

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of Stanford in the Vale held on Wednesday 3rd April 2013 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr. P.Gill (Chair) Cllr. M.Isaacs Cllr.P.Lewis Cllr.R.Sharp (District Cllr)

H.Farrell (Thames Valley Police 12 Parishioners M.Dew (clerk)

Apologies were noted from Cllr. K.Williams Cuss

Chairman welcomed all those attending and detailed what would be reported and invited those present to ask questions and comment on proceedings.

District Councillor Robert Sharp spoke of the Local Plan which would detail the plans for the future up to 2029. It would take into consideration housing and infrastructure and views and comments were invited before finalising on 9th May. There were several questions regarding the proposed housing on Faringdon Road and the submission of s106 agreements. Councillor stated that nothing would be signed until he was satisfied with the agreement.

PC 7085 Hannah Farrell 24 crimes in Stanford April 2012 – April 2013. 5 of these were burglaries – all non dwelling /outhouses/sheds etc.. One of these was an attempt only and nothing was taken. 10 thefts inc 2 thefts of motor vehicles which were both landrovers. There were 3 people dealt with for possession of cannabis. There were 6 criminal damages – various items were damaged . This year to date you have had 3 crimes 2 criminal damages to 2 buildings where an offender was identified and one theft of vehicle which was a Landrover as stated.. There were 8 crimes in the first 4 months of last year so the trend would suggest that crime for the area overall has dropped by over 50% which is positive. Crime Prevention Events that have already been booked 6th July Charney Feast and 21st September at the Hanneys. We will also be at Buckland on 13th July and hope to have another 2 dates . I will make sure we have cover for Stanford fete. Smartwater – one pot can do 50 items in the home and can be obtained from police at £15 at any station. We can complete crime prevention surveys , a free service where we can attend and report where we think security could be improved. We have concerns from residents regarding parking on the zigzag lines and pedestrian crossing outside of the school. This problem is essentially school pick up/drop off and we will monitor this on a regular basis when school is back and stop offenders. Residents are advised to phone as and when tis is happening . Speeding in Bow Road was also advised as an issue and we will do some speed indication work to see if there is a problem and complete a ticket operation if this is the case. There were further questions from Parishioners regarding crime lowering tendency, zigzag line parking and speeding

Cllr. P.Gill (Chair Stanford in the Vale Parish Council)

Chair's report April 2012 – April 2013

April 2012 DWH Submission

April 2013 DWH 2nd application

Clearly this has taken a lot of time for your council but our stance has remained unchanged. The land on the other side of the A417 is not a suitable place for development for all the reasons we have already stated.

We will continue to object and trust the district council will also not change their initial decision. If DWH go to an appeal again we will put forward our case.

Our Housing Survey clearly showed a majority were not in favour of a large development. There was a positive response for infill and smaller development. We know there will be some sensible development in the next few years but it must be within reason and manageable within the infrastructures we have and whatever can be improved.

Certainly Councillor Peter Lewis needs special mention for his meticulous drafting of our submission objecting to the DWH application and the Anchor 'change of use' application.

It has been encouraging to see a group of parishioners also opposing the DWH application and being affective and supportive to the Council and Village. The April newsletter outlines the difficulty we have in the conversion of the Cottage Road field to further recreation space for various sporting and leisure activities. Before signing any lease we must ensure the County Council takes total responsibility for disposal of any pollution from the adjoining waste disposal site. We appreciate the efforts of Councillor Mark Isaacs in obtaining a 125 year lease and the insistence we obtain the best deal.

We are also pleased that our clerk Mike Dew is recovering from his debilitating illness and offered to continue as clerk after his resignation. The Council were happy for this to happen, and Mike's intention is to continue for 6 months into the life of the next elected Council from May 2015.

After some 18 years serving the village as a Councillor, Gwyn Hughes resigned from the Council and decided to join another Christian fellowship, thus also bringing to an end his total commitment to the URC chapel. We wish him the very best and thank him for his service to our community.

