

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 09/01/2025

Committee Re-Casting

Agenda item 24/108 6: To discuss and resolve the proposed committee restructure and agree any actions to be taken.

Introduction

At the away day in August (see notes attached) there was a good discussion about how we apportion matters between committees, and an enthusiasm to create a new Communities Committee to push forward existing and future links with community organisations and develop new community projects, plus take on various things that currently fall down the cracks between the existing committees – comms, greening, etc.

This produced standing committees as follows: F&GP, Community, Facilities, and Highways & Planning.

- F&GP would be much as it is now;
- Facilities would be F&C with the land elements of RF&C (Windmill Common, Brewery Common, etc);
- the roads and footpaths elements of RF&C would be added to Planning so it became Highways & Planning;
- everything else that doesn't have to be done at full council would go to Communities.

At the October Full Council meeting we established a working group to discuss what policies would be needed, and then at F&GP last week we discussed the initial drafts and decided to start by concentrating on the terms of reference for the new committees, etc.

ToR

Please see the draft attached – the ToR are very sparse in some places (eg relating to the Communities Committee) because they all need input from everyone.

The intention is to incorporate these into a document with general rules about membership, meetings, etc – each standing committee (apart from F&GP) would be Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman plus a minimum of five other Councillors.

Next Steps

Once we agree what committees, sub-committees and steering groups we are having, and what their terms of reference are:

- there will be consequent changes to be discussed (eg to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, etc);
- we can also discuss what (if any) powers are delegated to what body (to remind everyone, at present if a budget line is allocated to a committee that committee has delegated power over its subject matter);
- we can also discuss the number of meetings of what body we need to have.