



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 20 June 2024 @ 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

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

Clerk:

Mrs L Hannawin.

Public/Press:

No members of the public and no members of the press were in attendance.

Part I

24/001 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

None.

24/002 To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr D Kilshaw did not attend, and no apologies were received.

24/003 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, and gifts and hospitality in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

None.

24/004 Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of 1 Feb 2024.

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

24/005 Chairman's Remarks

With the Committee only meeting every four months, Cllr Marsden raised the issue of maintaining the progress on agreed actions and projects. It was agreed the Committee

should informally meet monthly to review progress. If necessary, any decisions needing to be resolved in between meetings will be taken to full Council.

24/006 Update from Previous Committee Meeting(s)

To review the Action Tracker and receive an update outlining actions taken from the previous meetings.

The Action Tracker was reviewed, and amendments and further actions required identified and agreed.

ACTION Cllr Marsden and the Clerk to update and circulate.

24/007 Items to be taken into private session

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

None.

24/008 Items for Consideration and Resolution

1. Policies

To consider any Policies within the ambit of the Committee requiring consideration, amendment or proposal to Full Council.

The Committee Terms of Reference will be updated as part of the review of the Council's committee structure.

ACTION Committee members to produce a comprehensive list of the role of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.

2. West End Road Car Park

To review the management of the border and resolve any further actions and budget.

Further to a discussion it was agreed to:

- Ask the custodian to undertake a weekly litter pick of the car park.
- Ask the custodian to assess the fence and advise regarding its maintenance.
- Plant the border with suitable plants and use bark as a weed suppressant.

Cllr Bridgman proposed a budget of up to £1,000 for the border work and for this to be undertaken by the Clerk, the Custodian and Cllr Shaw.

Seconded by Cllr Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

ACTION Cllr Shaw to advise on a planting regime and work in conjunction with the Clerk and Custodian to purchase the required items and plant the border.

3. Community Speedwatch

To receive an update and consider and agree further actions on the management of speeding in the village.

Cllr Dennett gave a report summarising topics recently considered by the SpeedWatch Group. Further research is needed in several areas prior to coming back to the Committee for a decision. It was agreed to seek to add to the following sites for both the Speed Indicator Device (SID) and the Automatic SpeedWatch Camera (ASWC):

- Mortimer Library
- Triangle by the Church

The Stephens Close site for the ASWC is too close to the roundabout and, if possible, will be relocated further back towards Burghfield.

Cllr Morsley will write a request seeking further SID/ASWC volunteers.

Cllr Dennett confirmed there is a £500.00 software upgrade for the ASWC which would be beneficial to have as it reduces the time lapse between the number of photos that can be taken of passing vehicles.

Cllr Marsden proposed the software upgrade is purchased at a cost of £500.00.

Seconded by Cllr Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

ACTION Cllr Dennett and the Clerk to progress the new SID/ASWC sites. Cllr Dennett to provide SID/ASWC information for Cllr Morsley to write publicity requesting volunteers. Cllr Dennett and the Clerk to purchase the software upgrade.

A speed report concerning a vehicle racing around Mortimer and submitted to West Berkshire Council (WBC) by a resident, was also considered. The Clerk will inform the resident of action taken by the police following the issue being raised at the recent NAG meeting.

4. Public Rights of Way

To consider and agree actions needed regarding the management of footpaths.

Cllr Marsden reported that many of the public rights of way are overgrown. It was agreed to:

- Clarify with WBC the reporting process, what actions are taken following an issue being reported and the historical data regarding what has recently been reported.
- Under the FAQs section of the website, add details of how overgrown footpaths may be reported, a picture of WBC's interactive map showing footpaths and the STRA footpath identification number, and a link to the interactive map.

ACTION Cllr Marsden and the Clerk to liaise with WBC regarding the reporting process etc. The Clerk to add the information regarding footpaths to the website.

24/009 Items for information only

Minor Matters.

Cllr Marsden reported that she and Cllr Shaw had commenced a review of Brewery Common and had identified several potential areas of maintenance, some that would need to be addressed professionally and others that could be undertaken by volunteers. One step is to establish from WBC their maintenance and cutting regime for the Common.

24/010 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

- Need for SID/ASWC volunteers.
- FAQ – How to Report Overgrown Footpaths.

24/011 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items.

Standing agenda item on the management of footways and hedges.

24/012 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 24/007 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:11

Next meeting – Thursday 17 October.