



**Minutes of a meeting of STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**

- Present:** Cllr Middleton (Chair) Cllr. Austin Cllr. Brooks Cllr. Howes
Cllr. Kent Cllr. Lewis Cllr. Caul (VWHDC)
Claire Lewis (Clerk)
2 members of the public
- 01/02/24 To receive apologies**
Cllr. Isaacs
Cllr. Dabek
Cllr. Dixon
- 02/02/24 To receive Declarations of Interest from Cllrs on any agenda item**
None
- 03/02/24 To receive, approve & sign as a true record, minutes of previous meeting 3rd January 2024**
ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Lewis
SECONDED By Cllr. Austin
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted
All in favour with 1 abstention from a councillor who was not in attendance at the last meeting.
- 04/02/24 To receive report of County Councillor**
Nothing received from Cllr. Ash.
- 05/02/24 To receive report of District Councillor**
- Village Hall grants are available from ACRE £2k-£5k.
 - Cycle paths and footpaths LCWPs (central government funding) – Cllr. Caul investigating further. Didcot have one and Abingdon looking at.
 - QEII field/GCN presence: An ecology report produced in July 23 in a planning application for Shellingford Quarry [Planning Application P24/V0229/CM \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning-application-p24/v0229/cm) confirmed absence of great crested newts and no environment in which reptiles could survive. **Action:** Cllr. Caul to speak to VWHDC Planning as to whether they will accept this.
- 06/02/24 Questions/comments from Parishioners**
- Parishioner raised issue of Challow flooding and A417 - speeding Earthline lorries and 40mph Zone. **Actions:** Clerk to get update from OCC on work at Challow. 40mph covered in agenda item 15.
 - A representative of Old Mill Nursery requested a meeting to discuss an easement for access across common land. He will send through all background legal information and Cllr. Middleton will schedule a time.
- 07/02/24 To receive report of Chairman inc. items for next agenda**
Chair's Report
Land west of Ware Rd

Signed.....

Date.....

I've received an enquiry about the status of the neighbourhood plan from Savills in relation to the Joint Local Plan consultation and possible development of land west of Ware Rd (we previously engaged with them to discuss this topic in Nov 2022), which I have passed on to the village neighbourhood plan team.

Gigaclear

We have received a revised plan from Gigaclear, which I believe now includes our requested changes.

Old Mill Nursery site

Manorwood Homes have been back in touch about possible development of the Old Mill Nursery site on Upper Green and have requested a meeting to discuss legal advice they have received in relation to the village green.

Pavement on Chapel Rd

I've had a complaint from a parishioner about the state of the pavement on Chapel Road. A FixMyStreet has been raised - [FMS link](#).

Community Woodland

I understand there is a meeting scheduled for Tues 27 Feb (for which I need to give my apologies) with OCC to discuss the Community Woodland and adjoining grassland management, particularly with respect to biodiversity net gain.

Streetlight on Church Green

Several parishioners have raised the issue of the streetlight on Church Green (see picture below). Somewhere underneath all the ivy is apparently a streetlight which, even were it to illuminate (which apparently it doesn't) would be completely obscured by the vegetation growth. I have yet to log on FixMyStreet as I wanted to discuss with council first, given its on parish council land.

Action: Clerk to ask handyman to cut back from bottom as far as can be reached

Planning response – Horse & Jockey Signs

I have submitted the delegated planning response on the new signs proposed for the Horse and Jockey – see below – and have also sent a copy direct to Greene King.

P23/V2779/A - 25 Faringdon Road Stanford in the Vale Faringdon SN7 8NN

Stanford in the Vale Parish Council do not object in principle to the application and indeed welcome investment in our local pub. However, there are two specific aspects of the proposed signs and accompanying lighting that we believe need addressing.

Pub location as described on the main sign

The main sign (Signage Detail drwgn0 183104 rev C Sheet 1) shows the pub as located in Faringdon, which is clearly not the case. A revised design should be submitted showing the location as Stanford in the Vale.

Lighting design: night sky and biodiversity impact

Bearing in mind development policy 21 (Local Plan 2031, part 2), specifically part i (no adverse effect on the character of the area or biodiversity) and part iii (lighting proposed should be the minimum necessary to undertake the task), the applicant should be required to demonstrate, via preparation of an appropriate lighting strategy, that these conditions have been met, as per the local plan, para. 3.148. We recognise that the pub is located in an area with existing streetlighting but we have specific concerns around the use of uplighting and any additional impact on biodiversity from the new lighting design.

Uplighting should be replaced with downlighting, which will fulfil the same function but without the corresponding impact on the night sky.

