

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th November 2014 in Stanford Village Hall

Present: Cllr.P.Lewis Cllr.Warren Cllr.Bambury Cllr.Gill Cllr.Isaacs Cllr.N.Lewis
Cllr.Monahan Smith Cllr.Williams Cuss D.M.Dew(Clerk)
Cllr.R.Sharp(District Council) 12 Parishioners

Questions/Comments from Parishioners

Has there been any response by the Council to the review of bus services. An appointed representative had attended the meeting

Concern about incident of “sheep worrying” by dogs using footpaths. While the Council had every sympathy the signs *Keep Dogs on Lead* are according to OCC Footpaths Officer illegal and should be *Dogs to be kept under control*. The parishioner was obviously upset that the attacks had taken place although the dog owner had apologised. The incident has been noted in the Newsletter.

The parishioner informed the meeting that he had dredged the ditch alongside the A417

01/11/14 Cooption to fill Casual vacancy

Chairman stated that there had been 2 applications of which one had since withdrawn due to other commitments which meant that Steph Punfield was the remaining candidate

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr.WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that S.PUNFIELD be appointed as Councillor to fill the vacancy. The new Councillor then joined the meeting

02/11/14 Apologies and reason(If offered)

Cllr.Jackson (Personal)

03/11/14 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Cllr. Williams Cuss – Item 10 Planning P14/V2338/FUL

04/11/14 Minutes of previous meeting 3rd September 2014 to be received and signed as a true record

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.WARREN

SECONDED BY Cllr.WILLIAMS CUSS

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

05/11/14 Report of County Councillor

Nil

06/11/14 Report of Clerk

- a) Flower boxes – Box in Cottage Road to be rebuilt by D.Rolls
- b) Challow Bridge – Informed by Networkrail that work on schedule to be opened on 3rd December 2014
- c) Church Green repair – work finally completed following damage by coop lorry. Coop insurance had paid for the work
- d) Broken fence post at Rec /football field area. It is dangerous and needs to be fixed. Will contact contractor to replace and check other posts that are damaged **Action Clerk**

07/11/14 Report of District Councillor

Second stage of Local Plan due this week. A change of previous 290 houses for Stanford now 200. The plan will be sent to an inspector and if approved will offer some protection for villages with housing mainly built within a designated ring and protecting villages along the A417. Also there is a standard of design expected and a levy introduced on new houses to support the infrastructure

08/11/14 Report of Chairman inc items for next agenda

Friday 03 October, Cllrs Gill, Banbury, Williams-Cuss & myself met with representatives of both the Post Office & Mid-counties Co-operative at a meeting facilitated (and attended) by Ed Vaizey, MP, along with a number of parishioners.

The Post Office have already switched to this new style of operating across several thousand branches due to changes in consumer use of their products/services and at this meeting it was confirmed that they had already committed to do the same in Stanford. Whilst I appreciate that there are several concerns, particularly around privacy, security and space (lack of) for the counter to be relocated to the existing till area, there is some consolation to be found in the extended opening hours, combined with the fact that Mid-counties Co-operative intend to retain their existing dedicated Post Office staff during “core hours” (i.e. current opening times). Mid-counties Co-operative also indicated that they would be willing to share/display a diagram of the new till layout, once the designs had been completed.

There was some concerned discussion from mid-counties co-operative about the existing prescription service, which is provided free of charge in conjunction with the doctors surgery in Faringdon. We have highlighted to the co-op how vital this service is for some residents, assured them that they benefit from associated sales due to the increased footfall through the store and reminded them of our support towards their business during the recent resurfacing works. We sincerely hope that they will therefore see fit to retain this service moving forward.

Friday 31 October, I met with Cllr Nimmo-Smith and a couple of his colleagues from Environment/Highways at Oxfordshire County Council. There was a verbal apology that the points of concern raised by the Parish Council (over several months) had not properly filtered through to their final assessment of the Puffin Crossing design/location along Faringdon Road. We discussed the implications of Vale’s proposed strategic site further to the north of Nursery End, as well as re-iterating our concerns regarding a) location, b) the urbanisation that the current scheme will procure and c) the additional (unnecessary) street lighting. OCC have, in principal, agreed to a much simpler scheme, located between the existing roundabout and the proposed entrance for Nursery End and will be reviewing the street lighting accordingly. This will be subject to another Public Consultation in the coming weeks. I am also lead to understand that they are in

the process of identifying a new IT system which they hope will enable the various teams to work more collaboratively and hopefully ensure that this sort of issue doesn't happen again.

