



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Community Committee Meeting

held at Mortimer Methodist Hall, 17 West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB
on Thursday 23 April 2026

Present

Members

CLRs G Bridgman, M Dennett, H Geary, D Kilshaw, D Morsley (Chairman), K Strong, and N Williams (arrived at 19:31).

Other Members

CLr S Hill- left the meeting at 20:19

Officers of the Council

D Davis.

Public/Press

No members of the public or press attended

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:30

Part I

25/068 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from CLRs R Saunders, M Lock, and Mr J Hannawin (co-opted).

25/069 To receive any declarations of interest

To receive from Members at this point or at any point during the meeting, in respect of any items included on the agenda, disclosure of any interests, and gifts and hospitality in line with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

- CLr Bridgman in relation to Mortimer Music Live and the Transport Through the Ages event.
- CLr Kilshaw in relation to the Transport Through the Ages event.
- CLr Geary in relation to the Transport Through the Ages event.

25/070 Public questions

None.

25/071 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Community meeting held on Thursday 29 January 2026 were received with no amendments and approved unanimously for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

25/072 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman reported:

- The Chairman reported on a fire at the Scout hut, which destroyed the main hall roof and cookhouse. The cause is under investigation. The Scouts are awaiting a loss adjuster and have insurance, although the extent of cover is not yet known. A meeting is scheduled for this evening. The Council may consider financial support once further information is available.
- Cllr Strong reported a strong community response, including offers of alternative venues. The level of funding required is not yet known. Cllr Strong will act as liaison with the Scouts..

25/073 Items to be taken into private session

Not needed.

25/074 Steering Group and Working Party Reports

1 Climate and environment Steering Group

Cllr Dennett reported that no meeting has yet taken place. It was suggested that a site visit to Foundry Brook be arranged in relation to Environment Agency data.

25/075 Policies

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

1 SMPC Community Award Policy v1.1

The Committee reviewed the policy and considered the following:

- It was agreed to retain the original provision for the any Ex-Chairman still a councillor to sit on the award panel (Point 4).
- It was agreed to amend Point 11 to allow the award to be presented by the Chairman or a nominated representative.
- Ownership of the policy was confirmed as the Community Committee.
- The Committee considered whether nominations could include groups or posthumous awards.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- Awards will be made to individuals only, but may be awarded jointly to two or more individuals where appropriate.
- Awards will not be made to groups, commercial bodies, or organisations.
- The policy will be updated to reflect "joint individuals" where applicable.
- Points 2, 7 and 9 will be amended accordingly.

Cllr Bridgman proposed that the amended policy be recommended to Full Council. Cllr Morsley seconded.

Resolved Unanimously.

25/076 Items for consideration

1 End of year review of Committee.

To review the first year of the committee and consider priorities and development opportunities for the coming year.

The Committee reviewed its first year and noted good progress in delivering Council-appointed tasks and communications, including the news bulletin, but limited progress on new projects.

Members discussed opportunities to increase community engagement and develop initiatives such as local activities and events. It was noted that previous engagement with external groups had limited uptake.

It was agreed that a strong foundation has been established and that future focus should be on a small number of priority initiatives aligned with the Terms of Reference and community interest.

2 Transport Through the Ages

To review the provided funding options to support the Transport Through the Ages event and agree a preferred course of action.

The Committee reviewed funding options for the Transport Through the Ages event, noting that a list of costs had been provided, with individual entertainment costs withheld for confidentiality.

Following discussion, including consideration of previous contributions to Mortimer Fun Day, it was proposed to sponsor all entertainment (for which a total cost had been provided of £1750) and to procure two banners for vehicles.

Cllr Morsley proposed to sponsor the entertainment. Seconded by Cllr Dennett.

Resolved with four in favour and three abstentions.

#Cllr Williams left the meeting at 20:19 and re-entered at 20:20.

3 Council Logo

a To review the draft refreshed logo submission.

The Committee reviewed the draft refreshed logo, including its use across different formats such as banners and letterheads.

b To agree whether to approve the design or identify any required amendments and next steps.

It was proposed by Cllr Bridgman and seconded by Cllr Morsley to approve the design.

Thanks were noted to Cllrs Strong and Saunders for their work. It was agreed that the approved design be circulated to Full Council but to commence using it straightaway.

4 Youth Council

To review research findings on Youth Councils and consider potential steps.

The Committee reviewed research findings presented by Cllr Morsley on Youth Councils. It was noted that most Parish Council youth councils have been short-lived due to low engagement, with more successful examples typically found in larger town councils where dedicated youth workers are employed.

Members discussed potential routes to engage young people, including the use of social media.

No further actions at this stage.

5 Citizens Outreach in Mortimer

To consider a request for a donation to the Citizens Advice Outreach service in Mortimer.

The Committee considered a request for a donation to support the Citizens Advice Outreach service (CAO) in Mortimer. It was noted that the service has demonstrated good uptake within the Parish and provides a valued community resource. A funding shortfall of £1,761.66 was identified.

Members discussed funding arrangements, including whether support should be ongoing and the relationship to the Community Grants scheme.

Cllr Morsley proposed to provide full funding to cover the shortfall of £1,761.66 on an exceptional basis, to be met outside of the Community Grants scheme. This award does not constitute a commitment to future funding and will be reviewed annually. It is expected that future applications will be submitted through the Community Grants process, and that match funding opportunities will be explored by CAO. Cllr Geary seconded.

Resolved unanimously.

Cllr Bridgman questioned the cost of the Mortimer Methodists Church Hall hire. The Clerk will investigate the cost of hire.

6 Community Competition Prizes

To agree the value of prizes for winners and runners-up in the community competition, within the total budget of £500.

The Committee considered the value of prizes for the community competition within the agreed budget of £500.

Resolved to award cash prizes of £50 for winners and £30 for highly commended entries.

7 Public Meetings

To consider whether to introduce more regular public meetings.

The Committee considered the introduction of more regular public meetings. It was noted that previous questionnaire feedback indicated support for more informative and instructive sessions.

Members agreed to review the questionnaire responses to identify suitable topics, with further discussion to take place at a future meeting.

25/077 Action Tracker

To review the Action Tracker, receive an update outlining actions taken since the last meeting, and consider further actions.

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

25/078 Finance

- 1 **Regular or previously authorised payments made - to note Clerk To receive and note a summary (Schedules Cii).**

Not needed.

25/079 Items for information only

None.

25/080 Minor matters

None.

25/081 Communications

To identify items for communicating if any.

The draft April news bulletin was reviewed. Members were reminded to submit articles and topics for inclusion.

25/082 Future agenda items

To identify specific future agenda items.

Reasearch on a Flagpole, farmers market, icing skating . Members were reminded to write up any research and ideas and send them to the Clerk at least 1 week before the next meeting so it can be circulated to the committee with time to be read before the meeting.

Close

The meeting closed at 21:24

Date of next meeting: **28 May 2026.**

Miss Danielle Davis

28/04/2026