



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting held at the Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, on Thursday 17 October 2024 @ 19:30 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

Cllr G Bridgman (Chairman from item 24/013), Cllr M Dennett, Cllr D Kilshaw, Cllr D Morsley, Cllr M Shaw (arrived 19:31), Cllr J Wells.

Clerk:

Mrs L Hannawin.

Public/Press:

Two members of the public were present. No members of the press were in attendance.

Part I

24/013 Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee.

Cllr Kilshaw proposed Cllr Bridgman to be the Chairman of the Committee.

Seconded by Cllr Morsley.

Resolved with one abstention.

#Cllr M Shaw arrived.

24/014 Public Questions (for agenda items only)

No specific questions were asked by the members of the public, but they each provided information in respect of agenda items as indicated.

24/015 To receive any apologies for absence

None – all present.

24/016 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.

24/017 Minutes of Last Meeting

To approve the Minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee meeting of 1 Feb 20 June 2024.

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

24/018 Chairman's Remarks

None.

24/019 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 (attached) was reviewed and outstanding items discussed and further actions identified as indicated.

24/020 Items to be taken into private session

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

It was agreed for agenda item 24/021 2. Budget to be taken in Part II.

24/021 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.

Not needed.

2. Budget 2025/26

To consider the Roads, Footpaths and Commons budget for 2025/26 and agree the amounts required for recommendation to Finance and General Purposes.

Minuted at Part II.

3. Tree Surveys

To consider the need for tree surveys for Five Oaken Common and Brewery Common and agree any further actions and associated budgets.

The Clerk summarised the current situation with the tree surveys. It was agreed to:

- a. Consider the need for a tree survey for Five Oaken Common once the cycleway and footpath is in place.
- b. Establish with West Berkshire Council (WBC) their responsibilities for Brewery Common under the "Brewery Common Scheme" and then review and propose any necessary actions.

4. SID and ASWC deployments

To receive an update on the deployments of SID and ASWC and to consider future activities.

CLlr Dennett and one of the members of public present gave an update on the SID and ASWC deployments and the data captured. The need for additional volunteers was discussed. It was agreed to:

- a. Write an advert for social media seeking additional volunteers.
- b. Seek councillor volunteers.
- c. Review the current SID & ASWC deployment sites and apply for others where needed.
- d. Look at other alternative ASWC systems.
- e. Establish via WBC the deployment rules around SID/Sentinel system.

5. Hedges

To agree a plan for monitoring and managing overgrown hedges throughout the parish.

Cllr Morsley gave an update and reported that many hedges remain overgrown with WBC failing to use their powers to address the issues even when reported.

It was agreed to:

- a. Continue to post cards and hedge leaflets through letterboxes of properties with overgrown hedges and if no action taken by the resident to report the hedge issue via the WBC website.
- b. To liaise with WBC regarding the management of overgrown hedges and establish actions SMPC can take to assist with the process.

6. Public Rights of Way: STRA/43A/1 and STRA/43B/1

To consider the issues around the routes of the footpaths and agree any actions to be taken.

Cllr Bridgman gave a history of the footpaths and confirmed that currently sections of the footpath are on either side of the hedge, partly in Hampshire and partly in Berkshire. Ideally a contiguous route should be established on easterly side of the hedge. It was agreed to formally write to Englefield Estate as landowners, referring them to previous correspondence with the farmer and asking them to agree to join the paths together as one contiguous footpath.

7. St Mary's School and The Street Parking

To receive an update and:

a. Consider the responses received regarding the repainting of the white lines.

It was confirmed that out of the seven properties contacted regarding the white lines only three had responded and of those, only two were prepared to pay towards the cost of having the white lines repainted. In addition, previously at a meeting with WBC and the school, the repainting of the faded yellow lines and the painting of yellow lines from Pitfield Lane travelling up the hill had been discussed.

Cllr Bridgman proposed liaising with WBC regarding the simultaneous painting of both the yellow and white lines with a view to SMPC paying for the repainting of the white lines if an appropriate price can be agreed.

Seconded by Cllr Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

b. Agree any further actions regarding the issues and potential solutions around parking on The Street in the vicinity of the school.

Cllr Bridgman gave an update on recent correspondence from the school regarding the parking issues and possible solutions, to which one member of the public

contributed. Further to the meeting held earlier on in the year with the school and WBC, it was agreed to ask WBC for an update regarding:

- a. The repair/replacement of the flashing sign located to the eastern side of the school.
- b. The road sign for traffic travelling in a westerly direction showing Mortimer Lane as a T junction when it is really a staggered crossroads with Church Farm Barns.
- c. Adding road restrictions (i) between Church Lane and Church Farm Barns (ie opposite the Mortimer Lane junction), and (ii) from Pitfield Lane up The Street towards the crossing.

24/022 Items for information only

Minor Matters.

The Clerk informed the committee that as part of the Remembrance commemorations the Royal British Legion shall be fixing roadside display poppies on the approach to the War Memorial.

24/023 Communications

To identify items for communicating.

- SID volunteers – Cllr Morsley
- Bullet point speeding summary – Cllr Dennett

24/024 Future Agenda Items

To identify future agenda items.

- Action Tracker
- Five Oaken tree survey
- Brewery Common Tree Survey
- SID/ASWC
- Full Council: SID/ASWC volunteers
- Reports on Commons

24/025 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 24/020 on the Agenda, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed by Cllr Bridgman.

Seconded by Cllr Morsley.

Resolved unanimously.

24/021 Items for Consideration and Resolution

2. Budget 2025/26

To consider the Roads, Footpaths and Commons budget for 2025/26 and agree the amounts required for recommendation to Finance and General Purposes.

The year-to-date figures were considered in line with the 2024/25 budget and the figures for the 2025/26 Budget agreed for recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:09

Next meeting – Thursday 6 Feb 2025.