



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Thursday 4 June 2026 at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB

Present

Members

Cllrs J Allan, G Bridgman (Meeting Chairman in the absence of Cllr Todd), S Child, D Kilshaw and D Morsley.

Other Councillors

None

Officers of the Council

S Taylor

Public/Press

No members of the public or press attended.

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:30

#The Deputy Clerk opened the meeting in the absence of the Committee Chairman and requested nominations from the councillors for a chairman to preside over the meeting. Cllr Kilshaw proposed that Cllr Bridgman chair the meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Child and resolved unanimously.

Part I

26/001 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Dennett, S Hill, M Lock and J Todd.

26/002 To receive any declarations of interest

None were declared.

26/003 Public Questions

No members of the public attended.

26/004 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting held on 14 May were received with no amendments and resolved for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

26/005 Chairman's remarks

Cllr Bridgman noted that WBC were holding an extraordinary meeting on 11 June to review the Local Plan. He reported that he was sharing the 'West Berkshire Local Plan timetable and commencement' report with the Council and the Neighbourhood Steering Group via email.

26/006 Items to be taken into private session

None.

26/007 Steering Group Reports

1 To receive the draft minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group from 19 May.

The committee noted that the minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of 19 May had been received. The Deputy Clerk reported that, at the meeting held on 19 May, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan policies, taking into account feedback received from both West Berkshire Council and Bell Cornwell.

Cllr Bridgman added that a consolidated document containing all policies is currently being circulated among members of the Steering Group and is being updated and edited by him and Tennant Barber. It is anticipated that the document will be finalised at the next Steering Group meeting on 16 June. Once completed, the Neighbourhood Plan will be ready to proceed to the Regulation 14 consultation stage.

2 To receive an update from the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group.

Cllr Bridgman reported that feedback from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council following the Regulation 18 consultation is still awaited. Cllr Kilshaw reported that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has extended the timetable for its Local Plan and is now targeting adoption in Winter 2027.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to check with the Clerk the source of the information provided by Cllr Geary to the last Full Council meeting regarding various committee meetings held by Basingstoke and Deane BC.

26/008 Items for consideration

1 To resolve which additional member of the Planning and Highways Committee will be appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Bridgman proposed that Cllr Allan be appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Kilshaw and was resolved unanimously.

26/009 Schedule of Planning Applications for consideration

1 26/0000748/HOUSE: 8 Cleveland Nook Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3WE

Loft conversion featuring front and rear gable-dormer windows.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 4 June 2026 under agenda item 26/009.1 and had no objections.

2 26/00773/HOUSE: 9 Cleveland Nook Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3WE

Loft conversion featuring front and rear gable-dormer windows.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 4 June 2026 under agenda item 26/009.2 and had no objections.

26/010 Schedule of Planning Applications to note

None to note.

26/011 Planning Applications for Future Consideration

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

None to note.

26/012 Items for information only

1 Decisions received from West Berkshire Council

1 26/00/394/FUL: 37-39 King Street Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RS

Demolition, 'Change of Use', alterations and erection of 4 no. dwellings (Class C3) and associated works. Section 73: Variation of condition 2-Approved Plans, of previously approved application 24/01212/FUL.

APPROVED – 12 May 2026

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 2 April 2026 under agenda item 25/220.5 and was concerned that the increase in ridge height in the roof would enable building into the roof under permitted development in the future and the committee suggests that permissible development be removed for building into the loft space should the increase in ridge height be approved.

2 26/00208/HOUSE: 77 College Piece Mortimer Reading RG7 3XH

Building of a timber shed to store a bike on the Left hand side of my front door, the shed will be a small 1100mm x 2090mm x 2100mm with a flat roof, clad to match the house, in blue Hardie Plank cladding boards. The Roof to be flat and made of roofing felt or EDPM Rubber.

REFUSED – 27 May 2026

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 2 April 2026 under agenda item 25/220.3 and as the shed is at the front of the building line object on aesthetics as it changes the character of the road.

#Cllr Bridgman noted that Planning at WBC had listened to the Committee.

3 26/00512/HOUSE: 44 Stephens Close Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3TY

Single storey sun room rear of property to replace a large conservatory, mostly on the same footprint.

APPROVED – 28 May 2026

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 14 May 2026 under agenda item 25/251.1 and had no objections.

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Tree protection) of approved 25/02533/HOUSE.

APPROVED – 28 May 2026

2 To note the email sent to West Berkshire Traffic and Road Safety by a resident regarding the Zebra crossing outside St John's Church, Mortimer.

Cllr Bridgman and the Deputy Clerk to agree a wording and write to West Berkshire Council, advising that this is not the only reported incident at the crossing and suggest a site visit to discuss the issue further.

3 Hammonds Heath no entry signage

Cllr Bridgman reported that an email had been received from a resident raising concerns about vehicles entering Hammonds Heath in the wrong direction despite the presence of a No Entry sign. He suggested that the matter be included on the agenda for the Full Planning and Highways Committee meeting on 25 June and that the resident be notified accordingly.

26/013 Minor Matters

Cllr Child reported that speeding in the village seems to be getting worse and he is concerned about the shortage of volunteers. It was agreed to add an agenda item to the Full Council meeting on 11 June.

Cllr Kilshaw raised the Redwoods planning application 25/02941/FULMAJ and the objection received from the Housing Development and Enabling Officer at West Berkshire Council due lack of affordable housing in the application. Cllr Bridgman commented that TA Fisher's viability assessment will either be accepted by WBC or not. The planning application has been called in by Cllr Carter and will be going to the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting for a decision.

26/014 Communications

None.

26/015 Future Agenda Items

None.

Part II (if needed)

26/016 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 20:02.