

Minutes

FEBRUARY 2002

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2002 AT STANFORD VILLAGE HALL.

Questions/Comments from Parishioners.

For the Football Club, Mr. Grimes asked if the decision regarding the new lease had been made by the P.C. Chairman. Chairman replied no and that decisions were being made by specialists and the P.C. has no impact on the figures produced by the specialists, valuers, solicitors and lawyer and although the Football Club had received notification of the terms of the new lease, the matter still had to be discussed by Council although he thought it inadvisable to disagree with the specialists recommendations. Mrs. McMorrow stated that due to the differences at this meeting it was obvious why legal advice had to be taken and asked Mr. Grimes was his question really, had the Chairman made the decision. Mr. Grimes admitted this, to which the Chairman said no he had not.

Mr. Grimes asked about the new fencing around the recreation field, questioning the height, no gate behind goal area (to fetch ball) and did the Council not feel that some consultation would have been appropriate especially as the football club will be maintaining the fence. Mr. Gill explained the construction of the fence and agreed that the club should have been talked to. Mr.

Williams requested to speak as this part of the meeting was open. Chairman pointed out that Mr. Williams, in his previous position as Chairman had visited a solicitor and offered to extend the existing lease on the same terms of £1 per annum plus grass cutting. Mr. McMorrow pointed out Mr. Williams had failed to declare an interest in this. Mr. Wentworth asked Mr. Williams if his signature on the original lease was not on behalf of the football club

Discussions with P.C. Holder regarding village parking problems.

P.C. Holder stated that there were two problems - inconvenience and danger and there is a difference, only the latter can he act upon ie parking on bends, yellow lines, zig-zag markings and footpaths. Parking on grass verges is safer than the road even if unsightly. He also stated that he would only ask once and asked for instances where parking was becoming a problem and dangerous. Several sites were mentioned including Chapel Road, Huntersfield especially around the school which he will be dealing with. Mr. Gill thanked P.C. Holder for his help in obtaining the £1000 grant from the area Police fund towards the youth shelter. Chairman thanked our village policeman for attending the meeting.

Present:

Mr.P.G.McMorrow

Mr.M.Williams

Mr.P.Gill

Mrs.R.Packer

Mr.A.Bungay

Mr.S.Bambury

Mr.B.Burls

1/02/02 Apologies

Mrs.M.Sandels – Mr.G.Hughes

2/02/02 Minutes of meeting 5 December 2001

3/12/01(15/11/01) insert *specialist* before lawyer.Proposed by Mr.Gill seconded by Mr. Williams that after this amendment minutes be approved – Carried.

3/02/02 Matters arising

Due to his absence from the previous meeting Mr.Bambury asked for clarification on the following points 3/12 Bow Road – a planning issue 6/11 the 6 acre standard as set out by OPFA.

13/11 Chairman detailed difference in cost playarea footpath surface,between £1000 - £2000.Wickstead safety grass to be costed.

7/12 Apostles trees.Tree officer had agreed trimming and growth cutting otherwise the trees are OK

14/12 The Brambles have been attended to

15/12 New computer purchased

4/02/02 Report of District Councillor

1.At all the recent Council Meetings it has been revealed that unless recurring savings

- of £348,769 are made each year;by 2006 general fund balances would be exhausted
- 2.The Council has recently adopted a Property Investment Strategy.If services are to remain at the same level 2002-3,£1.1 million extra will have to be spent.
 - 3.At the Area Committee,two strategies for dealing with young people were outlined.
A new Community Safety Strategy has been formulated.Overall the Vale is still a Safe place to live,but 11 community safety issues were pin-pointed.
 - 4.Area committees are to administer Community grants and Village Improvement grants
The Community grants are allocated to each area on a population basis,but obviously towns will not benefit from the second type.The initial scheme will run from April 2002 and will be reviewed after 1 year.
 - 5.Improvements to Faringdon market Place will hopefully take place early in 2003.
 - 6.The Model Code of Conduct will be adopted bt all Parishes and the District en bloc.

