



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 the 30th of June 2022 @ 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin.

Public/Press:

There were no members of the public nor press in attendance.

Part I

22/001 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None.

22/002 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. N. Carter and D. Kilshaw.

22/003 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.

22/004 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of the 25th of January 2022.

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

22/005 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

To receive an update outlining actions taken from the meeting held on the 21st September and other updates.

War Memorial: Care needs to be taken when cleaning the Memorial and the type of stone must be taken into consideration. Cllr. Dennett has found some relevant information which needs following up. Advice remains to be sought.

Longmoor Lane: The owner of the property adjacent to Windmill Common has been informed that the council has engaged solicitors, to advise and take appropriate action on the parking and stone issues, and a land surveyor to provide accurate dimensions regarding the boundary.

West End Road car park: The maintenance work along the left-hand border is being undertaken on the 5th and 6th of July.

Windmill Common tree work: This was completed the week beginning 20th of June.

The Clerk will introduce a monitoring document for tracking decisions taken and subsequent actions.

22/006 Items to be taken into private session

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

None.

22/007 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC) and Mini SID (SID)

a. To sign the WBC TME Licence as approved by Full Council.

Aspects of the licence were discussed. The Licence was signed by Cllrs. Dennett and Marsden.

b. To consider the options for the required Community Speedwatch (CSW) signs and resolve the budget, the purchase and the installation of the signs in accordance with the requirements of West Berkshire Council

Report and Appendix 22/007 1b were received, and the types of sign and potential locations discussed. The Clerk is waiting for confirmation from the police regarding the exact locations where signs are required.

Cllr. Marsden proposed a budget of £1,500 to allow for the purchase and cost of installation of fixed signs.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

RESOLVED unanimously.

c. To consider and plan further actions required for the deployment of the ASWC and Mini SID

Further to a discussion it was agreed to:

- Test the ASWC to ensure it is working
- Obtain the site approval for the SID locations.
- Prior to purchasing and installing the signs, confirm the locations/number required.
- Seek other volunteers via the Council's website and Facebook.

- Form a sub-group with Cllrs. Dennett, Lewis, Marsden and Wells and Mr. D. Ives. The sub-group will oversee and review the progress made, and co-ordinate the deployment of the traffic management equipment.

2. Assets

To consider the management of the assets that the Committee is responsible for and agree any actions to be taken.

The Committee agreed it was important to monitor for issues and report anything relevant to West Berks Council (WBC) or bring it to the attention of the Council and/or appropriate committee. Some issues may be actioned on a project basis. Having direct lines of communication with groups, such as Walking for Health, and officers at WBC, assists with the quick identification and resolution of problems. Receiving relevant updates from WBC is informative and useful and having a rolling educational programme for the public can provide pertinent information for both preventing and dealing with issues.

3. Commons

a. To consider the management of the commons and agree any actions to be taken.

It was agreed for Cllr. Marsden to explore what options are available.

b. To consider the maintenance work required to maintain the vegetation on Windmill Common alongside Longmoor Lane and resolve that a specification is drawn up and quotes obtained.

It was agreed to ask the Custodian if he would undertake the work to cut back the vegetation to the edge of the road and up to a height of 2.7m. If that is not possible, quotes will be sought from contractors.

4. Committee Meetings

To consider the number and frequency of Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meetings and resolve any recommended changes for consideration by Full council.

Further to a discussion, it was agreed to keep the number of meetings to 3 a year. This may need to change if additional projects require further input which cannot be managed via other means.

22/008 Items for information only

Cllr Marsden confirmed a complaint had been received about the removal of oak and beech trees on Victoria Road near Stephens Firs. The complainant raised several questions regarding the necessity for and the extent of the work undertaken. The Council was not informed about the work. On contact, WBC's tree officer confirmed the work was regrettable but necessary due to structural damage being caused to nearby properties. The Clerk in conjunction with Cllr. Marsden will seek clarification from the tree officer to the points raised by the complainant, and as to why SMPC had not been informed of the work being undertaken.

22/009 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

- The call for SID and ASWC volunteers.
- Response to the Victoria Road/Stephens Firs tree works.

22/010 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items

None identified.

22/011 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 22/006 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:08.

Next meeting – 20th of October.