



**FEBRUARY 2003**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2003 AT STANFORD  
VILLAGE HALL.**

There were no comments /questions from Parishioners

**Present:**        **Mr.P.G.McMorrow(Chair)**                                **Mr.S.Bambury (Deputy Chair)**  
                         **Mr.G.Hughes(Senior Councillor)**                                **Mrs.R.Packer**  
                         **Mr.M.Williams**    **Mr.P.Gill**  
                         **Mr.A.Bungay**    **Mr.G.Sandels**  
  
                         **Mr.D.M.Dew(Clerk)**    **2 Members of Public**

**1/02/03        Apologies for absence**

Mr.B.Burls (attending later)

Mrs.A.Fitzgerald O'Connor – County Councillor

**2/02/03        Declaration of Interests**

The following declaration was received

Accounts for payment - Cllr. Bambury

**3/02/03        Minutes of previous meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

Page 4 Parishioners comments *add referred to Oxon CC*

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr.WILLIAMS

SECONDED BY Cllr.HUGHES

IT WAS RESOLVED that following this addition the minutes be approved and signed.

**4/02/03 Report of District Councillor – Mrs.Packer**

The Council is approaching the time when Council Tax charges are set. Once again, the money from Central Government will be aimed at the Urban areas. Indications are that our Council Tax may well increase far above inflation. It will be decided on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. It has already been announced that car park charges will be higher. Also, for several years, large amounts have been used from District Council reserves, which could lead to some very difficult decisions if this policy continues.

At the Local Government Associations Tourism Executive, it was very worrying to learn that many Councils are viewing tourism as an easy target for budget cuts. The economic effect in many popular holiday areas could be devastating.

A new initiative for the District Council may be the acceptance of debit and credit cards for payments. A decision on this issue will be made at the end January.

1/6

At the West Area Committee the future of the Old Goal was discussed. Also many Parishioners from Watchfield attended. There is much concern about the height of items on the proposed wind farm.

Cllr. Williams said he was concerned that District Councillors were receiving increases in expenses at the same time that council tax was due to rise. While not expecting anyone to be *out of pocket* he felt that this was against the thought of local government. Chairman thought that the newsletter should report this discussion and also state that the parish councillors do not receive allowances nor do they claim expenses.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr. WILLIAMS

SECONDED BY Cllr.HUGHES

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk inform the Chief Executive of the District Council of the Council's attitude towards the allowances

**5/02/03      Report of County Councillor (read by Clerk)**

First of all, apologies for not being able to attend this evening. Very belated New Year good wishes to all the Parish Council and congratulations to Stanford for winning two categories in Village of the Year competition.

As I mentioned in my newsletter, much time has been devoted to the annual county budget. Originally, the County Council budget meeting was scheduled for 4 February, but had to be postponed until 11 February, as the Government settlement had not been finalised. It would be wrong of me to pre-empt any County Council decisions which will be made next week, but it looks very much as if there will be a Council tax increase in the order of 13 – 14 %.

I'm sure you will all have heard that work is starting on A420/A417 roundabout and is expected to be completed by Easter. A temporary closure of A417 will be necessary for two weeks during the construction phase, but further details will be available nearer the time. The project is estimated to cost around £700,000 and the work will be carried out by Aggregate Industries of Henley and supervised by Atkins Highways & Transportation.

On a personal note, I have been occupied recently with sitting on various panels (adoption, dismissal appeal) and two scrutiny review panels (post-code differentials in day care for elderly and school premises review ie if countywide we can further optimise the use of school premises for community activities)

Once again, please let me know if I can assist on County matters.

**6/02/03      Report of Clerk**

*Lime Trees Manor Green* – OCC still discussing

*Photocopier* – Cllrs Williams & Bambury have found 2<sup>nd</sup> hand copiers at approx £250. Cllr Bambury to inspect copier to his satisfaction.

*White Horse Business park* –DC agree that area needs landscaping and the site could expand. There was discussion regarding placement/positioning of a bund.

2/6

*Archives* – Cllr. Williams has purchased 2 cupboards and 4 cabinets which are ready when required. Chairman confirmed that the URC had spent money in preparing the archive area and that the Village of Year prize should be spent helping provide these archives ie fireproofing

Clerk asked that he dispute a PPC charity minute indicating that he had provided paperwork 1 hour before their meeting. Council agreed that the Clerk should look into the statement (**Clerks note: The PPC minutes have been amended following correspondence with their Clerk**)

Clerk also wished it to be known that despite rumours to the contrary he did not give permission for any works in Frogmore Lane nor has he the power to do so.

## 7/02/03      **Report of Chairman**

*Grant application* had been made to the Football Assoc./ Foundation regarding the MUGA and gates and fencing as per football club requests.

*OPFA* had inspected the recreational facilities prior to grant payment and had Given a clean bill of health. The inspector had asked for £50 expenses.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. HUGHES

SECONDED BY Cllr. PACKER

IT WAS RESOLVED that £50 be paid to OPFA

Further vandalism in the playarea had resulted in MDC welding looking at ways of securely anchoring the slide.

At this point the Transport Liason Cllr. (Cllr Sandels) spoke on a letter received regarding transportation grants for door to door service and costs  
 ie Stanford – Wantage £7 return Stanford to Oxford £17 return. As this system relies on volunteer drivers it was felt that this might interfere with the present system operated by the Church and the Mini-Bus.