5/02/02 Report of County Councillor (Read by Clerk)

COUNCIL TAX – At the full meeting of the County Council yesterday,the annual

Budget was debated and it was agreed that the County Council tax for 2002/2003 would be £767.66 for band D equivalent properties,which represents a tax increase of 9.8%.There would have been a percentage increase of 4.2% just for a “standstill”budget.However,together with cooperate measures(Broadband,ICT and modernisation),strategic measures(including restoring balances) and the enormous spending pressures on Social services(due to underfunding by Central Government) the percentage increase comes out at 9.8%.Social services in other Counties have similar problems with underfunding from Central Government and will no doubt have to have similar percentage increases.

MEETINGS WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS – Environmental Services is organising another round of its regular meetings with town and parish councils during March.The meeting for the Vale district is on 18 March in Abingdon and this is a very good opportunity to raise local issues of concern.Councillor Roy Tudor-Hughes who is the

Executive

member for Transport will also be present.

WINDMILL FARM UPDATE

In my report to the parish in December, I said that the decision had not yet been made on whether there would be an Environmental Impact Assessment on this project. It has now been confirmed that an assessment should be done and usually these reports take about 6 months to complete.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES – I would like some feedback from Parish Council Members and local residents as to whether holding a surgery would be of benefit to the community. I welcome anyone getting in touch with me at the present either by phone, letter or e-mail (anda.Fitzgerald@talk21.com) but wonder if holding a surgery would be beneficial – views please.

6/02/02 Report of Clerk

Ethical Framework – Chairman and Clerk attending OALC meeting 12/2/02. March

Meeting for signing of statements/declarations. Clerk's role to ensure that Councillors sign and to liaise with monitoring officers/Standards Officer regarding update of registers and to be the Council point of contact with the mo/so

Transco – It seems that rather than the whole village being piped Transco might be willing to convert individual roads. They certainly cannot feed from the new development.

Website – The website is registered www.stanfordinthevalepc.com.uk and although

still under construction will include minutes, accounts, newsletter, notice – board, and village calendar. Both Central Government and County Council were encouraging parish councils to go electronic and the Best Kept Village competition have included it in their questions. The cost of constructing the site was £100 but this includes indefinite support.

Standing Orders – Awaiting approval of New Ethical standards

Jubilee – Several organisations are holding events.Council will be completing Jubilee projects – Green,seats,garden.Mrs.Packer suggested 5 new Lime Trees on Church Green.Chairman to liase with arbourists.

Internal Audit – Clerk reminded Councillors that under the new Account And Audit regulations 2001 an independent internal auditor has to be appointed effective 1 April 2002,not necessarily qualified,but having no ties with the Council.

Item to March agenda.

Planning Green Paper – Clerk detailed concerns by County Council and others regarding the Green Paper.Clerk to duplicate response sheet to all Parish Councillors.Chairman read response from Countryside Agency who welcome the new Paper.

7/02/02 Correspondence

- a)Best Kept Village – Entry Form – Mr.Williams to produce map for judges
- b)ORCC – Member of staff to speak at Parish Meeting – Agreed to invite
- c)Stanford Primary School – Request for funding for Childrens Jubilee momento –
Proposed Mr.Williams seconded Mr.Bungay that £175
(50% of cost) be donated – approved.
- d)Vale of WHDC – New planning response form – Supported
- e) ***** - Twinning,German - placed on notice boards
- f) ***** - Spring Clean 13/21 April – 30 bags requested
- g) ***** - West Area Forum – Noted
- h) ***** - Fuel Poverty – Notice boards and Newsletter
- i) ***** - Goods Vehicle Operators License – Arrived to late for comment
but planning application had been approved by PC subject to route
strategy

- j) ***** - Parish Boundary review – Noted
- k) Oxfordshire C.C. – Cottage Road – Approval of roadworks/footpath
- l) ***** - Toilet facilities mobile Library – Resolved
- m) Oxfordshire C.C - Rural Traffic Zone – Noted
- n) R.Jackson MP – Re:B& Q awards/grants – Passed to Youth Club
- o) Public Purposes Charity – Re:Application for grants – approved in principle further details required.

