



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 1st of February 2024 @ 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr. A. Marsden (Chairman), Cllr. G. Bridgman, Cllr. M. Dennett, Cllr. H. Geary, Cllr. S. Hill, Cllr. D. Morsley, Cllr. M. Shaw, Cllr. J. Wells.

Clerk:

Mrs. L. Hannawin.

Public/Press:

One member of the public and Cllr. Noonan were in attendance.

Part I

23/023 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

The member of the public provided information regarding parking on The Street and St Mary's plans for a proposed car park. Cllr. A Noonan provided information on St Mary's parking and ongoing maintenance and flood prevention.

23/024 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. C. Lewis.
Cllr. D. Kilshaw did not attend, and no apologies were received.

23/025 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.

23/026 Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of the 19th of October 2023.

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

23/027 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

To receive an update on any items not included on the Action Tracker from the meeting held on the 19th of October 2023.

The Clerk reported that a purchase order for the Windmill Common tree work will be raised once the cost of the replacement trees has been confirmed.

23/028 Items to be taken into private session

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

None.

23/029 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Parking on The Street at St Mary's School

To receive an update and resolve to request:

a. West Berkshire Council (WBC) consider on safety grounds:

- i. additional parking restrictions from the junction of The Street with Church Lane to the junction of The Street with the entrance to Mortimer Hall.**
- ii. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit from the junction of The Street with Church Lane to a location to be agreed.**

The issues regarding the parking and possible solutions were discussed. Further to the recent meeting held with representatives of West Berkshire Council (WBC), St Mary's School and the SMPC, it was agreed to confirm with WBC that they will be 1) refurbishing the existing yellow lines and 2) fixing the solar "school sign" for vehicles travelling in a westerly direction.

Cllr. Morsley proposed requesting WBC to extend the yellow lines to include the section of road from Church Farm Barns to Church Lane.

Seconded by Cllr. Marsden.

Resolved unanimously.

Cllr. Morsley proposed requesting WBC to extend the yellow lines to include the section of road up The Street from Pitfield Lane.

Seconded by Cllr. Marsden.

Resolved unanimously.

Cllr. Morsley proposed requesting WBC to introduce an advisory speed limit of 20mph at school drop off and pick up times.

Seconded by Cllr. Marsden.

Resolved unanimously.

b. Parish council funding for access protection markings and signage.

Cllr. Bridgman confirmed the white lines marking the driveways of those households with dropped kerbs, although are painted by WBC, are paid for by the residents.

Repainting the lines costs £250.00 (£125.00 per semi-detached property).

Cllr. Bridgman proposed writing to the residents, offering that the Parish Council pays for half of the cost for each line needed.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

For reference, previous relevant planning applications for a car park for St Mary's School are:

15/02/06; 06/00285/FUL, Creation of a car park for use by St Marys Church and the St Marys Church of England Junior School, Withdrawn

01/08/06; 06/01625/FUL, To formalise and extend use of existing field used as church car park and to include joint use by school for school events and for limited use, half hour beginning and end of school day. This will include dwarf wall with railings, gateway and pedestrian gate, Refused

26/09/11; 11/01949/AGRIC, The installation of a hardcore area to be used for the parking of vehicles relating to a proposed allotment use on an area of field amounting to 3 acres, Applic required.

2. Action Tracker

To review the Action Tracker and resolve any further actions needed and associated budget.

The Action Tracker was reviewed:

- The Clerk shall remind the Custodian to cut the hedges before the nesting season.
- All Members need to report any unreported potholes via the WBC portal. Cllr Morsley will write a reminder on how to report potholes for the newsletter.
- Cllr. Morsley is waiting to speak to Gigaclear regarding reinstatement works on unadopted roads.
- The need for SID volunteers will be publicised.
- Cllr. Marsden will meet with Englefield regarding the management of Windmill Common.
- The Clerk will ask WBC for an update on the remedial works on the footpath between Victoria Road and Croft Road and West End Road.

3. Biodiversity Policy

To review the draft Biodiversity Policy and agree any amendments for policy approval by full Council.

The Policy was reviewed. It was noted that further discussions regarding biodiversity will be held with other relevant parties including the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Cllr. Marsden proposed the draft Policy be recommended for approval by full Council.

Seconded by Cllr. Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

4. Ongoing Maintenance and Flood Prevention

It was confirmed that the issues with the lack of cleaning of the roadside gullies by WBC has been raised with Dist. Cllr. Carter. It was agreed to set up a working party to identify flood areas.

5. Management of Commons

To receive a report and agree any actions to be taken.

It was agreed for Cllr. Shaw to devise an action plan for the management of Council owned common land and Windmill Common, and for Cllr. Marsden to approach Greening Mortimer to establish if they would undertake any work on this land as Council volunteers. The Clerk confirmed that under a Scheme the maintenance of some SMPC owned areas of land is the responsibility of WBC. Advice is being sought regarding what the maintenance includes and the responsibility of SMPC as the landowner.

23/030 Items for information only

- Hedge maintenances: Cllr. Morsley gave an update on issues with residents maintaining their hedges. Road signs can give an indication of where hedges should be cut back to.
- Community Speedwatch Signs: All councillors to monitor the Community Speedwatch signs at village entrances and report any issues to Cllr. Wells and the office.

23/031 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

Request for volunteers for operating the SID.

23/032 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items

Action plan for the management of the Commons.

23/033 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 23/017 on the Agenda due to the confidential nature of the information being discussed.

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:01

Next meeting – TBC.