

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday March 6th 2013 in Stanford Village Hall Stanford in the Vale

Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. There were no questions/comments from Parishioners.

Present: Cllr.Gill(Chair) Cllr.Bambury Cllr.Isaacs Cllr.Monahan Smith
Cllr.Warren Cllr.P.Lewis
Cllr.Tilley(County Cllr.) Cllr.Sharp(District Cllr.) M.Dew(Clerk) 12 Parishioners

01/03/13 Apologies

Cllr.Jackson(Work) Cllr.N.Lewis(Work) Cllr.Williams Cuss (Personal)

02/03/13 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Nil

03/03/13 Minutes of previous meeting 2nd January 2013 to be received and signed as a true record

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

04/03/2013 Report of County Councillor

The footpath from Marlborough Road to the river Ock had been completed (Council thanked the Councillor for her efforts to help complete this). Due to forthcoming elections the local “pot” was now empty but no doubt it could be available after the election. Councillor said that her new area consisted of 19 parishes. All but one primary school in Oxfordshire was above standard. On the resolution of Cllr.Isaacs seconded by Cllr.Bambury the meeting was closed to allow Parishioners to question the County Councillor.

Questioned about the muddy state of Hatford Footpath – A county problem and Cllr.Isaacs will attempt to get funding to resolve the problem

05/03/2013 Environmental Committee report

Cllr.Isaacs explained the proposed lease arrangements for the 19.1 acres of land off Cottage Road and the problems with the adjacent waste site. There was pollution which OCC monitored on a regular basis but it appeared that if the Parish Council signs the 125 year lease then the County would expect the parish to take responsibility for any future pollution clearance. The Parish Council would not be in a position to accept this responsibility due to finance and financial burden on Councillors personally. Council had been advised by National Assoc. of Councils that they should not enter into an agreement until this issue had been resolved. Cllr.Tilley stated that she would talk to the appropriate department in order to help find a solution. Cllr Isaacs had spoken to OCC about planting trees on the old tip to help dispel pollution. Trees would be at no cost to PC

06/03/2013 Report of Clerk

Redundant Oil Tank Glebe Road – District Council had made enquiries re ownership. Nobody claimed ownership, the original owners who still owned land rights, Barry Side Builders no longer existed and previous oil companies (Fillers) now denied having anything to do with the tank. District Council are still making enquiries including advice from their legal department

Pre-school playgroup signs – several councillors had met with the pre-school committee and an agreement had been reached about size and colour

Tree Works – Work had now been completed on several sites in the village

Approval of Risk Assessment – each year the Council is required to approve a risk assessment (Financial) for the Government Auditors. The approved assessment is signed by our Internal Auditor. Clerk provided Councillors with a copy of the proposed assessment

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr.BAMBURY

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment be approved

HMRC RTI - Clerk explained that HMRC (PAYE) required from 5th April that all employees permanent or casual had to be registered with personal details. This could cause problems for the casual workers that we employ to carry out small jobs

07/03/2013 Report of Chairman

Housing Development – DWH have submitted their application again which we will discuss later. I also understand they have lodged an appeal on their first rejected application.

The Land Agents acting for the owners of The Old Nursery site have been informed of the Council's January decision not to open any negotiations until we have a clearer picture re the Faringdon Road development.

Highways-The 30 mph flashing units have not been erected as yet.

United Reform Church - On Tuesday 5th February I met with Stuart Mclean the Officer responsible for maintenance and dispersal of URC properties. The intention is to realise as much capital as possible on the property and to utilise on other URC property. They will be talking to Vale Planning re possible development of the building. I expressed the possibility that the village could well be interested in using the facility into the future bearing in mind the Village Charity had granted £27,000 for restoration over the past 12 years. The URC may well enter into negotiations when they have gathered their financial information. In the meantime I have received a letter from the **The History Society re their ideas** for us to consider. At this point the Chair read the letter. Councillors commented but no decision to take until URC(Wessex Trust) had made their initial decisions. Chair to reply to history Society.

Tree works have been completed and mowing has commenced. Certain health and safety maintenance has been done or is in the process.

There are requests from parishioners for a placing of a commemorative bench and cultivation of snowdrops / daffodils around the village-to discuss.

The Vale Local Plan 2029- exhibitions at Faringdon 28th March 12 noon and 7pm or Wantage Civic Hall 13th March. We need to have placed our response by 9th May. Do we

need to meet on April 3rd (1st Wednesday) or wait until May 1st to agree our response ?

