



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee held at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, 17 West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB on Thursday 6 February 2025 at 19:30

Present

Councillors

Cllrs G Bridgman (Chairman), M Dennett, D Morsley, M Shaw, and J Wells.

Officers

Miss D Davis.

Public/Press

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

Part I

24/037 Public questions (for agenda items only)

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

24/038 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Kilshaw.

24/039 To receive any declarations of interest

None.

24/040 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Roads, Footpaths and Commons meeting held on 17 October 2024 were received. No amendments were proposed, and they were approved unanimously for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

24/041 Chairman's remarks

None.

24/042 Items to be taken into private session

None.

24/043 Items for consideration

1 Policies

- a **To consider any Policies within the ambit of the Committee requiring consideration, amendment or proposal to full Council.**

Not needed.

- b **To consider proposed Terms of Reference for the new Planning and Highways Committee, and to agree any further actions.**

The proposed Terms of Reference were reviewed. It was noted that the committee named *Facilities Committee* in the draft ToR is proposed to be named *Estate Management Committee*.

Points were raised regarding paragraphs 7 and 9 in the draft ToR for the proposed Planning and Highways Committee:

- Point 7 – *To monitor, and as necessary report to WBC/landowners, in respect of the condition of roads, footways, PROWs, and permissive paths.*

It was agreed that this point should include overhanging hedge management. Cllr Bridgman will draft appropriate wording.

- Point 9 – *To monitor...*

It was agreed that Cllr Bridgman and Cllr Dennett would draft wording for this point in respect of traffic management equipment, to be taken to Full Council for approval.

2 Speed monitoring

- a **SID and ASWC deployments**

- i **To receive an update on the deployments of SID and ASWC and to consider future activities**

Cllr Dennett provided an update on the SID and ASWC deployments and the data captured. He also informed members of the public about the function of the devices, the recent software update, and the previous faults identified before the update. The limitations on site approval at The Street were discussed, along with the introduction of two new SID deployment sites.

Cllr Dennett emphasised that without more volunteers deployment of the ASWC would continue to be challenging.

- ii **To review the deployment guidelines provided by West Berkshire Council and determine any necessary actions**

Cllr Bridgman said that the TME (Traffic Management Equipment) agreement with WBC was clear that, in respect of parish owned equipment, the TME (in SMPC's case the SID and any new SIDs purchased) could be left unattended (for up to two weeks, every ten weeks, in any particular position). Of course, there were security implications that would need to be taken into account.

- b **Additional SID procurement**

To allow the public contribution to items 24/043-2-c and 24/043-3, this item was moved to after 24/031-3.

- c **Speeding on West End Road and The Street**

- iii **To review speed data from West Berkshire Council.**

The committee reviewed the data and noted that the West End Road deployment site recorded a higher percentage of vehicles exceeding ACPO speed thresholds compared to The Street.

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered by a member of the public from The Street, highlighting the occurrence of road traffic accidents and the importance of speed management.

Members of the public shared their views on speeding issues along The Street.

It was agreed to make enquiries to the West Berkshire Council Traffic Management team regarding:

- a temporary 20mph speed limit around St Mary's School during peak times;
- traffic calming measures;
- the redeployment of the BlackCat data collection device in accordance with the site selection criteria outlined in its user manual.

iv **To review recent correspondence from members of the public regarding speeding concerns.**

The correspondence was received.

v **To approve a response to Olivia Bailey MP regarding a speeding concern raised by a constituent.**

The draft response was reviewed. It was agreed that Cllr Dennett would amend the draft and circulate it to the Committee for approval before the Clerk issues the final response.

3 Parking restrictions and signage on The Street near St Marys School

a Signage for St Mary's School

To review a proposal for procuring additional speeding signage at St Mary's School and decide whether to recommend it for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 13 February.

The committee received proposals from The Mortimer Federation of St John's and St Mary's, as well as from Cllr Carter. It was agreed to first submit the proposal to the West Berkshire Council Traffic Management team for consideration before making a decision on the purchase of additional speeding signage for St Mary's School.

b Existing and potential parking restrictions

To consider correspondence with WBC and decide on response (if any)

Cllr Bridgman informed the members of the public about the request already submitted to West Berkshire Council regarding existing parking restrictions and the requested additional restrictions for The Street, (a) between Church Farm Barns and Church Lane, and (b) from Pitfield Lane towards the pedestrian crossing, and the recent response.

It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to West Berkshire Council, stating that the Parish Council expects the original 18-month timeframe to be honoured.

2 Speed monitoring (item returned to as minuted above)

b Additional SID procurement

To consider the quotes received for the procurement of additional SID devices and agree on the preferred option.

The committee reviewed the quotes and agreed on the following:

- a proposal will be taken to Full Council to request an increase in the budget for procurement, allowing for the purchase of two SID devices;
- Cllr Bridgman and Cllr Dennett will further review the quotes and specifications and report their recommendations to the committee.

24/044 Action Tracker

To review the Action Tracker, receive and update outlining actions taken since the last meeting not considered under item 24/031, and consider further actions.

The Action Tracker (attached) was reviewed, with outstanding items discussed and further actions identified as noted.

24/045 Items for information only

None

24/046 Minor matters

West Berkshire Council has asked the Parish Council whether it would like to take over responsibility for the litter bin in Strawberry Fields. As the bin is primarily being used for dog waste and there is a dedicated dog waste bin located nearby, the committee decided not to take on responsibility. The Clerk will respond to West Berkshire Council accordingly.

24/047 Communications

None

24/048 Future agenda items

Action Tracker

SID/ASWC procurement

Part II (if needed)

24/049 Exclusion of Press and Public

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:27

Next meetings (of new Estates Management and Planning and Highways Committees) - tbc.