We expect that the planning officer will consider the biodiversity impact when deciding the application.

Additionally, we would expect any external lighting to be turned off after closing time, with a reasonable allowance for customers to leave the premises.

08/02/24 To receive correspondence and Clerk's Report

Correspondence – relevant copies are in the meeting correspondence folder

1. Vale Community Impact invites the PC to the AGM on 15th February. I have emailed the invitation, and a copy is in the folder.
2. The OALC January newsletter and Civility & Respect project update have been emailed to you and are in the folder.
3. A parishioner has written about the possibility of having a cut-through from the path in River Meadow at the top of Ware Road – to allow pedestrians to walk up to the business park along the footpath rather than along the road. Environment Committee has discussed and is supportive of approaching DWH once the Nursery End transfer is completed. Copy in folder.
4. Faringdon Learning Trust and Vale Academy Trust are proposing to merge and have written to all Parish Councils within the area to ask for their opinion. Letter in folder.
5. The B4000 Shrivenham-Ashbury Road will be closed from 11-15 April. TTRO in folder
6. Perry's Road will be closed for 1 day on 18 March for cable installation. TTRO in folder
7. A parishioner called about verges being churned over during Gigaclear work in Huntersfield. To be added to list of verges to be rectified.
8. A parishioner has offered help in obtaining grants for new play equipment/moving the process forwards. Action: Clerk to speak with her further.

Clerk's report

1. Chris Stallard, who for many years was the volunteer village litter picker, has died. He donated the daffodil bulbs which were planted last year around the village. His funeral is on Friday 1st March at 2pm at St Denys Church followed by a service at South Oxfordshire crematorium.
2. Six streetlights on the A417 between the Horse and Jockey and the Ware Road roundabout are out – OCC has been out and confirmed that it is an electrical supply issue.
3. Conlon fixed one of the badly fitting manhole covers at the Ware Rd roundabout but there are others – there is a map in the correspondence folder (red is the manholes, yellow the missing lights). Raised with OCC.
4. Earthline has imposed a voluntary 30mph speed limit on its lorries along in the 40mph stretch in front of River Meadow, thanks to a request from Karen Boyle. Residents are encouraged to contact the transport manager, Dan@earthlineltd.co.uk with the date, time and first 3 characters of the reg plate, and he is checking the tachographs.
5. The crossing gate 361/122 over the River Ock has a slat missing which OCC will fix this week. There is a disconnect as residents can report these via FixMyStreet and are informed that it has been passed to the correct team. The Countryside Access team don't get the reports and want residents to use CAMS, which they must register for.
6. I have advertised on FB for an internal auditor but have had no responses. Next step would be to use an OALC recommended auditor.
7. We have three replacement bins – one on the Hatford path, one at the top of Joyce's Road and one replacement bin on High Street. There has been much positive feedback on the Village FB page. The only bin that has not been replaced is the Village Hall.
8. Farol has refunded the £250 which we paid for the initial tractor call-out in August 23, as it should have been offset against the repair bill.
9. I spoke with the new contractor about matting – he would be willing to do – dependent on the solution, he may need additional tools.
10. I have contacted Sovereign housing to deal with dead/dying trees on the patch of land behind the bus stop on Cottage Road.

Signed.....

Date.....

- 11. Someone has stolen the protective mesh fencing and poles protecting the corner of Church Green.
- 12. I am trialling using Safety Culture for tracking maintenance work - it is free for up to 10 users. Currently setting up the Parish Council's assets then I will add the inspection tasks.
- 13. Tennis coach Tom Finney has been in touch about hiring the MUGA for children's lessons. **Action:** Clerk and chair to discuss booking process and hire rates.
- 14. Recent application decisions:
P23/V2016/HH- Cornerstone, Horsecroft – **Granted**

