

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF STANFORD IN THE VALE held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Stanford Village Hall**

**Present: 5 Parish Councillors 1 District Councillor 3 Parishioners Parish Clerk**

1. Apologies M. Isaacs J. Warren S. Jackson K. Williams Cuss County Councillor

Thames Valley Police

2. Those present were welcomed by the Parish Council Chairman Cllr. P. Lewis

**3. Thames Valley Police report**

PC Maris sent his apologies and stated that there were 18 parishes and as he was unable to attend all it was considered not to attend any.

**4. First Responders report**

They are now known as Faringdon & District First Responders. It was reported that they had a new vehicle, the old one now being used as an event vehicle. They will be provided with Smart Phones in June, which will allow responders to send videos of patients for additional advice and also for use as Sat Navs. They are also receiving “up skilling” training enabling them to monitor blood pressure and diabetic sugar levels and further training which will allow them to train people in AED (Automated External Defibrillator) use and Basic Life Support. They are at present working to a 7 minute response time for category 1 emergencies but in the future this will include category 2 and it is expected that work load will increase. There are 3 responders in Stanford and while it would be ideal to have 24 hour cover, the NHS is not training any further persons at the present time.

Finally they thanked the PC for the donation to purchase new pad packs for the 2 village AEDs.

**5. Report of County Councillor**

In the absence of the County Councillor the report was read by the Clerk.

I am the County Councillor for the Kingston Bagpuize and Cumnor Division into which this parish falls. I endeavour to attend as many parish meetings as I can and I also sit on various County committees often attending multiple meetings in one evening

The state of the Highways is at the top of every county councillors list. This winter the gritter were sent out on 76 occasions using over 16,000 tonnes of salt.

County has purchased an additional Dragon patcher so that more potholes can be fixed. If all the roads in Oxfordshire were repaired it would cost in excess of £150 million well above budget

County Council has a responsibility for most vulnerable residents across the county in both adult and child social care, over 50% approx £240 million of the budget is spent on providing services for those residents which is around 2% of the population, this contrasts with highways which are used by about 100% of the population every day

A new Councillor Priority Fund Scheme has been launched, each Councillor having £15,000 per annum for two years to allocate to benefit the community and voluntary groups for local community projects.

Applications have to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Information about the scheme with application form is available on the Council’s website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund)

**6. Report of District Councillor**

Local Plan part 1 was passed in December and following consultation has been sent to the examiners as has part 2. It now no longer includes housing/villages as the Government announced various military bases will be shut down and includes Dalton Barracks(RAF Abingdon site) earmarked for dwellings, OCC and Vale being consulted and also about £240 million grant to upgrade A4130 and provide a new Thames bridge.

There will be further consultation regarding the Oxford – Cambridge Expressway. It is reported that vale leader Cllr.M.Barber is retiring and a new Council leader will be elected

## **7. Questions/comments from Attendees**

Nil

## **8. Finance report**

Chairman reported on what he stated were annual draft figures. Some items detailed were precept grant less than previous year, Legal & professional fees increased due to legal fees for QEII Field. Broadly speaking we are similar to last year.

## **9. Report of parish Council Chairman**

We have been working with the developer at Bow Farm to secure better proposals in terms of public open space as well as attempting to minimise the continuous delays from the many temporary road works that have been required by Thames Water.

Following continued delays with David Wilson Homes failing to meet various obligations set out in their planning permission for Nursery End, the matter has been handed to Vale's Planning Enforcement team. There are numerous outstanding issues, including missing bat & bird boxes, landscaping of the verge either side of the A417 and issues with boundary fencing/gates in relation to areas of public open space which preclude them being handed to the Parish at this time. Continuing the planning theme I thank all those involved on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for their time and efforts in moving this forward

Efforts to secure the necessary permissions to relocate power lines crossing the proposed Queen Elizabeth II Recreation filed still consume far too much time. However, after raising concerns with OCC in January regarding the lack of progress, I am pleased to confirm that we received and were able to sign the easement earlier this month.

We are also continuing to seek a suitable location for a new burial ground within the parish.

In 2017, in conjunction with OCC we were able to relocate the bus stop slightly on High Street, to avoid blocking the Hunters Field junction when the bus stops.

We also secured Tree Preservation Orders for the trees between Perrys Road and the football field.

The Parish Council was delighted to benefit from a community volunteering team from Amey Plc, lead by Amy Barratt and Ben Lewis – they spent a day clearing well established ivy and undergrowth from the boundary between the playarea and Jubilee gardens on Joyces Road. Whilst there is significantly more ivy to be removed, we very much appreciate their efforts in kick-starting this.

An additional 1,500 snowdrops have been planted around the village, bolstering the number of plants in Upper Green, Church Green, Manor Green and High Street/Anvil Court. Hopefully these will be evident next spring

That leaves me to thank our Clerk, staff, contractors & volunteers for all their hard work throughout the year, since without their efforts, our work would be made significantly harder!

Finally, my personal thanks to all members of the Council, who give up their time to provide expertise and insight into all Council matters including recreation, leisure, environment, finance & planning.

## **10 Environmental report**

Apologies from Environmental Chairman due to business commitments. Report read by Clerk

The committee encompasses a number of area within the village.

