



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held on Thursday 6 August 2026 at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall, West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB

Present

Members

Cllrs J. Allan, G Bridgman, S Child, D Kilshaw, M Lock, D Morsley and J Todd (Chairman).

Other Councillors

Officers of the Council

S Taylor

Public/Press

No members of the public or media attended.

Commencement

The meeting commenced at 19:32

Part I

26/051 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dennett and Hill.

26/052 To receive any declarations of interest

None were declared.

26/053 Public Questions

No members of the public were present.

26/054 Minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee Meeting held on 16 July were received with no amendments and resolved for signature by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

26/055 Chairman's remarks

Cllr Todd had no remarks.

26/056 Items to be taken into private session

No items needed to be taken into private session.

26/057 Steering Group Reports

- 1 To receive the draft minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group from 21 July 2026.**

The committee noted that the minutes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group of 21 July had been received. Cllr Bridgman reported that the draft Neighbourhood Plan is nearly finalised. He agreed to circulate the latest version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan to the committee.

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

Cllr Kilshaw reported that next updates are expected Summer 2026.

26/058 Items for consideration

- 1 To consider a request from a resident to put up a restrictive barrier to ensure that the footpath from Birch Lane to Stephen's Firs is for foot traffic only and to resolve any further actions.**

The committee discussed the issue and agreed that, as the Parish Council does not own the land and is unaware of who does, it has no powers to take action.

The committee also expressed concern that, while a barrier might prevent motorcycles from accessing the area, it could also restrict users, such as mobility scooters, wheelchairs and buggies.

The issue has already been raised with the Thames Valley police at the Neighbourhood Action Group meeting in July. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Chairman would draft wording for an email response to the resident who raised the matter.

- 2 To consider the Scoping Consultation for the new West Berkshire Local Plan and to resolve any further actions.**

Cllr Bridgman reported that we have until 4 September to submit a response. He suggested that the matter be circulated to members of the Planning & Highways Committee and the Neighbourhood Steering Group for comment, following which a response can be prepared. The Deputy Clerk will circulate.

- 3 To consider the request from Aldermaston Parish Council to setup a 'Neighbouring Councils Site Development Response Group' for the AWE Development Plans.**

The Committee agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Todd volunteered to participate, while Cllrs Morsley and Child indicated that they might also be able to attend, subject to the date of the first meeting.

26/059 Schedule of Planning Applications for consideration

- 1 26/01453/HOUSE: The Havethuset Mortimer Hill The Street Mortimer Reading RG7 3PW**

Detached garage building.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at the meeting of its Planning & Highways Committee held on 6 August 2026 under Agenda Item 26/059.1 and had no objections.

- 2 26/01467/HOUSE: 3 Stanmore Gardens Mortimer Common Reading RG7 2JW**

Loft conversion with the erection of a rear dormer and increase in width of existing front dormer.

SMPC Comments: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considered the plans for this application at its Planning & Highways Committee meeting on 6 August 2026, under agenda item 26/059.2, and raised no objections. The Committee endorsed Highways' request for a parking plan to ensure compliance with Policy DM44 of the West Berkshire Local Plan review 2023-2041.

26/060 Schedule of Planning Applications to note

1 26/01605/CERTP: 6 Briar Lea Road Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3SA

Reconstruction and enlargement of existing garage and utility room, including replacement of two windows and one door, and partial external wall rendering.

#The Committee noted the above application.

26/061 Planning Applications for Future Consideration

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

None at present

26/062 Schedule of Licensing Applications for Consideration

To comment on the application for a new Premises Licence for Mortimer Bistro, 6 Victoria Road, Mortimer, Reading, RG7 3SE, seeking an extension of its opening hours and permission to sell alcohol.

The application was discussed by the Committee, which raised two concerns.

First, the Committee questioned why the proposed DPS details had been redacted, as the identity of the DPS is an important consideration in a premises licence application. If the proposed DPS is Fetdah Cura, the Committee believes there may be information relevant to the police licensing liaison.

Second, the premises were previously licensed to Mortimer Bistro Limited, with Fetdah Cura as DPS. The company was dissolved on 10 September 2024; however, a councillor recalls purchasing an alcoholic drink from the premises in October 2024, raising concerns that alcohol may have been sold without a valid licence.

The current applicant, F&K Catering Limited, has Fetdah Cura as its sole director. The Committee therefore asks whether, if he is the proposed DPS, these circumstances should be considered when assessing his suitability to act as DPS. The Committee considers this a matter for police licensing liaison.

26/063 Items for information only

1 Decisions received from West Berkshire Council

1 26/01426/NONMAT: 37-39 King Street Mortimer Common Reading RG7 3RS

Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 26/00394/FUL: 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. Amendment: This application seeks to amend the description of development to expressly permit the approved development to be carried out in phases as identified on Drawing No. 223-V2-00-DR-05-0100 Rev 01 - Proposed Phasing Plan.

APPROVED – 30 July 2026

2 26/01270/COND: 16 Groves Lea Mortimer Reading RG7 3SR

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 'Arb Method Statement' of approved 26/00119/HOUSE: Garage conversion and single storey rear extension.

APPROVED – 5 August 2026

26/064 Action Tracker

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

The Planning Action Tracker was reviewed, with outstanding items discussed and the following actions identified: -

Cllr Todd to write to West Berkshire Council about the maintenance of the open space at Tower House Farm.

26/065 Minor Matters

- Cllr Bridgman raised an issue about the Mortimer to Burghfield footway/cycleway and suggested to change part of phase C of the route from a permitted footpath to a public footpath. The issue will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 10 September.
- Cllr Morsley raised the issue of overgrown hedges. It was suggested that landowners be contacted to advise them that the core nesting period has ended and that schools will be reopening at the beginning of September. Landowners should be asked to cut back their hedges and reminded that these routes are important walking routes for local schoolchildren. It was also suggested that a post be shared on Facebook to inform residents that the Parish Council has written to landowners.

26/066 Communications

Nothing to communicate.

26/067 Future Agenda Items

None.

Part II (if needed)

26/068 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 20:27.