MORTIMER WEST END PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: Thursday 3rd December 2015  Time: 7.30pm
Place: Mortimer West End Village Hall

Present: Cllr Robertson (Chair)  Cllr Brown (Vice Chair)
Cllr Thurlow

In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk)  5 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Keith Chapman (County)  Cllr Gardiner (Borough)
Cllr Tucker (Borough)

Action

1 Apologies for Absence
As listed above.

2 Declarations of Interest
None.

3 Minutes of the Last Parish Council Meeting
3.1 It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2015 were a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Matters arising
Website – Clerk still to obtain quotes. Agenda for January.
Clerk
Clerk’s contract – Clerk still to clarify insurance issue. Agenda for January.

4 Open Forum
4.1 The Chairman invited questions and comments from those present.

Policing - A couple of break-ins at Jubilee Cottage were noted, with some damage and a van being broken into – these have been reported to the police, but no-one has been out. Clerk to speak to local PCSO.

Planning application – 1 the Bridges. Residents gave background to the history of the plot. The following concerns were raised:
- The sewerage will not be able to cope with another dwelling – it is already struggling with the existing load.
- Access to property could be dangerous with the speed on Church Road. Access into the rear garden is not an official access.
- Issues with services into properties in The Bridges, particularly with electricity, water supply and broadband/telephone lines. These are already strained – another property would cause more problems

Cllr Robertson noted that any resident with issues about this application should write to BDBC with their objections.

Speeding Traffic - major concerns were expressed about speeds on Church Road. Speed traps are carried out by the police regularly, but seem to have little overall effect. Residents enquired about a possible Community Speedwatch scheme. Cllr Robertson stated that it has been investigated previously, but the principle problem is getting volunteers to run the scheme. The Clerk noted that Speed Limit Reminder signs could be placed periodically on Church Road. This would be done via BDBC, with the PC paying for the cost of hire. Clerk to investigate.

5 Planning & Development

5.1 New Applications
15/03469/FUL - Chapel Of The Countess Of Huntingdons Chapel Lane

Clerk
**Aldermaston**

Erection of detached building forming church family room and store

JR has spoken with neighbours, who have no objections.

No objections. Clerk to process.

**15/03893/HSE - The Laurels Soke Road Silchester**

Erection of two storey rear extension and replacement of roof to existing house

Cllr Robertson gave background to the application. Clerk to check previous minutes and make comments/objections in line with this after checking with councillors. Unanimously agreed.

**15/03961/FUL - Land At No.1 The Bridges Mortimer West End**

Erection of new dwelling and associated works

It was noted that Mortimer West End is a designated rural area –the BDBC Local Plan 2006-2011 states that plots should not be sub-divided for new dwellings. Cllr also noted residents’ concerns on sewerage etc. Cllr Brown to send Clerk relevant section of Local Plan. It was unanimously agreed to object, citing the Local Plan, and noting that ‘existing access’ is not the official access to the property. Residents’ concerns are also to be noted. Clerk to action.

5.2 **Approvals/Refusals** – no recent approvals or refusals

### 6 Highways & Footpaths issues

6.1 **New issues** – the Clerk noted ongoing issues with fly tipping in Stone Lane (the bridle way between the Roman Wall Car Park and Church Road). It has been suggested by Silchester PC and by BDBC that barriers of some kind be placed at either end of the bridle; possibly tree trunks. However, HCC Rights of Way would need to be consulted.

The issue was investigated within the last two years by the PC. The path is a BOAT (Byway open to all traffic), which means access cannot be prevented. HCC are reluctant to change this. Clerk to speak to Rights of Way about possible solutions to fly-tipping issue.

**Clerk**

#### Outstanding issues -

- Hedge cutting – the Clerk has been in touch with Englefield, who have asked for clarification on which hedges needs attention. Along Church Road, from top Church Road up to Silchester. Cllr Thurlow to produce map and send to Clerk.
- Church Road – Thames Water are investigating this issue. No update available as yet.
- Welshmans Road pothole – this has been reported.

6.3 **Footpaths Officer** – outstanding issue. A request for volunteers to be brought up at Annual Parish Assembly in May 2016.

**Clerk**

### 7 Reports

7.1 **Clerk’s Report**

- The Clerk has attended the HALC AGM. The focus for this year was on devolution and how it will affect Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. If devolution goes ahead for the county, it may have some interesting opportunities for Parish Councils. However, the process is likely to be a long one.
- The Clerk has attended a workshop on pensions and how they will apply to Parish Councils. All parish councils with a Clerk will need to offer a pension scheme to employees within the next two years; the staging date for Mortimer West End is 1st May 2017. The Clerk will look in detail at this in the New Year.
- The Clerk has attended the HCC Environment Transport & Economy event. The principle message from this is that budgets will continue to be cut,
which will have an inevitable impact on road repairs.

7.2 Reports from PC representatives
- Cllr Robertson has attended various meetings since September. Updates on these are detailed at appendix A.
- Village Hall – Cllr Brown stated that the Trustees want to redecorate the hall. Therefore, the Trustees are likely to want a grant towards costs. A quote has been received for around £1200. The Clerk noted that if the PC pay bills then VAT can be claimed back. It was unanimously agreed that the PC would meet half the bill. Cllr Brown to take forward.
- Clarke’s Educational Trust – Cllr Thurlow attended meeting on 30th November. One bursary was granted. There is a dispute on water metering on a Trust owned property.