The Chapel building will be sold by the United Reform Church in the coming months. If the village wants to use this facility then they will have to be in the bidding process.

Our sincere thanks again must be given to the Public Purposes Charity for their continued financial support and encouragement to our village organisations, in particular, the culmination of a number of years to fund and put in place the Village War Memorial.

We have also benefited from County Council grants administered by our councillor Melinda Tilley for Footpath improvements, 30 mph flashing signage, supporting the Pre-School with signage and new Village Hall curtains. We are appreciative of her support alongside that of our District Councillor Robert Sharp.

Over the years we have installed a lot of recreational resources. At this time many items need maintenance and your council is very busy ensuring all the equipment is safe and sound. This will take a considerable financial outlay. Again the most up-to-date information is shared in the April newsletter.

My personal thanks to all councillors for their continued commitment to the village. We are looking to parishioners for ideas for the future and support in the actions we are taking.

Finance report

Financial Statement 3rd April 2013

Cash at Bank	17422.51	(12926.00)
Cash in Hand	70.32	(00.00)

Income 01 April 2012 – 31st March 2013

Precept	20300.00	(20300.00)
Grants	324.32	(10225.00)
Agency Work	5424.80	(5424.80)
Donations	50.00	(00.00)
Interest on Investments	3.63	(4.83)
Rent Received	2750.00	(2043.30)
Misc	00.00	(19.97)

Total Income **29170.77 (38017.90)**

Expenses 01 April 2012 – 31st March 2013

General Administration	3777.50	(4241.89)	inc hall hire, tele, office expenses
Salaries	11609.58	(19081.79)	
Capital spending	00.00	(14721.79)	
Running costs	6145.03	(8239.42)	inc mowing , leisure & rec.
Legal fees	674.00	(1437.50)	
Grants allocated	600.00	(500.00)	

Total Expense **23461.05 (48529.89)**

Excess Income **5709.72 (-10511.99)**

Savings made on salaries (Clerks hours cut to 15 per week), Running costs ,capital spending reduced

Report of Recreational & Leisure Committee

The Chair of this committee had apologised for not attending due to a previous accident to her leg and directed parishioners to her report in the latest Newsletter where she detailed a Playground Inspection course that she and Cllr. Warren had attended. A rota is to be produced detailing which Councillors will be responsible for weekly play equipment inspections and work will start soon to comply with the latest RoSPA inspection

Report of Environmental Committee

Cllr. Isaacs (Committee Chair) reported on the progress of obtaining the 19.7 acres off Cottage road and the problems now being faced with. The OCC refuse to take responsibility for clearing any hazardous items from the site and no responsibility for any clearance. The Parish Council are unable to accept responsibility for this which could result in Councillors being held personally responsible financially. There is therefore an impasse at this time which it is hoped can be resolved with the help of the County Councillor.

This item caused much concern amongst those present regarding reported radiation and future contamination. It was pointed out that the area is subject to regular monitoring and nothing so far has suggested dangerous levels of any toxic waste. It was felt that since OCC had originally permitted the site, that they should therefore be held responsible for any toxic outcome

Questions/Comments from Parishioners

Request for Adult Gym Equipment – Council to enquire although equipment is expensive

Rents – Are rents fixed – Playgroup fixed term – Football Club subject to increases

Parking - As dealt with by TVP who will monitor

Traffic Controls – Due to be installed – Bow Road speeding to be monitored

URC Chapel Road – Unsure what owners have planned but possible requested for heritage listing by village

Chairman thanked people for attending and reminded those present that there was a vacancy on Council

Due to the fact that some Parishioners insisted that they had never seen previous notices for meetings, a fact denied by the Clerk as it is a legal requirement to advertise meetings and he had done so for the past 15 years and if parishioners did not look a noticeboards or Community Page it was not the Council at fault. With this in mind it was decided that the next Annual Meeting of Stanford in the Vale would be held on April 2nd 2014. The chairman explained attendance at meetings had improved due to better communications.