



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting held at the Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, on Thursday, 21st September 2021 @ 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. C. Lewis (Chairman), Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Ives, Cllr. A. Marsden, Cllr. J. Wells

Clerk:

Ms. B O'Reilly (Assistant to the Clerk)

Public/Press:

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

Part I

21/011 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None

21/012 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Carter and Morsley.

21/013 To receive any declarations of interest

None.

21/014 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of the 29th April 2021.

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

21/015 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

To receive an update outlining actions taken from the meeting held on the 29th April and other updates.

Stephens Firs/Stephens Close and Stephens Firs/Victoria Road Footpath Registrations:

Cllr. Lewis reported that the newly registered footpaths STRA/44/1 (**Stephens Firs/Victoria Road**) and STRA/45/1 (**Stephens Firs/Stephens Close**) are now approved and appear on West Berkshire Council's definitive map of recorded public rights of way.

Two other unregistered footpaths have been identified as potential for registration with West Berkshire Council: Strawberry Fields – a path on the east side to junction with STRA/17/2-3 and STRA/16/1; and below The Avenue – a path between junction of STRA/9 and STRA/10 to STRA/8 on Kiln Lane. West Berkshire Definitive Map Officer has confirmed that both routes are subject to Section 31(6) Highways Act 1980 and the respective landowners have submitted statements breaking up any 20 year period of use under the Act and making any registration difficult.

Stephens Firs: There has been a report on a section of footway along this road becoming uneven and would require follow up with West Berkshire Council.

21/016 Items to be taken into private session

None.

21/017 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) and Speed Indicator Device (SID)

To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch programme and resolve:

a. The additional spend of £625.00 for the MiniSID

Further to discussion on the logistics and advantages of SMPC having its own SID machine, Cllr. Ives proposed to proceed with the additional spend of £625.00 for the Mini SID.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett.

RESOLVED by a majority with one abstention. **ACTION: CLERK**

b. To proceed with seeking WBC approval of appropriate sites for use with the MiniSID.

Cllr. Lewis would follow up with the Clerk on the status of the purchase of the ASWC and until the delivery of the MiniSID, a decision on the locations for its use would be deferred.

AGREED unanimously. **ACTION: CL/CLERK**

2. West End Road Car Park

To review the maintenance of the left-hand border and **RESOLVE** any actions to be taken and budget required.

The Committee looked at photographs of the left-hand border to consider its current state and the issue of the lease on site. Cllr. Lewis proposed that he and the Clerk would review the lease on site and also check who owned the wooden fencing behind the border slabs. Cllr. Hill would look at repair or replacing the border if under £1,000.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

RESOLVED unanimously. **ACTION: CL/SH/CLERK**

3. Summerlug Common – Privately Owned Area

To receive an update on the responses received and RESOLVE any further action to be taken.

Further to item 21/07.2 at the Committee's meeting on 29th April 2021, letters were sent out to all residents adjacent to the Common and a response was received from one resident.

Cllr. Lewis proposed, and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously, to refer the response to Cllr. Bridgman and the Clerk in order to follow up appropriately. **ACTION: CL/GB/CLERK**

4. Windmill Common Tree Work

To receive an update and RESOLVE for quotes to be sought for the work needed and for the RFO and Chairman of the Committee to authorise the work up to an agreed budget.

Cllr. Lewis and Cllr. Hill reviewed the draft specification for the tree works recommended by Sapling Arboriculture, and approved by West Berkshire Council's Tree Officer, as outlined under item 21/07.3 at the Committee's meeting on 29th April 2021. The cost of similar tree works at the Cemetery in 2019 was considered and a budget £5,000 was proposed.

RESOLVED to seek quotations and agree budget. **ACTION: CLERK**

5. Kiln Lane Footpath

To consider the issue with the footpath and update from WBC and RESOLVE any further action to be taken.

Sections of the footpath along Kiln Lane are staying waterlogged and becoming difficult to pass. West Berkshire Council have confirmed that the earliest that they can take remedial action would be April 2022. They also enquired whether the Parish Council could make a contribution.

Cllr. Lewis proposed to give the Clerk discretion to spend £1,000 as either a contribution to WBC for the works or alternatively, for the Parish Council to supply and put down wood chip as an interim solution.

RESOLVED unanimously. **ACTION: CLERK**

6. Budget 2022/2023 and Action Plan

To identify ongoing projects and costs and future projects and costs and AGREE those to be included in the Council's Action Plan for consideration by Finance and General Purposes.

The Committee identified the following:

Roads (for minor issues)	£3,000.00
Footpaths	£2,000.00
West End Car Park	£1,000.00
Hedgecutting	£2,000.00
Longmoor Lane	£6,000.00

Cllr. Lewis proposed the identified projects and costs to be included in the Council's Action Plan for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED unanimously. **ACTION: CLERK**

The issue of providing electric car charging points was raised but Cllr. Lewis confirmed WBC would be responsible their supply and installation in the future and the item was no longer within the remit of this Committee.

7. Hedge and Vegetation Maintenance

To consider the process for managing overgrown hedges and vegetation on public highways and footways and AGREE any actions to be taken.

Cllr. Lewis noted that the issue had been agreed at Full Council in July (item 21/054.10) but advised that, during October to March, Councillors could report overgrown hedges/vegetation in order for the Parish Council office to send out letter or a card to the relevant landowner for their action.

21/018 Items for information only

Cllr. Wells advised that, in emergencies, South Central Ambulance Service was now using What3Words to locate physical addresses that were difficult to get to or did not match actual postcodes.

21/019 Communications

Item for communication:

- Two new footpaths registered and on West Berkshire Council's definitive map of recorded public rights of way. **ACTION: CLERK**

21/020 Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items identified at the meeting.

21/021 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 19/184 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Not required

Close

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting – 25 January 2022.