



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Thursday 26 June 2025 at 19:30 at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB

Present

Councillors

Cllrs A Richardson (Chairman), G Bridgman, M Dennett, S Hill, D Kilshaw, and M Lock.

Officers of the Council

S. Taylor

Public/Press

One member of the public attended and no members of the press.

Part I

25/018 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Todd.

25/019 To receive any declarations of interest

None were received.

25/020 Public Questions

None received.

25/021 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Thursday 5 June 2025 were received with no amendments and approved unanimously for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

25/022 Chairman's remarks

Cllr Richardson:

- Noted that this was the first Full Planning and Highways Committee meeting of the year with a mixed agenda of Planning and Highways mainly relating to speeding.

25/023 Items to be taken into private session

None.

25/024 Policies

None to discuss.

25/025 Current Projects

a Tower House Farm

Cllr Bridgman reported that the council is still awaiting the application for the reserved land. He also reported that TA Fisher have started building the retaining wall.

25/026 Steering Group Reports

- 1 The draft minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) meeting of 17 June 2025 were received. It included an action point for the Planning & Highways Committee relating to ensuring that developers confirm to the WBC Local Plan Review (LPR) Digital Infrastructure policy DM41:

The roll out and continued improvement of digital infrastructure serving all parts of the district will be supported. This includes full-fibre gigabit-capable broadband, 4G and 5G technologies. Applicants will be required to actively demonstrate that they have considered gigabit-capable broadband and mobile connectivity within their proposals for new residential, employment, and retail developments. Adverse impacts on the successful functioning of existing digital infrastructure shall be avoided. Where this is not possible, appropriate mitigation shall be provided.

Cllr Bridgman reported that the NPSG had raised concerns to what degree this policy was followed for Tower Gardens and Perrins Farm. It was agreed moving forward that the Committee will be mindful of this when reviewing new applications and ask WBC if the applicant has been compliant with policy DM41.

25/027 Highways - Items for Consideration

- 1 The draft letter prepared by the Clerk for Olivia Bailey was discussed. Cllr Richardson had sent some amendments prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Richardson and Cllr Dennett and the Clerk would finalise the letter and send the additional speed data from 2025 provided by Cllr Dennett.
- 2 The new SIDS were discussed. Once they arrive Cllr Dennett to check if we need one or two people to attach them to street furniture and move them after a certain period. Cllr Dennett and the Clerk to decide on locations and request permission from WBC.

Cllr Dennett reported that we need to wait on recruiting more volunteers for the SIDS once we have looked at the new SIDS. The ASWC has 6 Councillor volunteers, and he may be able to get more. 2 members of the Public have done the training, and Cllr Dennett needs to follow up with them. Another member of the public also happy to lead some sessions. He also reported that he is preparing a poster for the Fun Day to recruit more volunteers.

25/028 Action Tracker

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

#Cllr Dennett requested to leave the meeting at 20:33.

25/029 Schedule of Planning Applications for consideration

23/01859/FULMAJ: Windmill Court Windmill Road Mortimer Common RG7 3RL

Re-consultation - Demolition of Windmill Court and the erection of 24no. dwellings, car parking, landscaping and other associated works.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 26 June 2025 under agenda item 25/029 and has no comments to make on the SUDS. A discussion did come up at a recent Neighbourhood Steering Group meeting and the committee would like to ask if the applicant has been compliant with LPR DM41 relating to Digital Infrastructure.

25/01211/FUL: Laburnums 11 King Street Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RS

Reversal of Approval 09/01814/HOUSE - back to 2no. 2 bed semis 9-11 King Street, Mortimer RG7 3RS.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 26 June 2025 under agenda item 25/029 and have no objections but note that the proposed ground floor plan is incorrect for two reasons: Property 9 does not have a kitchen identified and there is an absence of a door from the hallway into the lounge in property 11.

25/030 Schedule of Planning Applications to note

25/00988/COND: 9 Windmill Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RN

Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 4 (SUDS) and 5 (Biodiversity measures) of planning permission 23/02038/FUL - Erection of 4no. 3 bed dwelling houses

#The Assistant Clerk noted that this application was withdrawn on 26 June 2025.

25/031 Planning Applications for Future Consideration

25/01283/HOUSE: 61 Victoria Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3SL

Proposed ground floor side extension, internal alterations and all associated works.

The Committee noted the Planning Application.

25/032 Planning Appeals for consideration

To consider comments for representation for Planning Appeal APP/W0340/W/25/3367580 for 25-00575-FUL - Rosewood, Longmore Lane.

Cllr Bridgman suggested we write to the appeals officer to say that we have some sympathy of the views expressed by the applicant.

25/033 Planning Enforcements for consideration

24/01978/HOUSE - To discuss the windows at Lime Cottage, Mortimer Lane with a view to raise this with the Enforcement Team at WBC.

Cllr Bridgman reported that the Windows are not of similar appearance as per the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015: Sched 2, Part 1 – Conditions A3, stating that materials used in any exterior works must

be of a 'similar appearance to those used in the construction of the existing dwelling house'.

The Assistant to the Clerk will raise this with the WBC Enforcement Team.

25/034 Items for information only

a Decisions received from West Berkshire Council

25/00902/HOUSE: 3 Orchard Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3QN

Replacement front elevation bay window.

APPROVED – 18 June 2025

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning Committee meeting on 15 May under agenda item 24/208 and had no objections.

b Minor matters for information

Cllr Bridgman reported that the Parish office was contacted by 2 residents who own some land in College Piece and want to sell it for affordable housing use. He will follow up.

Cllr Lock mentioned that Alan Thorpe's widow would like a bench by the cricket club on the Fairground. Cllr Bridgman explained the Council would need to have the request in writing so it can be considered and permission granted by the Parish Council, the trustees and the CIC.

25/035 Communications

No items for communicating identified.

25/036 Future Agenda Items

No specific items for a future agenda identified.

Part II (if needed)

25/037 Exclusion of Public and Press

Not required.

Close

The meeting closed at 20:53