### **New Recreation land North of Cottage Road**

We are slowly getting to the point where OCC will allow us to move the pylons across the land. So far they have taken almost 2 years to approve this work which is enormously frustrating. Once approved we have been awarded 2 very generous grants by the Stanford PPC and by vale DC to pay for the removal of pylons and re-route a trench around the field perimeter. Once the pylons are move, Earthline have generously offered to level the field free of charge

Another village consultation has taken place giving the Council a good idea of the parishioners priorities for use of this new recreational land. Once the levelling is underway further community engagement will be prioritised

### **Footpaths & Cycleways**

Footpaths are an OCC responsibility, but we continue to encourage them to take action

- Your PC has been instrumental in securing a new footpath link from Horsecroft to Bow Farm which will come into use with the Phase 2 development of the new Ede Homes development by Bow farm
- An aspirational footpath map has been produced which looks forward to developing a greater number of circular walks around the village. This has been fully supported by OCC's Footpaths Officer and has been accepted by Vale DC as something to be incorporated into future plans and will also be published as part of the forthcoming draft Neighbourhood Plan
- 2 cycleways have similarly been proposed, one running North to Faringdon and one running South to Park Lane

### **Community Woodland**

Very many thanks to Alethea Crichton and her team of willing helpers for really moving the Community Woodland forward in the last year. It was a great growing year and despite some Ash Dieback there are now quite well established trees. The strip-wood in particular now has a number of specimens that are over 20 feet (6m) tall. Even today the village Beaver Group have been in the wood planting more trees. Anyone who wants to volunteer to get involve in looking after our Community Woodland, please let the Clerk know.

### **Trees & Flowers**

A number of new trees have been planted around the village and more than 1,500flowers have been planted in recent months. More plantings will follow along the A417 between the junction of High Street and the roundabout.

Over the next few months the Committee intend to engage with District Council about ensuring that the Tree Preservation Orders that are in place are still appropriate in our growing village

### **Nursery End Developments**

The Committee have been asked by VWHDC to stop engaging directly with David Wilson Homes over the development and formal handover and to let their enforcement team deal with the outstanding

requirements. We continue to monitor activities and continue to push for all the developer commitments and planning requirements to be met.

Finally may I sincerely thank all Parish Councillors and the many other volunteers for all their efforts to improve the environment within our village

## **11. Recreation & Leisure report**

There is consideration regarding adding new equipment to the playarea (Wooden Fort). The toddlers area matting to be cleaned

## **12. Neighbourhood Plan report (Presented by Cllr. P.Gill)**

Concerned about the number of houses that were being built, this parish decided it needed a Neighbourhood Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee (NPSC) has been working towards completing this task since 2014. Please look at our website at [www.sitvnp.com](http://www.sitvnp.com) where you will find all the information we have gathered so far, including records of public consultations, reports and other evidence plus agendas and minutes of our regular meetings.

So why have a Neighbourhood Plan?

We all want to protect and enhance what is good about our Parish of Stanford in the Vale, improve facilities and services and have a positive influence on future development. A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is an important way to do this.

- It will carry real weight in future planning matters.
- It can help direct where new homes, shops, offices, leisure facilities, schools and other developments should be built and what they should look like
- Our vision is “To be one of the best places in the South of England in which to work and play”

The last report mentioned Stanford Wildlife Assessment Team (SWAT) sustainability and the Primary School.

We can now provide you a further update on these topics, as follows:

Members of SWAT have provided a wealth of important wildlife related evidence supporting the conservation of Green Spaces in and around the Village and parish. A report of their findings is being shared tonight and copies are on the tables and will be available on the website. A more detailed display is being planned for the Summer festival.

A Sustainability Appraisal is being designed to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a Neighbourhood Plan. In doing so it helps to ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development. In line with this we have written and submitted to the planning authority (Vale of White Horse DC) a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Unfortunately, this has suffered a number of delays whilst VWHDC review the document. They have made several recommendations, which we are in the process of incorporating, as well as indicating that they will need to undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment in addition. This process has and continues to take a significant amount of time for members of the NPSC who, it should be remembered are volunteers working on your behalf.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has still not decided if expansion of the existing primary school is possible, even though a draft feasibility study on this subject was submitted to OCC in February 2016. OCC advised the NPSC that they were not able to fund desktop studies or consider potential sites for a new school but suggested that "Locality" might grant some funding. The NPSC were successful in securing such funding and commissioned Atkins Global to undertake desktop studies on three possible sites. The NPSC needs to consider alternative sites for education purposes, ensuring that a new primary school can be built if the present site is not able to expand, either now or at some time in the future. These desktop studies will form part of the evidence base of the Neighbourhood Plan. They have also been shared with Oxfordshire County Council, to inform and enable them to consider all options in relation to expansion.

At this point I will share my personal belief that OCC have no intention of taking note of their own feasibility study of 2016 nor the independent desktop studies. OCC state they have no monies to build a new school and can only consider expansion of the present site despite the forecast increase in numbers that would accompany 250+ more houses (Bow Farm, Horsecroft & the strategic site). It is my personal opinion that we must look to the future and ensure that our school has suitable facilities/resources to meet the needs of all the children coming to live here.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Steering Committee for all their efforts through the year. Also, to Peter Lewis(Chair Parish Council) for his knowledge and direction.  
Your NPSC – Sue Murrin, Richard Ryan, Roger Griffin, Hadyn Wood, Peter Gill(Senior Parish Councillor) and Peter Lewis (Chair Parish Council) – Rosemary Packer(Resigned during 2017)