cllr. Ives arrived at 19.50.

**West End Road Car Park:** the PO has been raised to trim the hedge.

## **20/018 Items to be taken into private session**

**To determine which items, if any, of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded**  
None

## **20/019 Items for Consideration and Resolution**

### **1. Brewery Common Ditch Work**

**To review the work undertaken by WBC and RESOLVE any actions to be taken.**

Cllr. Lewis gave a summary of the reasons behind the ditch works recently undertaken by WBC and confirmed that WBC will sow grass seed if required. The ditch work is settling but other issues with regards to access and cables were noted.

Cllr. Lewis proposed that the issues with the cable and access be reviewed and raised with WBC as appropriate.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett.

**RESOLVED** unanimously. **ACTION: CLLR. LEWIS/CLERK**

### **2. West End Road/Croft Road Footpath Hedge**

**To RESOLVE to seek quotes for the cutting of the hedge on the east side of the footpath up to an approved expenditure.**

A discussion considered aspects of the hedge in question, including the difficulties when the responsibility for a hedge lies with multiple properties and the need for any hedge cutting to have been undertaken prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Cllr. Lewis proposed that the Parish Council undertakes the cutting of the short section of the hedge on the right-hand side near West End Road.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

**RESOLVED** unanimously. **ACTION: CLERK**

A further discussion considered the cutting of the hedge further along the same footpath on the right-hand side close to Croft Road on the way to Victoria Road. Whilst it was acknowledged that the responsibility for the maintenance of the hedge should fall to the landowner in whose garden the hedge is growing, it was also noted that, on this occasion, it was highly unlikely that there would be time for the hedge to be cut prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> March if the usual protocol of writing to the landowner and notifying WBC was followed. In addition, it was thought that the minor additional charge for cutting this hedge in conjunction with

the one above, would be an acceptable cost for the Council to bear on this one occasion. However, the landowner should be notified of the situation and in subsequent years, the condition of the hedge should be reviewed at an earlier stage so that the procedure for managing hedges may be undertaken in a timely manner.

Cllr. Bridgman proposed the Committee delegate the authority to the Clerk and Chairman to arrange for the cutting of the hedge using the most appropriate resource and to write to the landowner as necessary.

Seconded by Cllr. Ives.

**RESOLVED** with one abstention.

### **3. Windmill Common Tree Work**

**To receive an update and RESOLVE any actions to be taken.**

The tree survey has been submitted to WBC and a response is awaited regarding the work allowed under the tree preservation order. This is due the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

## **20/020 Items for information only**

### **1. Minor Matters**

- Cllr. Wells reported that the manufacturer of the SID/ANPR has now provided photographic evidence that the equipment is working with the full range of speeding vehicles. When Coronavirus restrictions allow, the equipment will be returned, and a full demonstration will be given of it working correctly. The draft licence has yet to be signed – the Clerk to forward a copy to Cllr. Bridgman. **ACTION: CLERK**
- Cllr. Hill reported his continued concern regarding the poor condition of the road and lack of lines on West End Road, from St Catherine's Hill towards Mortimer West End. This has been reported to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) who have inspected the work and have added the necessary remedial action to their contractor's work programme. Cllrs. Hill and Bridgman will follow this up with BDBC via Highways at WBC. **ACTION: CLLRS. BRIDGMAN/HILL**
- The Clerk confirmed that work had been undertaken on the overhanging trees outside the houses on Stephens Firs. The uneven footway has recently been reviewed by WBC but, as the issue is caused by tree roots, advice is being sought from the WBC Tree Officer.
- On the suggestion of Cllr. Beard, it was agreed for a letter of thanks be sent to two residents of Drury Lane who, following Storm Christoph, cleared a large tree which had fallen blocking the road.

## **20/021 Communications**

**To identify items for communicating**

None.

## **20/022 Future Agenda Items**

None.

## **20/023 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 20/018 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.**

Not required

## **Close**

The meeting closed at 20.38.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.