7.3 Borough Councillor Report – No report as Borough Councillors absent.

8 Parish Environment
8.1 Update on Broadband – no progress.
8.2 Update on outstanding items
- Jubilee tree – Cllr Robertson – no progress.
- Recreation ground corner gate – Cllr Robertson has a quote for between £30-£60. It will be done in next few days. Will also deal with overgrowth in spring. Expenditure unanimously agreed.
- Collapsed fence by stile near Beech Rise – Cllr Robertson – no progress.
- Benyons Enclosure update – the Clerk has been in touch with HCC re the s.106 agreement, and has not yet received a reply.

9 Consultation Documents requiring consideration
None

10 Finance
10.1 Payments and Reconciliation Approval – see appendix A.
The clerk outlined the payments and reconciliation for December. She noted the following:
- The standing order to the outgoing Clerk has not yet been cancelled, resulting in extra payment September, October and November. The incoming Clerk has the updated mandate form ready for Cllr Brown’s signature. This will submitted immediately. Once actioned, the standing order will be cancelled and an invoice issued to the outgoing Clerk.

All other payments are as expected.
It was unanimously agreed to approve the payments for December – Clerk to process.

10.2 Acknowledgement of Receipts – Appendix B
The Clerk noted receipt of the second half of the precept, and some minor interest payments.

10.3 2016/17 budget and precept – the Clerk has distributed a draft budget to all members. Budget unanimously agreed. Precept to be kept at 15/16 level unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

10.4 Bonus payment to outgoing Clerk
Further to recent discussions with HALC, Cllr Robertson proposed paying the outgoing Clerk a bonus payment of £500 in recognition of services rendered to the Council after his official departure from the Council. This will go through the payroll in the normal way. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

12 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (subject to booking the Hall).

Resolution – To exclude press and public from items that may require discussion of possible legal and financial proceedings i.a.w Public Meetings – Admission to Public Meetings Act 1960

No confidential business to discuss.

Meeting finish at 21.25pm.

Signed: ................................................................. Date:...........................................
(Chairman)
Appendix A – Reports

AWE Local Liaison Committee – 29 September 2015
1. Currently there are 21,000 drums of radioactive waste stored at Aldermaston.
2. SID’s are available to Parishes which are registered for Speed Watch.
3. There are 534 MOD police at Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.
4. It was reported that there are 534 houses planned for a new development at Aldermaston Manor.
5. The next meeting is planned for 2nd December.

Roman Town Panel – 30th October 2015
1. Emma Noyce is the representative for Hampshire Countryside Service. Countryside Service is taking over full responsibility from Hampshire Estates section for Silchester with James Adkins as the Area Countryside manager.
2. The locking of the gate to the car park will become an issue in December when Countryside Service take over management of the site – they will meet with Silchester PC to discuss.
3. English Heritage advised that there was a project to consolidate the walls of the Amphitheatre in the financial year.
4. HCC will retain the freehold of the site and will not take up Reading University’s offer – The site will remain in public ownership.
5. The next meeting is programmed for 11th March.

Relief-in-Need – 17 November 2015
1. There is a substantial sum of money available for disposal.
2. Methodist Church Hall was given a grant towards replacing their boiler.
3. It was agreed to support the restoration of St John’s bell tower.
4. It was agreed to support the erection of a fence around 1st Mortimer Baden Powell hut.
5. Other payments were agreed including the Vicar’s fund, Age Concern Winter Payments, Silver Circle, Clarke’s Educational Fund and Mortimer West End Produce Show.
6. MWE Cricket Club application for funding for new nets is on hold as they apply for a Sporting Fund Grant.
7. The Charity has been approached by Belectric to consider putting solar panels on Burnt Common. They would take up half the land with Hampshire Wildlife Trust occupying the other half. There could be an income generated of approx. £25,000 per annum for the Charity. Belectric have to examine the cost of making the necessary connection into the National Grid before they can make an accurate proposal.
8. John Robertson representing MWE Parish Council advised the trustees that an upgrade of the play area in MWE Rec Ground was being considered and are seeking funding elsewhere but are likely to approach SMRIN for a grant in the future.
9. The next meeting is on 19th April 2016.

AWE Local Liaison Committee – 2nd December 2015
1. The MD Kevin Bilger attended part of the meeting. He advised that he was currently in discussions with the MOD for a 10 year programme of activity for the sites.
2. The way AWE respond to calls from the public was outlined. There is a 24/7 response to comments, complaints and concerns available to which AWE are contractually bound. The contact number is 0118 985 0897 and Communityandschools@awe.co.uk. The subjects include noise, traffic, light, water and pollution. AWE management process is to clarify, assess, investigate, resolve, communicate, review and close.
3. Presentations were given by two charities which AWE support.
4. The traffic problems associated with the installation of a new underground power cable to the site from Thatcham was discussed at length. This has not affected traffic in our area.
5. The next meeting is on 23rd March.
## Appendix B – Finance

### Financial statement:
**Mortimer West End Parish Council**

**Meeting date:** 03/12/2015

**Account:** Treasurers Account

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<th>Statement No: 74 (26/10/2015) Balance</th>
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### Payments since last meeting date:

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Meeting date: 03/12/2015

Account: Business 30 day account

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Payments since last meeting date:

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TOTAL 0.00

New Items for payment

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TOTAL 0.00

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Payments not yet presented

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TOTAL 0.00