

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 4 July 2012 in the Millennium Hall, Stanford in the Vale

Comments/question from Parishioners

A parishioner offered praise for the new War Memorial – Chairman agreed that the PC had supported this initiative but these welcome comments should be made to officers of the PPC.

In a letter to Cllr Warren, a parishioner had brought to attention damage to trees in Huntersfield caused by the recent high winds. The tree officer at the VWHDC (Mr Reed) would be contacted for his advice. Also, the procedure for bin emptying at the Village Hall would be reviewed, since the Clerk was currently indisposed.

Present: Cllr Gill (Chair) Cllr Hughes Cllr Jackson Cllr P Lewis
Cllr Warren Cllr Isaacs Cllr Monahan-Smith

Cllr Tilley (OCC) Cllr Sharp (VWHDC) 4 Parishioners

01/07/12 Apologies: Cllr Williams-Cuss (holiday) Cllr N Lewis (business)
M Dew(Clerk) – illness.

02/07/12 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Cllr P Lewis () Cllr Warren Item 13 Accounts for payment

03/07/12 Minutes of meeting 2nd May 2012 to be received and signed as a true record

Item 12C line 2 the word ‘Planning’ to begin the line Following this amendment

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr MONAHAN-SMITH

SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

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

04/07/12 Minutes of meeting of 6th June 2012 (Finance & General Committee) to be received as a true record

In the absence of the Clerk, brief notes of this meeting had been produced, rather than the minutes he took. These notes were accepted and signed in the meantime.

05/07/12 Report of County Councillor

Councillor had been invited to attend the exhibition by David Wilson Homes (13 July) on their plans for development of land west of the A417. She noted that in the event of the development taking place, there would need to be provision for 17 extra school places.

The Recycling Centre would be retained until 2014 when the permissions would be renewed.

Councillor informed the meeting that the Children’s Centre in Southmoor were seeking a venue for some of their meetings.

Cllr Bambury complained of the state of the High Street road surface – representation would be made to Highways. Cllr Isaacs had heard nothing from Corillian regarding the QEII field – would be followed up.

06/07/12 Report of Chairman

As you know Mike Dew is recovering and will be out of action for a few weeks. I have sent a “Get well “card from the council and have said everything is under control!!!

Good news on the **Stanford Recycling Site**- it would seem it will continue operating after 2014 but we must make sure it is an improving facility and not diminished.

Planning- Vale Planning Officers have not set a date for The Anchor hearing as they still await an independent viability study. No decision as yet on the “Take Away “application as the applicant is being asked more questions.

You have all received the David Wilson Home exhibition invitation. I hope all parishioners take the opportunity to visit and make comment.

As we have received a letter from the Land Agents acting on the **proposed development** of The Nursery, Cottage/Bow Road; I believe we need to reply positively and open discussions on the benefits to the village as disclosed in their letter.

I have discussed **the parking issues** in Van Diemens with a Housing Officer at Sovereign Vale. He was checking to see if they actually own the land. Also they would need to obtain residents views and if in favour possibly put a bid to their Estate Improvement Fund.

The Clerk shared the "New Code of Conduct for Parish Councils" which is being adopted across Oxfordshire. I would propose we adopt this Code now as asked by the Monitoring Officer of The Vale. Mike sent the document to us on 5th June.

Maintenance- High Street (Old Post Office) **noticeboard** can be placed(Highways) on opposite pavement and Darren will erect ASAP. **Play Area (Jubilee Garden)** in need of strimming, weeding etc. I have asked a parishioner to do this week as it needs to be done now and it is unrealistic to expect Darren to be everywhere. Some **Play Equipment** needs attention -temporary measures have been taken and parts to be ordered. **Grass cutting** is on track but Upper Green and Bow Road need attention. **Also further repair on cylinder mower.** District Council grass cutting is an agenda item and will discuss at that point. We also **need quotes** on **Tree Trimming-** Church Green, Manor Green, Upper Green, Chapel Road and??

Darren also seems to think the Fire Engine Shed is leaking so need to investigate.

It would be good as an interim measure to place our newsletters on the community website and other info while we are revamping the PC website.

Finally sincere thanks to all members of the Jubilee Committee who organised such an excellent "Big Lunch" celebration.

It was noted that permission for the 'Take Away' was going forward whilst change of use to residential for The Anchor was being sought following a feasibility study apparently showing there was 'no future for any commercial enterprise' at those premises.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr HUGHES

IT WAS RESOLVED, with one abstention, that this anomaly be put to planners at VWHDC in writing, showing our concerns.

Discussion on the adoption of a new Code of Conduct – council was being 'asked' to adopt the new code although NALC had issued an alternative, which had not yet been seen. Although there was an early deadline to meet,

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr HUGHES

SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS

IT WAS RESOLVED not to adopt the new code without further advice from the Clerk, on his return; to inform OALC of this position, and to obtain sight of the NALC version.

The meeting endorsed the vote of thanks offered in the Chairman's report to the members of the Jubilee Committee, whose organisation of the "Big Lunch" had been such a success, despite adverse weather.

07/07/12 Correspondence

The boundary commission were proposing changes in order to equalise numbers of voters in each ward of the Vale. The effect would be to reduce the number of councillors at the Vale from 51 to 38, 13 fewer than at present. If the changes are adopted, our ward would be extended to include East and West Challow – approximately 2,700 voters. The matter is now in consultation. We can all express our views.

08/07/12 **Planning Applications - None**

09/07/12 **Report of District Councillor**

The scrapping of the Interim Housing Policy had left several applications at the Vale which would now be judged against previous 'core' development strategy. The shortfall of housing was around 800 – 1000 units. Applications would be dealt with in strict order, and therefore proposals for Stanford might be heard before the 'Housing Needs Survey' results are known.

Questioned on the likely success of more than one application in Stanford, Cllr Sharpe was unable to say one way or the other, but each would be judged using the usual planning criteria.

Cllr Sharpe agreed to investigate an apparent slow reaction to complaints regarding faulty lighting at Ock Meadow.

10/07/12 **Housing Needs Survey**

There being no further amendments required to the latest draft Survey form, a finalised version would be circulated to councillors with a view to conducting the survey in September. Chair would arrange for collection boxes for completed forms at the CO-OP, and Cllr Warren would divide the village into suitable collection areas for councillors.

11/07/12 **District Council – grass cutting/maintenance issues**

Contractors to the Vale cut some grass areas in the village (e.g. Forest Grove, Ock Meadow and others) whilst PC looks after the rest. It might be more sensible for PC to oversee all cutting, but costs (machinery, wages etc) would need to be known, as against any income that might accrue. Cllr Isaacs volunteered to attempt to estimate these figures, to enable viability to be assessed.

12/07/12 **Monthly Statement of Accounts** None, in the Clerk's absence. If the situation continues, a contingency plan would be needed.

13/07/12 **Accounts for payment**

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr Jackson
SECONDED Cllr Lewis
IT WAS RESOLVED the accounts be paid.

14/07/12 **Environmental Report**

A parishioner had thought that about 90% of the new woodland trees had died, but Cllr Isaacs reported that it was more like 25%, which is well within expectations. Negotiations regarding the QEII field were ongoing, but progress was exceedingly slow. The County Councillor was now assisting. There had been a complaint that the new 'kissing gate' at the bottom of Horsecroft was the wrong way round, allowing animals to become trapped inside, which would be investigated. A problem with the bridge along the Hatford footpath had been resolved, but the cycle barrier at the Stanford end was now damaged.

15/07/12 **Date of the next meeting**

Next full Council Meeting - 5 September 2012 at 19.30 - Possible interim meeting 1 August.