The Old Nursery site and the Local Plan will be an agenda item for 1st May 2013. There had been an observation from a parishioner regarding lack of pavement Horsecroft/High Street. Chairman will talk to OC C Highways. There was also village concern regarding parking on crossing and zig-zags by the Co-op. Clerk to contact police. Parking on the zig-zag lines and a reminder about the vacancy on the Council to be reported in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

08/03/2013 Correspondence

VWHDC – Locality governance – review of possible parish boundary changes. further information due in April

09/03/2013 Report from Cllr.Bambury re Parishioners correspondence last election

Cllr. Bambury read the letter in which the parishioner thought that due to the adverse publicity regarding Councillors who had been reported under the “Code of Conduct” regulations and had not been able by law to publically respond to the accusations it seemed that this had affected the election of Councillors and suggested that the honorable thing to do was for the Council to resign and hold another election. Several Councillors were prepared to resign if necessary. Clerk said that a new election would cost at least £1500 and would be a tax on parishioners plus it was an inappropriate time due to end of year accounts , new recreation area lease negotiations and possibility of District Council running the Parish in absence of a Council. It was decided that Cllr.Bambury formulate a letter, agreed by Councillors, to the Parishioner explaining the situation and an item explaining the situation including possible costs be placed in the newsletter. Council were reminded that the Councillors in question were found to have no case to answer by the Monitoring Officer.

10/03/2013 Report of District Councillor

The new budget had resulted in no increase in community charge and there will be no cuts to frontline services and 2 hour free parking will continue. Stated that DWH have not as yet appealed against the decision refusing housing on Faringdon Road although plans have been re-submitted

11/03/2013 Planning

Council congratulated Cllr.P.Lewis for his outstanding work on the objections to DWH Faringdon Road application

P13/V0205/0 (Outline) Oak Meadow Bow Road SIV Outline application for erection of 3 bedroom dwelling – No objections

P13/V0300/HH 20 Fawkner Way SIV Proposed 2 storey side extension – No objections but consideration to be given to adjacent trees and original building line

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.P.LEWIS
SECONDED BY Cllr.MONAHAN SMITH
IT WAS RESOLVED that the decisions and comments be passed to District Council

12/03/2013 Monthly Staement of Accounts

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS
SECONDED BY Cllr.P.LEWIS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts be approved

13/03/2013 Requests for donations from local organisations

Following discussion

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.GILL
SECONDED BY Cllr.BAMBURY
IT WAS RESOLVED that the following donations be made

Stanford in the Vale First Responders	£150
South & Vale Carers	£ 75
Oxfordshire Assoc for the Blind	£ 75
Independent Advice Centre Wantage	£ 50

14/03/2013 Accounts for Payment

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.BAMBURY
SECONDED BY Cllr.P.LEWIS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be paid

15/03/2013 Cllr.Warren – Village Improvements

Reported that she and Cllr.Williams Cuss had attended a Playarea Inspection course organised by OPFA & RoSPA. Clerk handed over the inspection register detailing weekly inspection of playareas now to be carried out by Councillors on a rota basis.

There is a need for further litter bins and at this point the Clerk reported that District Council are asking that dog mess be placed in litter bins due to the new incinerator only coping with a mixture of dog mess and litter. It therefore seems feasible to only buy or replace litter bins which would be emptied free of charge whereas dog bins attract a emptying fee. New litter bins to be sourced and Clerk to contact DC regarding purchase of bins.

The Bus Shelter on Church Green is in need of repair and decorating. Flower boxes need repair and planting although the primary school had offered as a project to look after the boxes and maybe the Jubilee garden. It had been requested that snowdrops and daffodils be planted around the village and Chairman will look into this with finance to be discussed at next meeting

16/03/2013 Committee Reports

In absence of Cllr. Williams Cuss, Cllr. Warren presented the report of the February meeting

17/03/2013 Date of Next Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting of Stanford in the Vale – 3rd April 2013

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 1st May 2013

Questions/Comments from Parishioners

Metal Dog Notices are required to be erected in playareas. Parishioner asked if she could donate a commemorative bench preferably in High Street near a bus stop. Chairman to investigate as residents are not happy with having a bench (collection area and possible anti-social behaviour) near their properties. Parishioner asked that Council ensure that the proposed peppercorn rent for the new recreation area does not increase if the site is developed.