



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Mortimer Methodist Hall, 17 West End Road, Mortimer RG7 3TB on Thursday 23 May 2024

Draft subject to approval

Present

Councillors

Cllrs G Bridgman (Chairman), S Hill, M Lock, A Richardson, J Wells

Officers of the Council

S Taylor

Public/Press

No members of the public or press attended.

Part I

24/001 Public Questions

No public present and none received.

24/002 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr D Morsley and Cllr H Kilshaw did not attend and no apologies received.

24/003 To receive any declarations of interest

None received.

24/004 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 25 April 2024 were received with no amendments and approved unanimously for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

24/005 Chairman's remarks

Cllr Bridgman said:

- He had reviewed the opening sessions of the WBC Local Plan Review and in particular the session on spatial strategy and neighbourhood planning districts and

the DEPZ. He noted that Mortimer's zero housing allocation in the emerging Local Plan was criticised (e.g. by Pro Vision for T A Fisher) because it referred to the building of the 110 homes on MOR006 as not complete (at the time of drafting), but this was progressing well and should complete by the end of the current plan period (2026). The council's response was that an early review of the new Local Plan was intended, which Cllr Bridgman concluded meant that there was a clear possibility of more housing being required in Mortimer. This will be discussed further at the next NP Steering Group meeting and Mortimer will probably need new policies in place to anticipate new housing.

- A new agenda item has been added called 'Schedule of Applications to note'. These are applications like PASSHE, TWP or CERTP where the Planning Committee does not need to comment.

24/006 Items to be taken into private session

None.

24/007 Policies

No policies needed to be discussed.

24/008 Current Projects

a Tower House Farm

Cllr Bridgman reported that a meeting was held with TA Fisher regarding the status of the reserved land. At the outset it was thought a positive response was received from West Berkshire Council (WBC) re the pre-planning application. It has now come to light that WBC is not happy with the density of the 20 over-55s houses and the separation distances. TA Fisher are now saying that financially 20 houses will not be enough. TA Fisher have come up with some alternative proposals, which have been discussed in great detail at the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. One proposal is to remove the doctor's surgery from the site and put 4 extra houses there and reduce the density and the spacing. The second proposal is to keep the land reserved for the doctor's surgery but reduce the land for the school. The next step is to communicate with the NHS, the doctor's surgery and the school and get their feedback.

b Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath/Cycleway

Cllr Bridgman reported that Ridge and Partners LLP are getting quotes for the bridge. The first quote was very high. The idea is to have an off the shelf bridge at a lower price than quoted so far. A quote may be sought from the contractors who installed the cemetery bridge.

24/009 Schedule of Applications for consideration

24/00482/HOUSE 6 Orchard Road Mortimer Reading RG7 3TX

Demolition of conservatory and two storey rear extension.

SMPC Comments: The planning committee had no objections.

24/010 Schedule of Applications to note

24/00902/PASSHE: 69 College Piece Mortimer Reading RG7 3XH

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Larger Home Extension: replace existing single storey extension with permanent extension of similar footprint. 5.30m beyond rear wall x 3.70m maximum height x 2.30m at eaves

24/011 Applications for Future Consideration

24/00405/HOUSE: 14A Stephens Close Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TX

Two storey rear extension.

Cllr Bridgman mentioned the application was validated in March and there is still no orange sign up despite the Parish office sending a request to WBC a few times. Cllr Bridgman will follow up with WBC.

24/00933/HOUSE: 16 Windmill Road Mortimer Common RG7 3RN

Demolish existing garage and construct new detached garage building.

24/00957/HOUSE: 37 Victoria Road Mortimer RG7 3SH

Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing lean-to, proposed bay window on front elevation to replace existing porch, proposed timber frame open canopy and proposed 3.7m wide dropped kerb.

24/012 Items for information only

a Decisions received from West Berkshire Council

24/00296/HOUSE: 17 Stephens Firs Mortimer RG7 3RU

Single storey rear extension with flat roof together with the creation of an enclosed front entrance porch. Side lean-to replaced with a masonry garage block including flat roof.

APPROVED subject to conditions – 23 April 2024

SMPC Comments: The planning committee noted the comment by Highways and questioned whether it takes into account the fact that one of the parking spaces offered is within a garage and would therefore not normally be counted under policy P1. For a 4-bedroom house as per policy P1 there should be 3 parking spaces and one cannot be a garage.

b Minor matters for information.

None.

24/013 Communications

No items for communicating identified.

24/014 Future Agenda Items

None.

Part II (if needed)

24/015 Exclusion of Public and Press

Not required.

Close

The meeting closed at 19:57.