



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday the 23rd of November 2023 @ 8.30pm at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. D. Morsley (Chairman), Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. D. Butler, Cllr. N. Carter, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. H. Geary, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Kilshaw, Cllr. H. Kilshaw, Cllr. M. Lock, Cllr. A. Richardson, Cllr. M. Shaw, Cllr. J. Wells.

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin.

Public/Press:

There were four members of the public present and no members of the press.

Part I

23/095 Public Questions

The four members of the public expressed their support for the Mortimer to Burghfield cycleway and footpath but raised issues around safety with regards to the location of the proposed crossing in Burghfield Common.

23/096 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. A. Marsden and A. Noonan.

23/097 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.

23/098 Minutes of Last Meeting

To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the 9th of November 2023.

Resolved with one abstention that these minutes be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

23/099 Items to be taken into private session

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

Not needed.

23/100 Items for Consideration and Resolution

Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath

To receive an update on the planning application and resolve:

a. The amendments needed to the application.

Cllr. Morsley summarised the current situation with regards to the planning application for the cycleway/footpath. She confirmed that further to concerns from Highways about the planned crossing in Burghfield, the planning officer would not be able to approve the application.

Since learning of the above, a meeting has been held with West Berkshire Council (WBC) Highways officers to establish a way forward. At the meeting it was confirmed that, subject to budget approval, WBC would be prepared to design and deliver a crossing and that the costs for Highways work are included in WBC's draft capital programme for 2024/25. It was agreed that for planning to proceed, the planning application would need amending to 1) remove the current proposed crossing and 2) note that WBC are proposing to provide a safe crossing. The required amendments will cost £1,500.

Other points noted were 1) a decision date for the planning application has been extended to the 29th of December 2) WBC Highways will liaise with Ridge & Partners LLP regarding the exact termination of the cycleway/footpath in respect of the crossing 3) At Highways request a minor change will be made to the drawings at beginning of the cycleway at College Piece, showing that it can be accessed directly from the highway 4) WBC shall be providing further advice with regards to Wokefield Common and whether permission is needed from the Secretary of State 5) Cllr. Carter thought the planning application should be withdrawn until the crossing has been designed.

Cllr. Morsley proposed the planning application should be amended as described.

Seconded by Cllr. Bridgman.

Resolved with one abstention.

b. A budget to undertake the necessary work regarding the amendments.

Cllr. D. Kilshaw proposed a budget of £2,000.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

Resolved with one abstention.

23/101 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 23/099 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:17

Next meeting: January the 11th 2024.