After various discussions between Cllr Isaacs, County Cllr Melinda Tilley and various people at OCC, including Kathryn Muncey – they are going to conduct soil tests on the proposed recreation ground shortly which we believe should lead to an intelligent discussion around risks and mitigations. Cllr Isaacs met with Rebecca Harwood (OCC) and a rep from the soil testing firm earlier today (Weds 05 November) and so I will hand over to him to report on that meeting

At this point Cllr.Isaacs reported on his meeting with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the lease of the QE II field. OCC stated that they would be responsible for any pollutants or leakage. OCC are not obliged by law to monitor the pit but they do so with 5metre depth sampling. They will be reducing the number of times that they take samples and will discontinue when their independent consultant advises it is no longer required. They will be sampling via 5 x 2metre pit and taking a radiation sample although present readings are less than from a wrist watch. The question now is the Parish Council satisfied with these arrangements without further requirements and to be included that if in the future toxic waste/radiation is discovered OCC would close the area and remove from Parish Council lease.

On these conditions it was proposed by Cllr.Isaacs that:

a) If OCC dig and sample 5 x2m pits and report results

b) OCC undertake radioactive sampling at the lowest point borehole

then the Parish Council will accept that OCC have been diligent in discharging its responsibilities for sampling the land in order to proceed with granting a lease to Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr.GILL

IT WAS RESOLVED that the proposal/resolution be accepted

It was further proposed by Cllr.Isaac that

Should a lease be granted from OCC to Stanford Parish Council in respect of the recreation land, that the Parish Council accept a lease clause that *in the event of the discovery of significant contamination on the land that had come from the old tip then the Parish Council would accept that OCC could take the land back despite the fact that the Parish Council may have invested considerable funds on improving the Recreation Field if the Parish Council did not want to pay for remediation measures.*

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr.GILL

IT WAS RESOLVED that the proposal/resolution be approved.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council solicitor would be involved Action Cllr.Isaacs

At this point ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.WILLIAMS CUSS

SECONDED BY Cllr.WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the meeting be closed for Parishioners comment

Parishioner asked if Council were aware that a Landscape Capacity Study had earmarked the QE II field for 25 houses. Chairman replied that we were offered a 99 year lease and any fear of compulsory purchase was not feasible as OCC were the land owners

On the resolution of Cllr.P.Lewis seconded by Cllr.Isaacs the meeting was reopened

Chairmanship course – Cllr.Warren reported on a very informative course and suggested improvements to agenda etc

Mobile Library reschedule – Cllr.Warren to persue **Action Cllr.Warren**

Bus time table – to be printed in Newsletter **Action Cllr.Bambury**

09/11/14 Correspondence

O.C.C. – Grass cutting agreement – To revise agreement from 6 cuts per year to 2 and grass at junctions when necessary. Cllrs. Were dismayed at the reduction in cutting fees and the reduction in cuts. Also concerns about non statement of fees and non declaration of junctions to cut and the legally binding of 300mm growth. Cllr.Isaacs to contact OCC with our comments **Action Cllr.Isaacs**

Southern Electricity Community Advisor - Further discussion needed to find volunteer

OCC Emergency Controller/Venue - Questionnaire passed to Cllr.Warren as Village Hall key holder. To be discussed with Cllr.P.Lewis **Action Cllr. P.Lewis & Cllr.Warren**

Neighbourhood Plan Conference 21st Nov 2014 - passed to Cllr.Gill for Neighbourhood Plan

Waymark (Aged Housing) - request for info about aged Housing need in Stanford Passed to Cllr.Gill as above

RoSPA - Details of training course – passed to Cllr.Williams Cuss

10/11/14 Planning

P14/V2338/FUL 6 Frogmore Lane *Erection of new 3 bed dwelling*

Due to the quantity of documents appertaining to this application

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr.WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the application be deferred to the Planning Committee to be held on 9th Nov 2014 with a site meeting at 4pm followed by committee meeting in the village hall at 4.30pm

Bow Farm Application

New hand drawn site maps were inspected bringing adverse comments from Councillors and discussions about broken promises of footpaths access

On the resolution of Cllr.P.Lewis seconded by Cllr.Bambury the meeting was closed to allow the applicant/landowner to explain his position.

