

**Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in Stanford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr.P.Lewis(Chair) Cllr.Warren Cllr.Gill Cllr.Isaacs  
Cllr Williams Cuss Cllr.Punfield D.M.Dew(Clerk) 6 Parishioners

**1/02/15 Apologies and reason (If offered)**

Cllr. Bambury (Illness) Cllr.Jackson(Personal) District Cllr.Sharp(VWHDC meeting)

**2/02/15 To receive Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item**

Nil

**3/02/15 To receive, approve and sign as a true record Minutes of previous meeting 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

In all references to Mr.Pontin *add G (Mr.Ponting)*

04/01/15 Re "Safeguarding Children" *add c (neglect)*

16/01/15 QE II Field *add e (proceed)*

17/01/15 Neighbourhood Plan Delete Nothing further to report *add See Newsletter for further report*  
Following these amendments

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr GILL

SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record

**4/02/15 To receive report of County Councillor**

Nil

**5/02/15 To receive report of District Councillor**

Clerk read report from Cllr.Sharp:

My apologies for the meeting this evening, clashing with a planning committee. It is nearly business as usual at the District Council following the fire at Crowmarsh. Offices at Milton Park are favoured as temporary accommodation (2-3 years) but it might take a few weeks to organise all the computers and connections and to get all the staff back in offices. Many of the staff are working on a rota system of desk or working from home. If you need to get in touch with the Vale directly, then please bear in mind that they are working from temporary offices and don't have room for all the staff at the moment. This means it might take a little longer to help you than it normally would. If you do have an urgent problem or emergency, please let them or me know the Council will make sure they deal with really urgent cases as quickly as possible.

Planning – The planning dept are currently predicting a fortnight's delay in deciding planning applications. Further to my comment in the Newsletter it appears that only the Wednesday's before the fire applications (about 10) and comments have been lost in the fire.

The Design Guide is expected to be adopted at the beginning of March

The Local Plan 2031 is expected to be submitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> March

The Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) draft charging schedule will have its second consultation from Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Bulky waste collection – The Vale Council are currently only able to take bookings for bulky waste collections online

Elections – You can still register to vote, the council just can't confirm your registration until the systems are fully restored. You will still be able to vote in the elections in May

## 6/02/15 Questions/Comments from Parishioners

Still concern about verges and ditches in Horsecroft, large vehicles (tractors & combines) causing ditches to collapse. Parishioner suggested a “Conservation ditch project” and asked/suggested council trim it 3 times a year. *This item to next agenda*

Blocked surface water drains Faringdon Road one being blocked by DWH landscaping. The new footpath in Faringdon Road is going to need further drop kerbs. Cllr Isaacs to meet with DW. **Action Cllr Isaacs**

## 7/02/15 Report of Clerk

- a) Office allowance – Clerk asked if this could be left until the new Council meets in May – Agreed
- b) Footpath Faringdon Road – Both Chairman and Clerk had spoken to OCC regarding the dangers of school children crossing the main A417 to catch school buses and suggesting solutions such as providing walkway matting, which in the end not provided. It was particularly worrying that an email from OCC considered that it was “ an acceptable risk”. Chairman to contact OCC and involve County Councillor Tilley regarding this email.**Action: Cllr.P.Lewis**
- c) Grass cutting contract – D.Rolls will mark village map with areas of OCC grass cutting. Chairman suggested that we accept the contract offered by OCC

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr P.LEWIS  
SECONDED BY Cllr.WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the new contract be accepted providing that it was not less than the 50% of the current contract.

Cllr Isaacs asked if due to the fact that we had been maintaining these areas for over 10 years could we legally apply for ownership

- d) Grave Yard Space – Clerk quoted the Vicar's statement in the Newsletter “ Parish Council had a legal responsibility “ to find new graveyard. As pointed out at the previous council meeting this was not true , it was the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council MAY provide or contribute to the cost of a new cemetery ( s.214 (2) LGA 1972) Clerk asked if the next newsletter would carry an item regarding this information
- e) Snowdrops- Bulbs planted last year are now growing and it was requested that grass cutting around trees be avoided
- f) Election expenses – Information received from VWHDC that expenses for May election would be about £2000.
- g) Electricity – Informed by Scottish Electricity (SSE) that the monthly Direct Debit for floodlights electric would rise to £67 per month from £37. Clerk informed SSE that this was excessive and

- h) that summer consumption was a lot less. SSE agreed to a new monthly payment of £50 with a review within the next few months. Cllr Isaacs to speak to Cllr Jackson regarding timer

**8/02/15 To receive report of Chairman inc items for next agenda**

Since our last meeting you will have heard about the suspected arson attack at Vale of White Horse District Council offices. I've since forwarded a number of updates concerning their business continuity process and in particular the delays that are being experienced with planning applications at this time. Whilst I had been intending to contact Vale regarding their proposed election charges, in light of this I have not done so yet as it cannot really be considered urgent business. Following our meeting with Thames Water, we were promised a written letter confirming the actions that Thames Water were going to take and subsequent updates on those. I've had a couple of calls from their case officer assuring me that it was being dealt with, followed by confirmation just yesterday that the written response would be with me in time for today, but it needed to be proof read first. Unfortunately I still have not received the letter and there appears to have been another flurry of activity with the sewer network along Faringdon Road which I have queried with them. Footpaths works alongside A417, opposite the new Nursery End estate – I have been in contact on several occasions with David Wilson Homes proposing that a temporary "matting" could be used to provide a safe alternative path across the existing grass verge whilst the works are being carried out but they have not returned any of my emails/calls. Separately, I was initially advised by DWH that the amended plans for the puffing crossing had been submitted to OCC, but OCC advise that this is not the case. Despite also querying this with DWH, no further information has been forthcoming. At this point Deputy Chair Cllr Warren reported that she and Cllr Gill had met Stonewater Housing Assoc and it was confirmed that any dwellings purchased by this association on the Nursery End estate, priority would be given to Stanford residents

