



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB

Present

Members

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

Other Councillors

None

Officers of the Council

S Taylor.

Public/Press

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

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:30.

Part I

25/144 Apologies

No apologies were received.

25/145 To receive any declarations of interest

None were received.

25/146 Public Questions

A member of the public asked about a Mortimer Station car park extension, which was discussed below under agenda item 25/151.1a.

25/147 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting held on Thursday 20 November were received with no amendments and resolved with one abstention for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

25/148 Chairman's remarks

Cllr Todd had no remarks.

25/149 Items to be taken into private session

Not needed.

25/150 Policies

No policies needed to be reviewed.

25/151 Highway Issues

1 Parking

a To discuss a question from a member of the public regarding parking at Mortimer Station.

A Mortimer resident expressed concerns over insufficient parking at Mortimer Station. According to the resident increased commuter demand, linked to recent housing developments, has led to unsafe and non-compliant parking around the station, including on junctions, double yellow lines, and unlit verges. This would be exacerbated if proposed housing (eg in Basingstoke and Deane) was manifested. The resident emphasised that this behaviour arises from lack of alternatives. Cllrs Kilshaw, Bridgman and Dennett explained a Parish-Council-led additional station car park project received planning consent in 2020 but was placed on hold by GWR in 2023 due to lack of funding. The planning application has lapsed now.

Previous alternative options such as a joint school/station car park and bus links have not progressed. St Mary's school have proposed an idea to use the field at the corner of Church Lane. There is an issue of funding here as the diocese would need to fund this. There is currently no parking solution for the station or school.

Ideally, measures should be put in place that encourage children to walk to school where possible, thereby reducing traffic and improving overall safety in the area.

One idea would be to bus children from Mortimer St John's to St. Mary's school to alleviate the parking issue by the school. The Deputy Clerk to check with Nick Carter how the bus survey has progressed and also raise it as a concern with Olivia Bailey MP.

b To discuss next steps for the repainting of yellow and white lines along The Street.

The Council had asked that WBC repaint certain road markings, as they were very faint (and a recent repainting of one of them had washed away). The Parish Office has followed this up; however, the work was not included in the 2025/2026 financial program.

Cllr Hill pointed out that without enforcement from West Berkshire parking restrictions will not help. It was agreed that correspondence with WBC should be followed up regarding the repainting of the road markings and the level of enforcement, as compliance with the parking restrictions remains poor.

c To discuss new parking restrictions from Church Lane to Church Farm Barns and from Pitfield Lane up The Street.

The Council had proposed the extension of double yellow lines between Church Lane and Church Farm Barns, to prevent parking opposite Mortimer Lane. Vehicles parked in this location make it extremely difficult and unsafe for drivers to exit Mortimer Lane, presenting a clear highway safety concern.

A further area of concern is Pitfield Lane, extending up the hill. WBC has indicated that parents may be unhappy if parking restrictions are introduced in this area. However, the Council had considered this to be a significant safety issue, as vehicles travelling uphill have limited visibility of oncoming traffic descending the hill, particularly when vehicles are parked along the roadside. This creates a risk to all road users, including pedestrians.

Cllr Bridgman suggested that, in relation to the proposed parking restrictions from Church Lane to Church Farm Barns, we should write to WBC to express disappointment that these restrictions were not included in the current public consultation on new parking restrictions, and to seek assurance that they will be included in the next consultation.

In relation to parking on Pitfield Lane up to The Street, Cllr Bridgman agreed to collect photographic evidence to support the case

d To discuss the West Berkshire Council Traffic and Road Safety public consultation for new parking restrictions at Tower gardens.

The Committee reviewed the proposed new parking restrictions and had no issues with them. Cllr Bridgman questioned that - if this is a safety issue - why is parking from Pitfield Lane up to The Street not one?

Cllr Kilshaw suggested to aid with parking issues we explore companies who could take people to the station. The office to explore bus services.

2 To discuss the Public Rights of Way spreadsheet.

Cllr Bridgman referred to the previously circulated Public Rights of Way (PROW) spreadsheet and wished to discuss how it could be used. He proposed involving the local walking group to assist in reporting issues affecting Stratfield Mortimer's PROWs.