*ORC Information Pack* – Cllr. Gill said that the present Village information had been around for some time and showed the Bampton pack as example. Cllr. Williams pointed out that advertising had financed previous packs. The pack was passed to Cllr. Bambury to cost with further costings being obtained elsewhere at his request.

*Vandalism* – spoke of meeting of tenants at White Horse Business Park and thefts from there. Clerk thought that the amount budgeted for security was well below actual amount required.

*Vine Cottage* – Clerk to contact District Council regarding the obstructions  
 General untidiness of the area of this listed building.

*Jubilee Garden* - .Cllr. Williams asked about the hedge which was designated as ancient hedgerow. This is to be restored and treated

3/6

8/02/03      **Correspondence**

- a) Berkeley Homes – Hand over of land ex- Fir Tree Nursery site. Clerk has spoken to Berkeley Homes as this also includes

grass cutting. The District Council have set a price for this which is less than our estimate as we cut the grass more often. Cllr. Bambury will contact the Ock Meadow residents group to gauge their feelings as it was thought that our mowers would be tidying the area anyway.

- b) Village Hall Management Committee – Thanks for donation towards draw
- c) Vale of White Horse DC – Changes in use/ inspection of electoral register
- d) \*\*\*\*\* - Election May 1<sup>st</sup> Estimated cost £1500 +
- e) \*\*\*\*\* - Countryside events programme
- f) Public Purposes Charity – Request for confirmation of payments and  
Certificates of satisfactory completion.
- g) Stanford Youth Club – Grant/donation via Oxford Community Foundation  
towards Youth Shelter/Kick wall

## **9/02/03          Planning Applications**

STA/13225/1          3 Spencers Close – 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension over existing double  
garage – following difficulties previously  
in this area re matching materials ensure that matching bricks  
are used.

STA/6480/1   Vale Stores Church Green – Change of use of ground floor retail  
unit to residential flat

STA/17807/1 Mill Farm Faringdon Road – Construction of free range poultry  
Housing

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr. WILLIAMS

SECONDED BY Cllr. HUGHES

IT WAS RESOLVED that STA/13225/1 – STA/6480/1 – STA/17807/1

be supported.

**10/02/03      To approve monthly statement of accounts**

Cllrs. Williams and Packer objected to the accounts

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr. Hughes

SECONDED BY Cllr. BAMBURY

IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be approved

**11/02/03      Accounts for payment**

D.M.Dew	Salary/expenses	476.19
<b>4/6</b>		
J.Northcote	Salary	112.80
Portwell Press	Repro	12.53
Impact Software	Annual support fee	55.00
Simpson & Grimes	Hall refurbishment	6363.00

Clerk provided list of payments made in December meeting ( Att to Minutes)

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr.WILLIAMS

SECONDED BY Cllr.BUNGAY

IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be paid

**12/02/03          Resolution from Cllr.McMorrow**

*To consider monetary reward for the apprehension and conviction of vandals*

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr. McMORROW

SECONDED BY Cllr. WILLIAMS

IT WAS RESOLVED that £200 reward be offered.

**13/02/03          Recreation and Leisure**

The new specification for fencing and boarding on the MUGA involved an Increase of £4300 including galvanised hot dip green chain link

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr.SANDELS

SECONDED BY Cllr.BUNGAY

IT WAS RESOLVED that this be accepted.

The Youth shelter contractor had asked if it could be used for inspecting by potential customers for which in return he would add a few decorative extras.



No objections from Council

Planning permission still needed for floodlighting. DW Homes will be constructing paths, a problem exists regarding a tree. Cllr. Gill to pursue

**14/02/03          Resolution from Cllr McMorrow**

*'To consider the weekly inspection of the Playarea becomes the Clerk's responsibility and the financial implications.*

Cllr. Williams stated that it must be mindful that the Clerk will be acting on behalf of the Parish Council.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr. McMORROW

SECONDED BY Cllr. WILLIAMS

**5/6**

IT WAS RESOLVED that the twice weekly inspection be carried out by the Clerk with a salary increase of one hour per week.

**15/02/03          Resolution from Cllr. McMorrow**

To consider that the membership of the Parish Council (Number of Councillors) be updated as per District Council Electoral Officer recommendation.

Clerk explained that the ERO had informed him that the PC was entitled to another member and after the parish review possibly another. At this

moment they required a resolution from the PC to increase by one. Clerk concerned that a further increase after the May elections could result in a further election and the associated costs.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Cllr.McMORROW

SECONDED BY Cllr.BURLS

IT WAS RESOLVED that they District Council be informed that this Council wished to increase the number of Councillors by one.

**16/02/03      Appointment of Parish Council Trustee – Public Purposes Charity**

Following the reading of applications it was decided that the position be offered to Mr. W.Grant.

**17/02/03      Appointment of Parish Council Trustee – Stanford Relief in Need**

Following the reading of applications it was decided that the position be offered to Mr.A.Bungay

There being no further business

ON THE PROPOSAL OF Cllr. BUNGAY

SECONDED BY Cllr. SANDELS

IT WAS RESOLVED that the meeting be closed



