



## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 @ 7.30 pm.

#### Present:

##### Councillors:

Cllr. A. Marsden (Chairman), Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. D. Butler, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. C. Lewis, Cllr. D. Morsley, and Cllr. M. Shaw.

##### Assistant to the Clerk:

Ms B. O'Reilly

##### Public/Press:

One member of the public was in attendance. No members of the press were present.

#### Part I

##### **22/023 Public Questions (for agenda items only)**

A member of the public attended the meeting to support the discussion on the deployment of the ASWC and Mini SID.

##### **22/024 To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. N. Carter and Cllr. J. Wells.  
Cllr. D. Kilshaw did not attend, and no apologies were received.

##### **22/025 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.

##### **22/026 Minutes of Last Meeting**

**To resolve to APPROVE the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.**

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

## **22/027 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)**

**To receive an update outlining actions taken from the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and other updates.**

- Management of Commons: discussed as part of item 22/029 2 below.
- Swallowfield Community SpeedWatch: Cllr. Marsden reported that Swallowfield have deployed their camera are not happy with the process whereby letters were either late, or not being sent out, and have voiced concerns with Thames Valley Police. Cllr. Ian Fullerton (Transport Lead for Swallowfield PC) will keep us updated and is happy to attend a meeting to knowledge share.
- The formatting of the action tracker was discussed, and relevant revisions/updates suggested for future action tracking.

## **22/028 Items to be taken into private session**

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

Cllr. Marsden proposed agenda item 22/029 4 Windmill Common Tree Survey be taken in Part II.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

**RESOLVED** unanimously.

## **22/029 Items for Consideration and Resolution**

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

#### **a. To receive a report on recent SID data collected.**

The report on recent SID data collected during the period from October 2022 to early January 2023 was received from Cllr. Dennett and reviewed by the Committee. Although speeds of 40mph and above were relatively rare, the consensus was that regular deployment at more sites was required. Cllr. Marsden thanked Mr Dudley Ives for his assistance with operating the speed indicator device and collecting the data presented.

#### **b. To resolve the sites for deploying the SID.**

Further to discussion on the sites for deployment of the SID, Cllr. Marsden proposed the three additional recommended sites:

- 80000011 The Street adj to Horse & Groom (facing West) Eastbound;
- 80000042 Burghfield Road nr College Piece Northbound;
- 80000049 Hammonds Heath at Fairground Gate Northbound

be submitted for TME approval.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett.

**RESOLVED** with one abstention.

It was noted that as the parish council was now using its own equipment, a specific risk assessment for each active site would need to be submitted to West Berkshire Council.

#### **c. To receive an update on the ASWC and confirm the procedures for operational deployment.**

An update was received noting that two operators were required when deploying the camera. The Clerk has completed training as Group Co-Ordinator,

and six councillors have undertaken training as Group Operators. A further councillor is currently undertaking training and an ex-councillor who has undertaken the training will remain on the list of group operators.

Cllr. Dennett advised that more volunteers are needed to undertake the two part training; a mandatory online section and a short manual on site session. Cllr. Dennett will lead the training and take volunteers out on site to train.

Six sites have been approved by Thames Valley Police but Cllr. Bridgman requested that the parish council confirms with West Berkshire Council whether separate site approvals were required from them to deploy the Automatic Speed Watch Camera at the six identified sites.

**d. To consider and agree actions for recruiting volunteers.**

After discussion about recruiting volunteers, the Committee proposed advertising on the parish council website and making a direct approach via its Facebook page. The advertisement would need to include details about the days and times volunteers would be needed. Cllr. Marsden would prepare some text to go out on social media. It was noted there will be a request for volunteers in the Spring newsletter.

Cllr. Bridgman would approach the local walking groups for anyone interested in volunteering and Cllr. Marsden appealed for Committee members to approach any other local groups for their interest.

# Member of public left the meeting.

**2. Management of Commons**

**To receive an update and agree further actions to be taken.**

Cllr. Marsden proposed that the parish council look at ways of getting local groups and residents pro-active in monitoring and looking after green spaces which would be part of the Greening Campaign.

The Committee agreed that a review of the current status of the commons be done as a first step and Cllr. Shaw agreed to undertake this and put a framework together in order to plan future action.

**3. West End Road Car Park**

**To consider a request to paint the fence along the western border and agree any actions to be taken and associated budget.**

Cllr. Dennett clarified the request received from a resident was asking if the parish council would contribute towards the cost of painting the fence.

Cllr. Marsden proposed that subject to the proposed specification of the paint to be used, the parish council would contribute up to a maximum of £100 towards the cost. Seconded by Cllr Hill.

**AGREED** by majority with two against.

**4. Windmill Common Tree Survey**

**To consider the quotes received and resolve the selection of the contractor and for undertaking the work.**

Minuted at Part II.

## **22/030 Items for information only**

- It was noted that the vehicle parked on Victoria Road near the surgery has been reported to authorities and no further action advised.

## **22/031 Communications**

**To identify items for communicating.**

Volunteers for training on the Automatic Speed Watch Camera.

## **22/032 Future Agenda Items**

**To identify future agenda items**

Surveys of current flora and fauna on the commons.

## **22/033 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 22/028 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.**

Proposed by Cllr. Marsden.

Seconded by Cllr. Dennett.

**RESOLVED** unanimously.

## **Part II**

### **22/029 Items for Consideration and Resolution**

#### **4. Windmill Common Tree Survey**

**To consider the quotes received and resolve the selection of the contractor and for undertaking the work.**

The quotes were considered.

Cllr. Marsden proposed the tree survey should be undertaken by Sapling Arboriculture Ltd at a cost of £714.80 + VAT.

Seconded by Cllr. Hill.

**RESOLVED** unanimously.

## **Close**

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.