09/02/24 To approve Accounts for Payment

6:18 PM
02/02/24

**Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
 Reconciliation Detail
 Current Account - TSB, Period Ending 31/01/24**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						10,424.70
Cleared Transactions						
Cheques and Payments - 8 items						
Bill Pmt -Cheque	26/01/24	BACS	EON Next	Floodlights Oct-...	-331.07	-331.07
Bill Pmt -Cheque	29/01/24	BACS	Andrew Munns Tree Su...	3 month tree work	-5,760.00	-6,091.07
General Journal	29/01/24	2021-1...	Claire Lewis	65hrs @ SCP 22	-1,058.35	-7,149.42
Bill Pmt -Cheque	29/01/24	BACS	Play Inspection Co. Ltd.	Play areas ann...	-297.00	-7,446.42
Bill Pmt -Cheque	29/01/24	BACS	Stephen Rolls		-98.37	-7,544.79
Bill Pmt -Cheque	29/01/24	BACS	TVE Hire & Sales	Oil, chainsaw bl...	-77.30	-7,622.09
General Journal	29/01/24	2021-1...	HMRC - PAYE & NI	65hrs @ SCP 22	-42.76	-7,664.85
Bill Pmt -Cheque	29/01/24	BACS	SITV Village Hall	PC Nov 2023 In...	-20.00	-7,684.85
Total Cheques and Payments					-7,684.85	-7,684.85
Deposits and Credits - 1 item						
Payment	26/01/24		SITV Football Club	Rent Jan-Jun 24	658.29	658.29
Total Deposits and Credits					658.29	658.29
Total Cleared Transactions					-7,026.56	-7,026.56
Cleared Balance					-7,026.56	3,398.14
Register Balance as of 31/01/24					-7,026.56	3,398.14
Ending Balance					-7,026.56	3,398.14

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Howes
 SECONDED BY Cllr. Lewis
 IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be approved

10/02/24 To approve Monthly Statement of Accounts

Signed..... Date.....

Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
Statement of Accounts - Summary
As of 31 January 2024

	31 Jan 24	31 Dec 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Account - TSB		
Reserves - Comm. Garden	1,645.00	1,645.00
Reserves - Security	1,000.00	1,000.00
Reserves - CIL	4,998.68	4,998.68
Reserves - NP	145.10	145.10
Current Account - TSB - Other	-4,390.64	2,709.70
Total Current Account - TSB	3,398.14	10,498.48
Redwood 35 Day Savings Account		
Reserves - Play Equipment Savin	750.00	750.00
Reserves - CIL Savings	40,633.23	40,633.23
Reserves - NP Savings	3,589.05	3,589.05
Redwood 35 Day Savings Account - ...	11,757.65	11,603.76
Total Redwood 35 Day Savings Account	56,729.93	56,576.04
Total Cash at bank and in hand	60,128.07	67,074.52
Total Current Assets	60,128.07	67,074.52
NET CURRENT ASSETS	60,128.07	67,074.52
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	60,128.07	67,074.52
NET ASSETS	60,128.07	67,074.52
Capital and Reserves	0.00	0.00

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Lewis

SECONDED BY Cllr. Austin

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved. All in favour

- 11/02/24 To approve costs for protection mesh/matting for verges in village**
Carry over to next month.
- 12/02/24 To agree a budget and grant applications for replacement teen shelter**
Action: Clerk and chair to investigate funding sources. Clerk to obtain firm quotes. Indications are approximately £12k including installation.
- 13/02/24 To agree next steps on security cameras**
Action: Cllr. Kent and Cllr. Austen will take forward. A process for the cameras needs to be agreed.
- 14/02/24 To agree comments on draft Joint Local Plan**
No response from the council as a corporate body, but councillors can respond individually
- 15/02/24 To consider a public consultation for speed reduction from 30mph along A417**
The 20mph team at OCC have confirmed that they will include an assessment of the 40mph stretch along the A417 to see if it should be reduced to 30mph. Their advice is "any reduced limit on the A417 would not be a foregone conclusion but would need to be considered in the light of the environment it lies within." It is advisable to conduct a public consultation to support the move. The Parish Council will consult with the parish online and via the Parish newsletter, which Cllr. Middleton will organise. There is no confirmed date for the implementation but the 20mph team hope that it will be this (calendar) year.
- 16/02/24 To agree PC response to boundary commission consultation on VWHDC wards**
No response from the council as a corporate body, but individual councillors can respond individually
- 17/02/24 To approve costs for further QEII archaeology work**
No update – standing item
- 18/02/24 To approve any training requests**

Signed.....

Date.....

None

- 19/02/24 To receive the report of the Millennium Green Trust**
Cllr. Middleton to speak to MGT about funding the replacement gate. Our handyman will fit it.
- 20/02/24 To receive the report of the Environment Committee**
First set of tree work completed by Andrew Munn services. Cllrs. Isaacs and Brooks to walk round the village with AMTS to identify further work, based on the second tranche of work recommended by the survey.
- 21/02/24 To receive the report of the Recreation and Leisure Committee**
Cllr. Boyle has handed over to Cllr. Middleton. **Action:** Clerk to check that meetings have been set up correctly in the calendar.
- 22/02/24 Provisional date of next meeting – Wednesday 6th March 2024**
- 23/02/24 Questions/comments from parishioners**

Meeting finished at 9.36pm