

**Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Stanford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr.P.Lewis(Chair)                      Cllr.Warren                      Cllr.Bambury                      Cllr.Gill  
Cllr.Isaacs                      Cllr.Monahan Smith                      Cllr.Williams Cuss                      D.M.Dew(Clerk)  
Cllr.Tilley(County Councillor)                      2 parishioners

**01/01/15 Apologies and reason (If offered)**

Cllr.N.Lewis(Business)                      Cllr.Jackson(Personal)                      Cllr.Punfield(Business)  
Cllr.Sharp(District Councillor)

**02/01/15 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item**

Cllr. Williams Cuss – Items regarding sewage problems

**03/01/15 To receive and approve minutes of previous meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and sign as a true record**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr GILL  
SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record

Cllr Isaacs reported that item 6/12/14 re wire fences across footpath – there were no wire fences

**04/01/15 To receive report of County Councillor**

Cllr Tilley apologised for not attending more parish meetings but she now represented 19 parishes and struggled to attend every meeting. Reported that 2 OCC employees had been honoured in the New Years Honours list. The budget was very tight with savings still to be made and the grass cutting budget was very much down. The recycling tip was safe at the moment.

Questions:

Cllr Gill said it was appreciated that after some time the pathway to the mill on the A417 had been cleared

Cllr.Williams Cuss asked about possible OCC funding for the pre-school possible extension. Cllr Tilley said that she would make enquiries but money was very tight and she no longer had access to a “pot of money”

Park lane was in a terrible state mostly due to Challow Bridge diversion , would it be resurfaced White line Horsecroft/High St in wrong place

Width of farm vehicles using Horsecroft - grass verges filling in ditches. Land owner had stated that when all animals etc are moved he would not need to use Horsecroft for access

Cllr Tilley stated that she would look into all the above. She stated that a leaflet “Safeguarding children” was being prepared regarding Child Protection , neglect and abuse and it would give guidelines into what should be looked for and who to report any suspicions to. Item to be reproduced in Newsletter

**05/01/15 To receive report of District Councillor**

In his absence Clerk re an email from Councillor regarding foul water problems in Village and that he had spoken to District Engineer and also Thames Water. Cllr. Lewis to follow up

**Action: Cllr.P.Lewis**

**06/01/15 Questions/Comments from Parishioners**

There was some discussion regarding the recent sheep worrying incident and Chairman said that he had spoken to Mr Pontin regarding the problem. Cllr Williams Cuss said that she had researched the problem and gave details of the “Dog Control Order” which provided designated *Dogs on Leads areas* . Cllr To circulate to Council **Action:Cllr.Williams Cuss**

**07/01/15 To receive report of Clerk**

Broken fence post at football field replaced at reported cost of £125.

Overtime payments – after discussions with Chairman in which ways of reducing the workload had been discussed, Clerk had looked to work a flexi time system where the 15 hours per week would not fit a regular 3 hour day. If any overtime was necessary Clerk would bring it to Council for approval. Regarding Office allowance this item to next agenda

**08/01/15 To receive report of Chairman**

**Footpaths - Dogs/Livestock.** I met with Mr Ponting further to the discussion at our December meeting and his ongoing concerns for the welfare of his livestock due to dogs being walked along public footpaths and recent incidents which lead to a sheep being killed, and others injured. Since our last meeting, he felt that there had been an increase in the number of dogs being kept on a lead and was happier with the situation (you will recall that there was a note in the newsletter, and the PC supplied signs to remind dog walkers). I believe it would be beneficial to provide additional signs to other landowners with footpaths, within the parish, and will look to keep this included in the newsletter in the months ahead.

**Affordable Housing.** I have been put in touch with Stonewater, who will be the Affordable Housing Provider on the Nursery End estate. As they will be delivering this service for many years to come, I would hope that we can establish a good working relationship with them, which should in turn be beneficial to those in the parish seeking affordable housing. An initial meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 13 January – whilst I am now unable to attend, I have circulated the details and believe that Cllr’s Gill & Warren will be able to meet with them instead.

