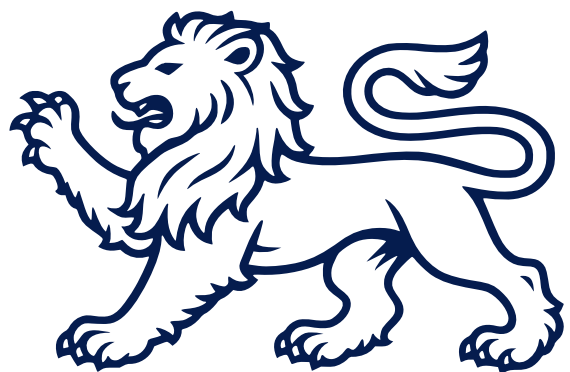




ANNUAL SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026

STRATFIELD MORTIMER PARISH COUNCIL



NEWS, PROJECTS AND UPDATES
FROM STRATFIELD MORTIMER
PARISH COUNCIL



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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Around 70 residents attended this year's Annual Parish Meeting at St John's Hall in April, alongside parish councillors, local organisations and guest speakers.

The evening included presentations from Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Matt Barber, West Berkshire Council Leader Cllr Jeff Brooks, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group. Discussions covered policing, local government reorganisation, the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed 350-home allocation at West End Farm.

The Parish Council was also pleased to present the 2026 Community Award to Tina Tomlinson in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to the village and support for local residents and organisations.



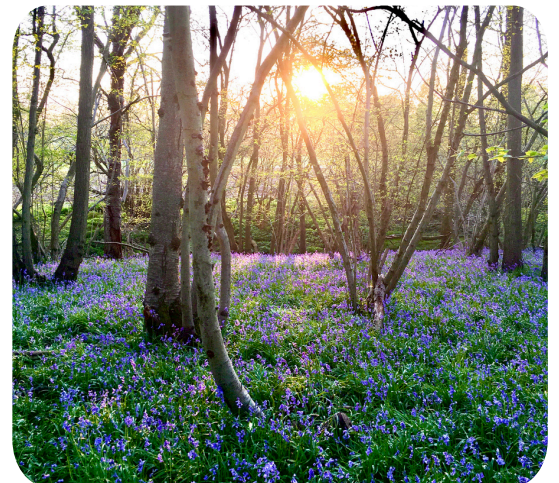
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS

The "Spirit of Mortimer" Photography Competition attracted a fantastic range of entries celebrating village life and local scenery. Congratulations to this year's winners and highly commended entrants:

- Sebastian Minto – Winner, Below Year 7 Category
- Ronnie Steele – Highly Commended, Below Year 7 Category
- Josh Kelly – Winner, Year 7–11 Category
- Florence Jourdan-Brown – Winner, Year 12–13 Category
- Megan Barker – Winner, Adult Category
- Hannah Spratt – Highly Commended, Adult Category
- Clare Darbyshire – Highly Commended, Adult Category
- Paul Carless – Highly Commended, Adult Category

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL GROUPS

The evening also included displays and updates from local organisations alongside reflections on projects and initiatives undertaken across the parish during the past year.



WINNER OF THE ADULT CATEGORY:
MEGAN BARKER

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT



“THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL IS VERY MUCH A TEAM EFFORT ”

At this year's Annual Parish Meeting in April, I gave a report on the Parish Council's work and activities over the previous year. The full report can be found on the SMPC website, but some of the key points are summarised below.

- The Parish Office has continued to modernise its ways of working and residents are encouraged to continue contacting the office via email, mobile phone or the contact form on the website.
- Around 250 residents responded to last year's communications questionnaire, helping shape the move towards one annual printed newsletter alongside regular monthly News Bulletins.
- We welcomed new councillors Justine Allan, David Backhouse, Stewart Child and Neil Williams to the Council and thanked departing councillors for their service to the parish.
- The proposed 350-home allocation at West End Farm and work on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan have remained major focuses throughout the year.
- Nearly £10,000 was awarded through the Community Grant Fund to support local organisations, sports clubs and community initiatives.
- Construction work on the Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath and Cycleway has now commenced following many years of planning and partnership working.
- A number of projects have progressed during the year, including the new Fairground fence, cemetery extension works, SEN playground equipment, resurfacing beneath playground equipment, new bus shelters and additional Speed Indicator Devices.
- The Council has also secured grant funding for portable CCTV cameras to help tackle fly-tipping and environmental crime within the parish.

Finally, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors, officers, volunteers and local organisations for their continued hard work and support throughout the year.

PROJECTS ACROSS THE PARISH

CEMETERY EXTENSION

Significant progress has also been made on the cemetery extension project, which is now nearing completion.

Work over the past year has included landscaping, infrastructure improvements and commencing construction of the memorial walls.

An Amelanchier tree is also planned for planting later in the year as part of the final landscaping works.



PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

New SEN playground equipment has been installed on the Fairground to improve accessibility and inclusivity within the play area.

Areas beneath existing equipment have also been resurfaced using new wetpour safety surfacing to help maintain safety standards and improve durability for long-term use.



PORTABLE CCTV CAMERAS

The Parish Council has secured grant funding for 20 portable CCTV cameras to help tackle fly-tipping and environmental crime across the parish.

The cameras will be deployed at locations affected by repeated dumping and anti-social behaviour to help deter incidents and support enforcement action where necessary.



NEW BUS SHELTERS INSTALLED

Three new bus shelters have now been installed around the village following funding secured through West Berkshire Council's Bus Services Improvement Plan.

The shelters provide improved facilities for residents using public transport and support wider efforts to encourage sustainable travel choices within the parish.

PROJECTS CONTINUED...

