



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Agenda

All Members of the Council are Summoned to attend the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, 17 West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB on Thursday 13 June 2024 at 7:30pm

PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

Part I

24/022 Public Questions - DM

24/023 To receive any apologies for absence - DM

24/024 To receive any declarations of interest - DM

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, and gifts and hospitality in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Members are reminded that if they declare an interest they may have to leave immediately after having made representations, given evidence, or answered questions and before the debate starts unless he/she has obtained a dispensation.

24/025 Minutes of Last Meeting - DM

To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of 9 May 2024.

24/026 Chairman's Remarks - DM

24/027 Clerk's Report – CLERK

To receive a report from the Parish Clerk outlining actions taken following the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 14 March 2024 and other updates. *Report 24/027.*

24/028 Items to be taken into private session - DM

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

24/029 Reports from Committees, Steering Groups, Working Parties and Outside Bodies.

1. Fairground and Cemetery Committee - SH
2. Finance and General Purposes Committee - DM
3. Planning Committee - GB
4. Climate and Environment Steering Group - AM
5. Communications Steering Group - GB

6. D-Day Working Party - **GB**
7. Emergency Planning Working Party - **AR**
8. Garth Hall Working Party – **MD/GB**
9. Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath - **DM**
10. Outside Bodies - **REPRESENTATIVES**

24/030 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Policies - **GB**

To consider any policies requiring consideration, amendment or approval:

- a. Financial Regulations (now including Reserve Policy)
- b. Cemetery Regulations

2. Neighbourhood Plan – **GB**

To receive and endorse a written report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG).

3. Internal Auditor’s Report – **CLERK**

To receive the Internal Auditor’s Reports for the year ended 31st March 2024.

4. Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Section 1 – **DM**

To consider and address each statement and approve the 2023/2024 Annual Governance Statement for signing by the Chairman and Clerk.

5. Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Section 2 – **DM**

To receive and approve the 2023/2024 Accounting Statements for signing by the Chairman.

6. Annual Governance and Accountability Return – additional documents – **CLERK**

To receive the following documents which will be submitted to the External Auditor as part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return:

- a. Confirmation of Dates for the Exercise of Public Rights 2023/24
- b. Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024
- c. Explanation of variances
- d. Reconciliation between Box 7 and Box 8
- e. Evidence that the Council has complied with the criteria for general power of competence as part of the immediate review.

7. Appointment of the Internal Auditor 2024/25 - **DM**

To resolve the appointment of Mrs. C. Connell as the Council’s Internal Auditor for 2024/25.

8. Banning of Pets as Prizes – **DM**

To receive the letter from WBC and resolve to ban the giving of pets as prizes on all land owned and events organised by SMPC.

9. Foudry Brook - **MD**

- a. To receive an update report and consider the response received from Thames Water
- b. To resolve a further response to Thames Water as required with copies to The Environment Agency, West Berkshire Council and our MP.

10. Willink Leisure Centre – **GB**

To resolve:

- a. That the Clerk, on behalf of this Council, shall write to West Berkshire Council’s Service Director for Strategy and Governance to establish if the agreement dated 14 August 1996 relating to the Willink Leisure Centre (“the Leisure Centre”) between Berkshire CC, Newbury DC, Burghfield PC, Stratfield Mortimer PC, Sulhamstead PC and the Governing Body of Willink School (“the 1996 Agreement”) is the most recent agreement relating to the Leisure

Centre to which this Council is a signatory (and, if not, requesting a copy/copies of any subsequent agreement/s).

- b. That, if the 1996 Agreement is the most recent agreement, to write to the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council: (1) asking what individual/role within WBC now undertakes the function previously undertaken by the Director of Recreation Services for Newbury District Council, (2) to point out that (according to our research) that individual is the Secretary of the Willink Recreation Centre Joint Board ("the Board"), established in accordance with the 1996 Agreement, (3) that the 1996 Agreement stipulates that the Board (now apparently called the 'Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee') shall meet not less than three times a year, (4) that the Secretary has not called any meeting of the Board since October 2017, (5) that there is general dissatisfaction with the way in which the Centre is run and the state of the equipment there, (6) that this Council is minded to remove its annual funding paid in accordance with the Agreement by giving notice in accordance with the provision permitting a party to withdraw from the Agreement, but (7) has resolved to first see what the Chief Executive and/or the Secretary might wish to say about (i) the failure to call meetings, and (ii) the general state of the facility.
- c. That, if there is a/are more recent agreement/s, the Clerk considers the terms of such and, in conjunction with Cllrs Morsley and Bridgman, corresponds further with the relevant officer at WBC in similar terms to the above, but taking into account anything in any subsequent agreement, about the failure of the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee to meet and the dissatisfaction with the Leisure Centre operation, including - if they consider it necessary – a warning that funding might be withdrawn.

11. RoSPA Training - CLERK

- a. To receive information regarding routine and operational RoSPA training.
- b. To resolve a virement of £500.00 from General Reserve to Training.

12. Transfer of Council Funds - CLERK

To resolve the purchase of shares to the value of £90,000 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund to maintain the balance in the Unity Trust Bank Account in line with the Investment Strategy.

13. Personnel – DM

To receive an update.

24/031 Finance

1. Accounts for Payment – CLERK

To receive and approve items of expenditure - Schedule A i: *Report 24/031 1.*

2. Payments made with the authorisation of Chairman/Vice-Chairman and the Clerk – DM

To receive and note a summary of payments made - Schedules B i and B ii: *Report 24/031 2*

3. Subscriptions and Continuous Payments – CLERK

To receive and note a summary of payments made – Schedule C: *Report 24/031 3*

24/032 Items for information only

1. To note the meetings that have taken place of the following committees and to receive the draft minutes, where available: - **DM**
 - a. Planning 23/05/2024
 - b. Fairground and Cemetery 16/05/2024
 - c. Finance and General Purposes 04/06/2024
 - d. Planning 13/06/2024
2. District Councillor Reports – **NC/GM/VP**

3. Correspondence: *Report 24/032 3* - **CLERK**
4. Planning decisions and information from West Berkshire Council: *Report 24/032 4* - **DM**
5. Neighbourhood Action Group report – **DM/JW**
6. Health and Safety - **CLERK**
7. Councillor Surgeries - **COUNCILLORS**
8. Minor Matters – **DM**

24/033 Communications - DM

To identify items for communicating.

24/034 Future Agenda Items - DM

To identify future agenda items

24/035 Exclusion of Press and Public - DM

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 24/028 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Mrs. L. Hannawin, Clerk
07/06/2024