**Sewage Issues.** Further to reports at our previous meeting, I have written to Thames Water’s Chief Executive with details of the unacceptable number of incidents during the past 12 months, and subsequently provided information relating to the incident in Chapel Road on Boxing Day. Thames Water are proposing a meeting on Friday 16 Jan – time is to be confirmed and I will circulate the details once I have them.

**Grass Cutting.** Further to discussions at our last meeting, the Clerk received a letter just

before Christmas advising that unless we responded by 31 December, 2014 the OCC grant would be stopped and they would assume that we were not prepared to undertake the work. I spoke to the officer again, that day, and highlighted that historically we had maintained almost all grassed areas within the village and that therefore we were waiting for them to report back to us with regards the actual areas that OCC consider to be “theirs” before we were in a position to make a formal decision on this. This is still outstanding at this time, but I am assured that they are looking into what is available.

**S106.** I have emailed VWHDC a couple of times over the last month, as it would be helpful to have an understanding as to what sums we might expect and when for the purposes of our budget planning. I have eventually spoken to one of the S106 team today, who was unable to assist but was intending to follow this up with her colleague and come back to me.

**Internal Auditor.** Following a number of discussions, a parishioner has agreed to undertake the role of Internal Auditor. This is subject to approval from their employer, HMRC, so will need to go to next month’s agenda.

## **09/01/15 Planning**

### **P14/V2805/HH – 63 Hunters Field – Single storey extension to front of the property**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr BAMBURY  
SECONDED BY Cllr MONAHAN SMITH  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the application be supported

### **P14/V28220/O – Land at Bow Farm – Outline application for 21 new dwellings**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr WARREN  
SECONDED BY Cllr WILLIAMD CUSS  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the application not be supported.

## **10/01/15 To discuss amendments to Standing Orders**

Following discussion in which Cllr Bambury thought that the present orders covered our requirements it was thought that further review against the “Model SO” was necessary and this item to next agenda

## **11/01/15 Correspondence**

**Rev.P.Eddy** – Churchyard spaces and new plot. Cllr Warren to contact District Council regarding their support for new plots. Clerk advised that it was a parochial council obligation unless the PC wanted to become involved. **Action; Cllr Warren**

**VWHDC** – s106 update - noted

**Cllr Williams Cuss** – Stanford sewers – details of sewage overflow – Noted

**OCC** – Grass cutting. After several communications and phone calls Council is still unaware what the agreement is as to what areas we cut for OCC. Chairman is still attempting to find solution. **Action; Cllr.P.Lewis**

**Stonewater Housing Assoc** – Any requirements for social housing – Passed to NPlan group

## **12/01/15 Stanford in the Vale sewers**

As discussed previously. Chairman has been in touch with Thames Water. As Cllr Williams Cuss stated, not all the sewers are the responsibility of Thames Water some are private. Some of the culverts have not been cleared for many years

**13/01/15 To receive and approve Monthly Statement of Accounts**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS  
SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved

**14/01/15 To approve Accounts for Payment**

Crescent landscapes	Replace broken fence post at football field	£125
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ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS  
SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the payments be approved

Due to the time

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr P.LEWIS  
SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS

IT WAS RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended in order to complete the agenda business

**15/01/15 To consider Budget and Precept 2015/2016**

Following detailed discussion regarding either use of reserves or building of reserves and replacement of equipment and playarea expenses. Mower to next agenda

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr.GILL  
SECONDED BY Cllr WILLIAMS CUSS  
That the precept be increased by £2000 to £21,200  
This proposal was defeated by 3 votes for 4 votes against

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr BAMBURY  
SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS  
That the precept remain unchanged at £19,200  
This proposal was carried by 4 votes for 3 votes against  
Therefore the precept for the year 2015/2016 will be £19,200

**16/01/15 To receive reports from Committees**

Cllr.Isaacs will circulate Head of Terms regarding QE II field to Council. If no negative response is received then Cllr Isaacs is authorised to procede **Action:Cllr Isaacs**

**17/01/15 To receive report from Neighbourhood Plan progress**

Nothing further to report

**18/01/15 To set date for next meeting**

Due to the amount of business to be carried out it was decided that a meeting would be required in February. Next meeting will therefore be

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Stanford Village Hall**