



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday 6th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. M. Dennett (Chairman), Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. D. Morsley.

Officers:

Mrs. L. Hannawin.

Public/Press:

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

Part I

21/053 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None.

21/054 To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr. D. Kilshaw did not attend, and no apologies were received.

21/055 To receive any declarations of interest

To receive from Members at this point or at any point during the meeting, in respect of any items included on the agenda, disclosure of any interests in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and gifts and hospitality in line with Government legislation.

None.

21/056 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting of the 7th of December 2021.

RESOLVED with 2 abstentions, that these minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

21/057 Clerk's Report

To receive a report from the Parish Clerk outlining actions taken following the meeting held on the 7th of December 2021 and other updates.

Actions from the meeting held on 07/12/2021

1. Persistent Complainants Procedure: this is currently being updated in line with the agreed amendments for approval by Full Council.
2. Tennis Court Hire – update on VAT: VAT is not chargeable on block bookings if the facilities are let out to an eligible body such as a not-for-profit organisation. A professional sports coach is not an eligible body and VAT is chargeable by anyone renting the tennis courts for coaching purposes.

21/058 Items to be taken into private session

To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

Cllr. Dennett proposed that agenda items 21/058 1. Budget 2022/23, be taken with the public excluded.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

RESOLVED unanimously.

21/059 Committee and Working Party/Group Reports

1. Communications Working Party.

No report as the Working Party had not met.

2. Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath.

Further to the recent pre planning application and associated meetings, Ridge & Partners have provided a timetable and details of the reports, and their potential costs, required for a full planning application. Budget agreement for some reports will be sought at the Full Council meeting on the 13th of January. West Berkshire Council (WBC) have been approached regarding the level of detail needed for the arboricultural and ecology reports. Outside funding for the project will be sought once the planning application is in place.

3. Strategy Working Party.

The next meeting is due to be held in January.

4. The Street Footway Widening.

WBC cut back the overgrown foliage and are proposing to make good the surface where necessary. Due to lack of land and available budget, WBC currently have no plans to undertake measures to manage/resolve the longer-term issues of managing the footway. This is being followed up by Cllr. Bridgman.

21/060 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Budget 2022/23

To receive and resolve the draft budget for presentation to Full Council on the 13th of January.

Minuted at Part II.

21/061 Finance

1. Accounts to the 30th November 2021

To receive and APPROVE the Income and Expenditure Report to the 30th November 2021 the Balance Sheet as of that date.

The reports were received.

Cllr. Dennett proposed the accounts be approved.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

APPROVED unanimously.

21/062 Items for information only

Minor Matters

- Cllr. Morsley reported that WBC will not be undertaking any work on the heather on the tumulus until October. The advice of the Historic Monuments Officer is that members of the public should not be encouraged to visit the site until the tumulus has protection from the heather.
- Cllr. Lewis suggested the storm discharges of partially treated and untreated sewage into rivers and streams of local rivers by Thames Water as a topic for the Annual Parish Meeting. The MOR006 Reserved Land was also suggested as a potential topic.

21/063 Communications

To identify items for communicating

Budget and explanation of tax base and precept once approved by Full Council.

21/064 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items

Full Council - Annual Parish Meeting.

21/065 Exclusion of Press and Public

To pass a resolution under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting at Part II, items identified at 21/058 on the agenda due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed by Cllr. Dennett.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

RESOLVED unanimously.

21/060 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Budget 2022/23

To receive and resolve the draft budget for presentation to Full Council on the 13th of January.

The updated budget and report were received.

Cllr. Dennett proposed the budget be presented to Full Council on the 13th of January.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

APPROVED unanimously.

Cllr. Dennett gave an update on the MOR006 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Paid in 3 instalments as opposed to 4, all CIL payments for Phase 1 have now been received. For several reasons, including the underestimation of Gross Internal Area (GIA), the overall CIL sum received by SMPC for Phase 1 was greater than anticipated.

To assist with budgeting for CIL payments for Phases 2 and 3, further clarification will be sought from WBC to confirm 1) when the final figure for the GIA is calculated and 2) the date a payment schedule is triggered.

Close

The meeting closed at 20:15.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2022.