



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Thursday 18 September 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, D Kilshaw, M Lock and J Todd.

##### **Officers of the Council**

S. Taylor

##### **Public/Press**

Three members of the public attended and no press.

#### **Part I**

##### **25/070 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Hill.

##### **25/071 To receive any declarations of interest**

Cllr Todd reported that her planning application under agenda item 25/086.a – Decisions has been approved.

##### **25/072 Public Questions**

The three members of the public asked about the Basingstoke and Deane proposal to build 350 homes by Mortimer West End Farm covered under agenda item 25/082 and what SMPC's current standpoint is (see below).

##### **25/073 Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Thursday 28 August 2025 were received with no amendments and resolved unanimously for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

##### **25/074 Chairman's remarks**

Cllr Richardson noted that there had been a lot of additional emails going out since the agenda went out on 11 September and checked that the committee members had reviewed the additional meeting papers.

**25/075 Items to be taken into private session**

None.

**25/076 Policies**

None to discuss.

**25/077 Current Projects**

**a Tower House Farm**

Cllr Bridgman reported that the council is still awaiting the application for the reserved land. He also noted that some residents in the Avenue had written to West Berkshire Planning Enforcement and Building Control about whether the designed retaining wall was safe in terms of Health and Safety. Concerns were raised about children climbing the wall.

**25/078 Steering Group Reports**

Cllr Richardson noted that the minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) meetings of the 19 August and 2 September had been received. Cllr Bridgman mentioned that the recent meeting on 16 September (minutes to be drafted) had two main elements.

Firstly, now that the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies had gone to Full Council on 11 September and been approved, these draft policies can now be taken to public consultations at St John's School Hall in October. There will be 2 volunteers from the NPSG at each session and the communication about these sessions is about to start.

Secondly, the consultations will be about the new NP policies, but also about potential future housing. At the moment Mortimer does not need to take any more housing. However, should we need to take future housing ((a) as a result of changes to WBC's housing number, and (b) as we have a shortfall of 38 houses according to the housing needs assessment), it might be better at this stage to declare any developable sites.

**#Cllr Richardson moved agenda item 25/082 to be taken next.**

**25/082 Planning items for consideration**

**To discuss the proposal by Basingstoke and Deane, as part of their further call for sites, to build 350 homes at West End Farm and decide whether to draft a letter.**

Cllr Bridgman reported that District Councillor Nick Carter had already written to Basingstoke and Deane on 17 September about the proposed 350 homes added to their Local Plan.

Cllr Bridgman also reported that, with the help of the NPSG and the Clerk, a draft objection letter from SMPC to Basingstoke and Dean had been prepared for review.

The committee reviewed the draft letter and, after some amendments, agreed on the text. The letter will be sent to the Chief Executive of Basingstoke & Deane, their MP and our local MP.

It was also agreed to send a separate letter/email to West Berkshire Council to ask them what they are currently doing about this proposal. Cllr Bridgman, Cllr Richardson and the Assistant to the Clerk took this as an Action.

## **25/079 Highways items for consideration**

See below regarding the Action Tracker.

## **25/080 Action Tracker**

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

**#two members of the public arrived at 20:38 to ask about the proposal for 350 houses by Basingstoke and Deane** - Cllr Bridgman updated them regarding the prior discussion and action agreed.

Cllr Bridgman referred to the public rights of way (PROW) spreadsheet, which covers the PROW issues for Stratfield Mortimer. The plan, over a period of time, is to gather information about what WBC say the PROW issues are, and identify any additional issues and report them.

## **25/081 Items for information only**

### **1 To receive a report on recent SID and ASWC deployments.**

Cllr Dennett reported that he and the Clerk had met with West Berkshire to determine the best sites for the new SIDS. 15 sites were identified and, so far, he and the Clerk have applied for 6 sites with the SIDs in situ. There are some security concerns about a few sites due to their height, and some have hedges.

Cllr Bridgman suggested that thanks are minuted to Cllr Dennett for all his work regarding the new SIDS – agreed unanimously.

Cllr Dennett also reported Dudley Ives has been unwell and has not been able to deploy the SID recently. Cllr Dennett proposed we write to Dudley to thank him for all this help - Cllr Bridgman proposed Cllr Dennett write to Dudley on behalf of the Committee and the Committee agreed.

## **25/083 Schedule of Planning Applications for consideration**

### **25/01812/HOUSE and 25/01813/LBC: Harris House The Street Mortimer Reading RG7 3NR**

Conversion of an existing, two storey, curtilage listed garage into a home gym and artist studio incidental to the enjoyment of main dwelling. Proposals include photovoltaic panels and an air source heat pump.

**SMPC Comments:** Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting 18 September 2025 under agenda item 25/083 and had no objections.

### **25/01807/HOUSE: 44 Stephens Close Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TY**

Single storey sun room rear of property to replace a large conservatory.

**SMPC Comments:** Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting 18 September 2025 under agenda item 25/083 and had no objections.

## **25/084 Schedule of Planning Applications to note**

### **25/01942/TPW: Land adjacent to 18 Damson Drive Mortimer Reading RG7 3WZ**

TG1 - 1x Oak and 1x Ash: Parking area between No 17 and 18, outside boundary. Low over parking bays. Would like to remove deadwood over target area and crown lift Oak to approx 3m to clear. Reason - For general maintenance purposes

### **25/01990/TPW: The Copse Loves Wood Mortimer Common Reading RG7 2JX**

(Cllrs Bridgman and Kilshaw declared that they knew the Applicant.)

T1 - Pine: Tree in major decline due to drought stress and major defects on stem, climb dismantle and fell to ground T2 - Oak: Tree close to house has lost large limb due to summer branch drop. Branch has been cleared. Carry out aerial inspection to check for defects.

## **25/085 Planning Applications for Future Consideration**

To note any further new application, which will become agenda items in due course:

None at present.

## **25/086 Items for information only**

### **a Decisions received from West Berkshire Council**

#### **25/01735/CERTP: 15 St Johns Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TR**

Convert a lean-to into habitable accommodation to future proof the property and provide a fully accessible toilet at entrance level. Part external section removed to allow a window aperture to existing kitchen.

**APPROVED** – 4 September 2025.

#### **25/01581/HOUSE: Hazeley House Cottage Nightingale Lane Mortimer Reading RG7 3PS**

Construction of a two storey extension to create a 3 bedroom property with space to work from home in a barn style building clad in black timber.

**APPROVED** – 10 September 2025

**SMPC Comments** - Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting 28 August 2025 under agenda item 25/063 and had no objections.

#### **25/00877/HOUSE: 80 Stephens Firs Mortimer Reading RG7 3XA**

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'schedule of materials', 4 'electric vehicle charging point', 6 'cycle and storage space' and 7 'surfacing arrangement for access' of approved application 24/02644/FUL: Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of approved 24/01308/FUL - Erection of detached dwelling with associated parking and garden area.

**APPROVED** – 11 September 2025

### **b Minor matters for information**

Cllr Todd suggested we approach Mortimer West End Parish Council regarding the proposal for 350 houses by Basingstoke and Deane. Cllr Bridgman, Cllr Richardson, and the Assistant to the Clerk took this as an Action.

**25/087      Communications**

Cllr Bridgman proposed that once we have sent the letter to Basingstoke and Deane, we publicise this on the website and Facebook and we bring it to the attention of the press covering the area. Cllr Richardson seconded this – resolved unanimously.

**25/088      Future Agenda Items**

No specific items for a future agenda identified.

**Part II (if needed)**

**25/089      Exclusion of Public and Press**

Not required.

**Close**

The meeting closed at 21:20.