8/02/02 Planning applications

STA/17231 – 9 Glebe Road – Previously approved

STA/8716/3 –LB – Coxs Hall – Previously approved

STA/17280 – 8 Church path - Rear extension – Supported – Matching materials

STA/6665/3 – 27 Chapel Road – Barn change of use to B&B accomm – Strongly objected to this application regarding parking and access and objections received.

STA/3373/5 Hills Farm Gainfield – Change of use – Agric.to B1& 7 B8 use. – Not supported due to objections, previous refusals of near properties and vehicle movements.

9/02/02 Monthly statement of accounts

Mr. Williams and Mrs.Packer objected to the accounts.proposed by Mr.Bambury

Seconded by Mr.Burls accounts be approved – carried

10/02/02 Accounts for payment

D.M.Dew	Salary & Expenses	
J.Northcote	Salary	
Impact	Accounts software	£ 45.00
Goodwood Tree Care	Tree surgery	£ 320.00

Natures Keepers	Tree Planting Rec.Field	£ 812.00
Betta Fencing	Rec Field Fence	£9679.00

It was proposed by Mr.Bambury seconded by Mr.Burls that the accounts be paid.

It was resolved that payment to Goodwood Tree Care would be withheld until items detailed were completed,and further that Betta Fencing were to be consulted about damaged posts before their payment.

11/02/02 Grant applications

It was proposed that this item be placed on the next agenda

12/02/02 Salary & hours review – Clerk,cleaner & handyman.

Dealing with the Clerk first the Chairman stated that the hours had not been changed for many years while the village had grown in size and the Clerks responsibilities and work greatly increased,especially in these times of new legislation,green papers etc.It was proposed by Mr.Bambury seconded by Mr.Burls that the Clerks hours be increased to 14 per week(from 10) as suggested by the Chairman – Carried

The hours for cleaner and handyman to remain as they are

13/02/02 Newsletter

Mr.Bambury had noted various items from the meeting and correspondence to include in the next newsletter.

14/02/02 Recreation & Leisure

Mr.Gill reported that the fencing is complete but was concerned regarding pathways to the gates which at present were mud.He talked about clear fence lines for easy gra cutting and also stated that the £1000 grant received was from the TVPolice southern

area fund not the Youth and Justice Board, therefore this source was still open and also further grants had been applied for.

There were further complaints regarding Dog Excrement in the Rec.Field. Now that it is completely fenced with self-closing gates it was proposed by Mr. Williams seconded by Mr. Bungay that there be a complete ban on dogs in the Recreation Field – Carried
Clerk to arrange further larger weather proof signs and will check with Vale of WHDC regarding local bye-law.

Chairman gave details of proposed playarea improvements of both equipment and surrounds and detailed costings as proposed by Mr. Herring. Playarea to next agenda.

Agenda item also to include discussions on signage (Jubilee Green) and a development Plan for the next 3 – 4 years.

15/02/02 Football Club Lease

Mr. Williams and Mr. Bungay declared an interest and left the meeting as did the members of the public.

The Chairman explained the use of the specialist lawyer and his advice was as had been sent to the Football Club - £600 per annum plus 25% and plus inflation rate added every third year. There were various discussions regarding other means and amounts, but Chairman reminded Councillors that this was less than other village organisations were paying for their facilities including the Brownies and Playgroup and even the Parish Council for their meetings.

It was proposed by Mr. Bambury seconded by Mr. Burls that the finance be as recommended. - The voting was 3 for the proposition 2 against – carried.

Mrs. Packer asked that her preference for a 5 year increase be minuted.

Chairman stated that in that case he wanted minuted that this would be contrary to legal opinion.

16/02/02 Other urgent business

Nil