MORTIMER TO BURGHFIELD FOOTPATH AND CYCLEWAY

After many years of planning, consultation and partnership working, construction of the Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath and Cycleway is now underway. This has been one of the Council's most significant infrastructure projects and represents a major investment in improving sustainable travel links between communities.

Work on the first phases commenced during the spring following completion of planning permissions and the procurement process. The route will provide improved walking and cycling connectivity between Mortimer and Burghfield and forms part of the Council's longer-term ambitions to improve active travel infrastructure within the parish.

Neighbouring parishes were asked to contribute towards the funding of Phase C of the cycleway. Our thanks go to Sulhamstead Parish Council and Wokefield Parish Council for their generous contributions towards the project.



TACKLING SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

The Council has continued its efforts to address speeding concerns within the parish through the procurement of two additional Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

These “smiley face” signs are rotated around different locations within the village and provide both real-time feedback to drivers and useful traffic data. Information collected from the devices is regularly reviewed and reported through the monthly News Bulletins and supports ongoing discussions regarding road safety concerns within the parish.



2026/27 BUDGET

THE BUDGET FOR 2026/2027 WAS APPROVED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 15 JANUARY 2026.

A SUMMARY IS SET OUT BELOW ALONGSIDE THE 2025/2026 FIGURES.

The Parish Council is legally required to set a balanced budget each year to ensure sufficient funding is available to maintain services, assets and community projects.

For 2026/27, the Parish Precept has increased from £161,729 to £171,433, representing an increase of approximately 6%. The Band D equivalent charge is expected to increase from £89.09 to £95.57 an increase of approximately 7.3%. This reflects both the Precept rise and changes in the tax base.

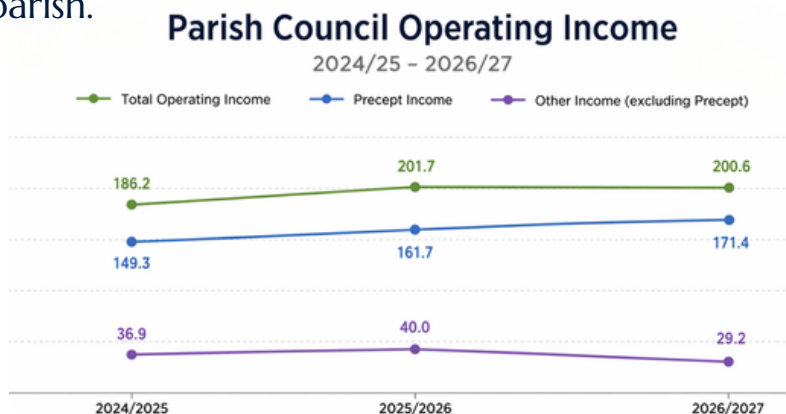
The increase reflects a number of financial pressures and planned investments, including increased staffing costs, reduced bank interest income as reserves are utilised for major projects, and additional funding requirements linked to the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group.



The Council will continue investing in local infrastructure and community projects during 2026/27, including:

- completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath and Cycleway;
- finalisation of the Cemetery Extension project;
- continued delivery of the Community Grant Scheme; and
- ongoing support for community initiatives and engagement projects.

The Council also expects to receive further Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding through West Berkshire Council to support infrastructure projects within the parish.



A full detailed budget report and supporting documents are available on the Parish Council website: www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk/the-council/transparency/budget

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND 2026/27

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council will once again be opening its Community Grant Scheme to support local organisations, clubs and groups delivering projects and activities that benefit residents of the parish.

The 2026/27 grant round will open on 1 September 2026, with applications required to be submitted by 30 September 2026. Applications will then be reviewed by the Parish Council, with grant awards expected to be considered at the meeting of the Community Committee on 19 November 2026.

During the previous funding round, grants were awarded to a wide range of organisations supporting community transport, youth activities, environmental initiatives, sports clubs, volunteer services and community facilities across the parish. The Council was particularly encouraged by the strong level of interest shown by local groups and the wide variety of projects supported.

Further details regarding eligibility criteria, application forms and guidance notes will be published on the Parish Council website and promoted through the monthly News Bulletins nearer the time- www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk/what-we-do/community-grant

STAY UPDATED – MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Parish Council now publishes a monthly News Bulletin to help keep residents informed about current projects, consultations, meetings and community news. Topics regularly covered include planning matters, highways issues, project updates, community events and Council decisions.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive the bulletin directly by email and stay informed about matters affecting the parish.

Sign up here:

mailchi.mp/stratfield-mortimer/signup-v2

or email the Clerk directly at:

the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk



COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026/27

DATE	MEETING	TIME	VENUE
JUNE			
THU 4	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 11	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 25	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
JULY			
THU 09	ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 16	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 16	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 30	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
AUGUST			
THU 06	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 27	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 27	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
SEPTEMBER			
THU 03	COMMUNITY COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 10	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 17	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
OCTOBER			
THU 08	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 08	ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 29	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 29	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
NOVEMBER			
THU 12	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 19	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 19	COMMUNITY COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 26	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
DECEMBER			
THU 10	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
JANUARY			
THU 07	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 07	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 14	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 28	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 28	ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
FEBRUARY			
THU 18	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 25	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 25	COMMUNITY COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
MARCH			
THU 11	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 11	FULL COUNCIL	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
APRIL			
THU 01	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 22	PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	6:45PM	METHODIST HALL
THU 22	ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL
MON 26	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	7:30PM	ST JOHN'S HALL
THU 29	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	7:30PM	METHODIST HALL

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

The Library, 27 Victoria Road,
Mortimer RG7 3SH

OPENING HOURS

Mon, Tues & Thurs

9:30am – 5:00pm

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WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL

01635 551111

(out of hours emergencies
included)

REPORT A PROBLEM

www.westberks.gov.uk/report

[aprobem](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/report)

STREETCARE TEAM

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