Cllr Todd agreed to write to Full Council to invite members to participate in the project.

3 Update on Community Speed Awareness.

Cllr Dennett reported that two Smiley SIDs were deployed about three weeks ago. One is for traffic heading east, coming into the village from Burghfield. The other is on Hammonds Heath by the big Fairground gate, on the offside of the road for traffic coming from Burghfield direction. One issue has been a much shorter battery life than expected. The duration of the deployments so far has been dictated by battery life. Additional batteries have been ordered. Cllr Dennett intends to get more sites approved.

25/152 Current Projects

a Tower House Farm

Cllr Bridgman reported that we are still waiting for the planning application for the reserved land.

25/153 Steering Group Reports

- 1 Cllr. Todd reported that the draft policies for the new Neighbourhood Plan have been sent to WBC for review. The Neighbourhood Steering Group (NPSG) has also appointed a planning consultant to review the draft policies and an inception meeting occurred on 9 December and we will get feedback of this meeting at the next NPSG meeting on 16 December.

- 2 Cllr Kilshaw reported that a public meeting was organised by West Berkshire Council (WBC) on Monday 8 December in relation to Regulation 18 for the proposed development of 350 houses by Mortimer West End Farm. Over 300 people attended and Cllr Bridgman and Doug Overett spoke to the public after WBC and the second part received a very positive response. The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan SG is organising a rally on 7 January 2026 when Basingstoke & Deane hold their public meeting at St John's Hall. A press release has gone out for this. The SG has collected about 80% of the data needed. The SG is making good headway.

#Cllr Kilshaw asked to be excused and left the meeting at 20:32

25/154 Items for consideration

None.

25/155 Schedule of Planning Applications for consideration

25/02396/HOUSE: 56 The Avenue Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3QX

Alterations to raise patio.

SMPC Comments: - Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 11 December 2025 under agenda item 25/155 and raised no objections. The Committee presumes that drainage matters will be addressed, as local knowledge indicates that this area is prone to flooding.

25/156 Schedule of Planning Applications to note

25/02530/COND: Windmill Court Windmill Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RL

Approval of details reserved by Conditions (7) CMS, (13) CEMP and (14) LEMP of planning permission 23/01859/FULMAJ: Demolition of Windmill Court and the erection of 24no. dwellings, car parking, landscaping and other associated works.

25/02661/COND: Windmill Court Windmill Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RL

Approval of details reserved by Condition (10) Arboricultural Method Statement of planning permission 23/01859/FULMAJ: Demolition of Windmill Court and the erection of 24no. dwellings, car parking, landscaping and other associated works.

25/02692/TPW: 72 West End Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TJ

T1 - Yew: in rear garden. Reduce limbs that face the property reduce by 1.5-2m. Height will remain unchanged and the finished width will be approximately 5 - 6 metres. T2 - Conifer: in front garden. Reduce limbs that face the property reduce by 1.5-2m. Height will remain unchanged and the finished width will be approximately 5 - 6 metres.

25/02673/CERTP: 40 Windmill Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RN

Single storey rear extension.

25/02711/NONMAT: 44 Stephens Close Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TY

Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 25/01807/HOUSE: Proposed single storey sun room to replace large conservatory to rear of property. Amendment: moving one side wall over. No change at all to the current approved build. All materials will stay the same.

#The Committee noted the Planning Applications.

25/157 Planning Applications for Future Consideration

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

None at present.

25/158 Items for information only

a Decisions received from West Berkshire Council

25/01812/HOUSE: 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.

APPROVED – 24 November 2025

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.

24/01212/FUL: 37-39 King Street Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RS

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.

APPROVED - 24 November 2025

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.

APPROVED – 11 November 2025

b Minor matters for information

None.

25/159 Action Tracker

The Action Tracker was reviewed, with outstanding items discussed and further actions identified.

25/160 Communications

None.

25/161 Future Agenda Items

No specific items for a future agenda identified.

Part II (if needed)

25/162 Exclusion of Public and Press

To pass a resolution under s.1(2), Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

Not needed.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:00