**9/02/15 To discuss amendments to Standing Orders**

*This item to next agenda.* Cllr Gill stated that in reference to the Model Standing Orders there were items in our Standing Orders that needed updating

**10/02/15 Correspondence**

**Post Office** – Changes – Following refurbishment the *new-look* post office is due to open in its current location on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Details available at [postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk) code for this branch is 19254899

**Oil Buying Club** – There were already clubs operating in the village

**OCC** – "*Safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility*" . – All Councillors have received a copy detailing expectations of the Parish Council

**11/02/15 Planning**

Nil

12/02/15 To receive Monthly Statement of Accounts

**CASH AT BANK PERIOD ENDING 31/12/2014**

Beginning Balance		37,069.14
Cleared Transactions		
Cheques and Payments	-3,956.54	
Cleared balance		<b><u>33,112.60</u></b>
Uncleared Transactions		
Cheques and Payments	-2,090.50	
Register Balance as of 31/12/2014		<b><u>31,022.10</u></b>
New Transactions		
Cheques and Payments	-72.30	
Ending Balance		<b><u>30,949.80</u></b>

**BUSINESS 30 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT ENDING 31/12/2014**

**7,877.03**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FUNDS**

Balance as of 31/12/2014 **8,579.91**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr WARREN

SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved

13/02/15 To approve Accounts for Payment

7 Jan	R.Griffin	NPL	40.30
7 Jan	C.Mitchell	NPL	32.00
16 Jan	C.Hampson	Skate Park refurbish	475.00
16 Jan	Village Hall	Hall Hire	14.60
18 Jan	D.M.Dew	Refund cash paid casual	99.00
23 Jan	D.M.Dew	Salary	677.46
23 Jan	C.Stallard	Litter picking	60.00
23 Jan	Post Office (HMRC)	PAYE & NI	194.77
29 Jan	K.Williams Cuss	Festival flowers	21.45

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be approved/paid

**14/02/15 To discuss replacement/refurbishment of mower**

Clerk stated that a lot of money had been spent already trying to get the mower into reliable working order. It was decided to send the mower to Foxtail garage for assessment which would be carried out at no cost to the Council.

**15/02/15 To discuss Village Newsletter and Printing Machine**

It was reported that Cllr Bambury as from April no longer wishes to edit and produce the Village Newsletter and has gifted the printing machine to the Parish Council. The question was does the Council wish to take on both the machine and the Newsletter. The Public Purposes Charity makes a monthly payment to cover costs which it is presumed would carry on to the benefit of the Council. It was already agreed that the machine would be stored in the Village hall. It was agreed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Bambury for the gift of the machine and the Village hall for storage space

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the machine become the responsibility of the Council

The question of editor and training become a *next agenda item*

**16/02/15 To approve appointment of Internal Auditor**

Chairman stated that he had approached someone regarding the position – J.Hindson, who had agreed to become the internal auditor

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr GILL

IT WAS RESOLVED that the appointment of J.Hindson be approved

**17/02/15 To receive reports from committees**

Recreation & Leisure – Broken signs had been removed, replacements needed. Matting in toddlers area needs replacing at some time. Fencing at village hall needs looking at. Responsibility to be checked

Environment- The planning permission for QE II field (Change of use to recreational) needs to be reapplied for due to time lapse. OCC were concerned about pipes and services in the field and wished to carry out a further survey at a cost of £500 to us. Cllr Isaacs thought this survey unnecessary and would discuss further with OCC. *Item to next agenda* **Action: Cllr Isaacs**

Parishioner had asked about planting 2 hawthorn trees. This had already been agreed although the cost was not available at the time. The cost is now £25 *Item to next agenda*

Planning – Council thanked the Chairman for all his effort and work regarding the Bow Farm application and the allowing of the development without the footpath. Chairman stated that it was obvious that more effort was required against the planning officers, while they agreed with every condition, when speaking prior to planning meetings they changed their mind

during the planning decisions

**18/02/15 To receive report from Neighbourhood Plan**

Next stage is site assessment and on March 28<sup>th</sup> there would be a drop-in event time to be notified

**19/02/15 Date of next meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Clerk also reminded Council that due to the Parish elections in May , a Council meeting has to be held within 14 days of that election. It was therefore decided that this date would be set for 13<sup>th</sup> May which would also serve as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Clerk to ask VWHDC about procedures for another Parish Councillor due to the growing village

**Questions/Comments from Parishioners**

Parishioner - had Council agreed to take over the green space at Nursery End – Yes Council has agreed.

Mr Stoneham asked that he be informed what vehicles were using Horsecroft as access and he would than inform his estate manager. He stated that the footpath re Bow Farm was linked to a successful application and support from the Parish Council and had the village been informed of this situation or was it being withheld from them. Chairman said that this was not part of the planning process to be offered the footpath if we supported the application.

Parishioner - QEII planning application re submission what would it cost and should not OCC be responsible for any application fee due to them being the cause for the delay. Cllr Isaacs will look into this.