On the resolution of Cllr/P.Lewis seconded by Cllr.Bambury the meeting was reopened. It was decided that Cllrs.P.Lewis and Gill meet and discuss with the applicant **Action Cllr. P.Lewis & Cllr.Gill**

11/11/14 To receive and approve monthly statement of accounts

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr.BAMBURY

IT WAS RESOLVED that the monthly statement of accounts be approved

12/11/14 To approve accounts for payment

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS
SECONDED BY Cllr.MONAHAN SMITH
IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be approved/Payed

13/11/14 To consider budget and precept 2015/2016

To next agenda

14/11/14 To receive reports from committees

Recreation & Leisure 1st October 2014

- Apologies – Derek Monahan-Smith, Nona Lewis, Peter Lewis
- In Attendance – Karin Williams-Cuss, Peter Gill, Simon Jackson, Janet Warren
- Minutes of last Meeting – Although not presented, they were agreed as a true record.
- Play Area
 - PG stated that 'All Play' Invoice had been paid, less the amount negotiated for delay in completing work/ lack of need to repair wooden bridge in Toddlers play area.
 - Discussion re need for Small Gate to be replaced in Toddlers Play Area. **ACTION –** PG to gain two quotes for new gate to be installed.
 - Discussion re recent ROSPA Inspection. Most work required has been completed by the completion of the list of outstanding actions from 'All Play' . Remaining issues relate to Trip Hazards, which have been negated to a certain extent by the completion of the Wetpour repairs.
 - Moss still needs to be tidied up/ removed. **ACTION –** PG to speak to Darren about removal/ use of Leaf Blower in future throughout autumn to prevent future build up of moss.
- MUGA
 - 2 lamps need to be replaced in flood lights on Training pitches. **ACTION –** KWC to speak to Mike Dew to get work commissioned asap.
 - Discussion re Timings of Lights. If they need to be changed, SJ has offered to deal with this.
 - The Ramp was the only significant issue outstanding from the

- ROSPA Inspection. **ACTION** – PG to liaise with contact re
- painting and general maintenance of ramp.
- Discussion re Grass Cutting/ Maintenance in General. **ACTION** – KWC to ask Mike Dew for list of work completed by Darren on a regular basis.
- Hedges. Football Club are due to pay for the tidying up of the Hedge on their area of the Football Field / MUGA which is their area of responsibility. This work will total £800.00 **ACTION** – SJ to gain quote from same company for Parish Council's area of responsibility.
- Inspections/ ROTA
 - Discussion re ROSPA Inspection/ Outstanding actions (as above)
 - Discussion re Weekly Inspections of Play Area/ MUGA. **ACTION** – All agreed that current Rota for Inspection was not working as planned. All agreed for SJ to complete MUGA Inspections on weekly basis and KWC to complete Play Area Inspections on weekly basis, reporting, by exception, issues into Clerk for action.
- Grants/ Future Play Requirements
 - Discussion re need for Youth Council to determine in future requirements for Play Equipment. KWC reported she was looking into current Grants available for new play equipment.
 - KWC reported that Vale & South DC had asked Nortoft Planning Consultants to liaise with villagers re open space, leisure and playing pitch requirements for the future. Need to identify local priorities and identify how they can be addressed. **ACTION** – JW to send KWC list from Neighbourhood Plan consultation, to feed into DC.
- AOB
 - Hayden Wood attended meeting on behalf of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He spoke of need to arrange a consultation event asap with Villagers to determine views on the potential sale or not, of the Football Field in line with Vale's (District Council) future housing provision and the number to be determined for Stanford-in-the –Vale. **ACTION** – KWC to speak to Peter Lewis to consider the need for an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to discuss asap.
- Cllr.Gill also reported that the road salt had been delivered. The coronation

- seat in the High Street had be repainted by a volunteer. The MUGA needs
- white line painting. The moss needs clearing first Cllr.R.Sharp will be looking into this

15/11/14 To discuss First World War Centenary

As discussed at previous meeting

16/11/14 To receive report from Neighbourhood Plan progress inc finance

Plan exhibitions being held at several village points. Clerk pointed out that there was not enough funds to cover outstanding bills. Cllrs Warren and Gill advised that funding was due from District Council

17/11/14 To decide on updating Standing Orders

Chairman said that during attendance at the chairmanship course it was advised that Standing Orders be varied/updated at least every 2 years. The current Standing Orders do not allow them to be changed without prior notice and it was therefore proposed that the Orders be visited and discussed prior to the next meeting

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr.GILL

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Stanford Orders be visited to vary/amend as decided

18/11/14 Date of next meeting

10th December 2014

Questions /comments from Parishioners

Asked about definition of “Declaration of Interest” the Clerk explained and added that a Councillor who had declared an interest could not vote on that item but if the Council thought that advice could be given the the councillor was permitted to do so.

Mrs.Greenwood thanked the Council for nominating her to attend the District Council Chairmans award lunch for volunteers which she thouroughly enjoyed. She also complained about “crackling phones”. Council were not happy with BT response and advice that everyone should purchase new handsets. Clerk obtained Network engineers tel number and the Chairman had spoken to them and was informed that the fault was due to installation of fibre optic cabling.

Mr.Wood added to his previous statement regarding the Landscape Capacity Study that it included Design , materials and fit for locality