

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd January 2013 in Stanford Village Hall Stanford in the Vale

Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and wishing them a Happy New Year

Questions/comments from Parishioners

Resident of Glebe Road raised concerns about the redundant communal oil tank and that the last known supplier denied any responsibility for its upkeep. The clerk also stated that he had trouble finding those responsible when oil from the tank started leaking at his property. The clerk to contact District Council Environmental Officer for advice.

Faringdon Road residents had noted that the village housing needs survey had not been mentioned by the Planning Officers when refusing the DWH application and as it was obvious that DWH would submit further plans did the Council intend to use the survey against any future application ?. Chairman stated that the Council had already noted that the survey had not been used by DC and would ensure that it would be used in any further application. The residents had engaged a planning consultant @£120 ph and asked if the Council would help financially. Chairman said that the Council would consider it but that no decision could be made at this meeting. It was also suggested that a village meeting be called to discuss any application. Cllr.Isaacs said that he intended to call a village meeting to discuss the finance and requirements for the new recreation field off Cottage Road and it would be a good idea to hold both at the same time. Date to be set at item 17 Committee reports.

Present: Cllr.Gill(Chair) Cllr.Warren Cllr.Bambury Cllr.Isaacs Cllr.Jackson
Cllr.Williams Cuss Cllr.N.Lewis Cllr.Tilley(County Cllr) M.Dew(Clerk)

12 Parishioners

01/01/13 Apologies

Cllr.P.Lewis Cllr.Monahan Smith (Business)

02/01/13 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Cllr.Gill, Cllr.Warren, Cllr.Bambury, Cllr.Isaacs, Cllr.Jackson, Cllr.N.Lewis, Cllr.Williams Cuss

Item 14 Precept setting 2013/14

03/01/13 Minutes of previous meeting 7th November 2012 to be received and signed as a true record

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr BAMBURY
SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record

04/01/13 Report of County Councillor

The county budget had to be reduced by 20% over the next 4 years and there were hard decisions make as to what will be cut. Councillor also will look at funding an additional "Visisign" road

sign in Bow Road and would also investigate the delay and problems with the lease for the rec area off Cottage Road. Funds for the repair of the footpath from Marlborough lane to the bridge was to be investigated. The edges of Cottage Road also need to be repaired. There was still some money left in the “Big Society Budget” for any other village improvements Councillor also reported that she now covered a larger area and would find it difficult to cover all parish meetings

05/01/13 To resolve to delegate the granting of dispensations with regard to Councillors declared interests to the Clerk of Council

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.BAMBURY
SECONDED BY Cllr JACKSON

IT WAS RESOLVED that the granting of dispensations be delegated to the Clerk of Council. The Clerk pointed out that Parish Councillors must declare to the Clerk any interests on agenda items the day before the meeting

06/01/13 Report of Clerk

- 1) Reminded council that there was still a vacancy for Council
- 2) Now that the URC was no longer available for meetings asked Council to consider if purchase of the building was an option giving Council both archives and office space thus alleviating the need to work from home. Loans were available from PWLB at a reduced interest rate. Chairman said that he was in discussion with the owners for their future plans for the building

07/01/13 Casual vacancy

As reported by Clerk. There had been no interest shown and Chairman asked that feelers be put out for volunteers for the vacancy.Item to next meeting

08/01/13 Report of Chairman inc items for next agenda

This New Year looks to be very interesting with a number of issues to work with.

Housing Development is clearly still on the horizon and we have to look closely at how DWH will react to the rejection of their current plans.

We met the Land Agent (November 21st) for the possible development of The Old nursery site off Bow Road. The owners are very keen to work with the council to develop the site with as much input as we would like suggesting number and type of housing. To discuss on Jan. 2nd and itemed on the agenda.

Councillors Banbury, Warren and I met with Lee Turner (Highways inspector) to discuss **traffic calming**. We agreed 30 mph flashing units placed at Bow Road and on A417 from Wantage (inside 30 mph limit). Funding from Councillor Tilley’s Community Fund.

United Reform Church- The filing cabinets have been removed from the building and housed at the Village Hall and we appreciate the agreement of the Management Committee. Also as parishioners have raised issues re the future of the building I have written to the Wessex Trust to open discussions bearing

in mind The PPC have supported the URC with grants of some £27,000

Since our last meeting Councillors Lewis, Warren and Gill have attended an interesting and beneficial

Town and Parish Forum organised and staffed by Vale Officers and Councillors. Topics included an overview of localism, planning and empowering communities; getting funding projects from development (S106), neighbourhood development plans- what's really in it for us? How can the council help us fund projects in our communities?

Also Councillors Lewis and Bambury met with Planning officers and councillors re ambiguity in **Planning decisions** etc.

I hope we will set our **Precept** at this next meeting taking on board the new government guidelines but I am sure the Vale Officers will assist if we need any support in the interpretation. Please make sure you have copies of the Precept calculations for the meeting.

OCC Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plans consultation- Councillor Isaacs may want to respond by January 9th. He stated that he had asked for:

- 1) Better liason between Environmental, Highways and Footpath Officers
- 2) Bridge repairs rather than waiting for replacements
- 3) That landowners in breach of regulations should be enforced to comply

As instructed by Council I have advertised the position of **Parish Clerk** in the "What's On" with applications closing on 14th January. Mike Dew has intimated that he has reconsidered his resignation decision and if Council were willing would be happy to continue at least until the end of the term of this Council. I suggest we hold a meeting of Councillors after the 14th January to discuss the above bearing in mind some of the issues raised in Mike's resignation letter. At this point Cllr Bambury put forward a resolution seconded by Cllr Isaacs that M.Dew's offer to stay as Clerk be accepted but after discussion and consideration that the position should be discussed after the meeting without the Clerk being present, the resolution was withdrawn

Internal Audit and or Internal Auditor- will comment at the meeting. Chairman had spoken to District Council regarding Internal Audit but Council considered that their fees were too high. A local accountant has offered to support the Council at least for one year. This offer is to be taken up.

Tree works are partly completed-Chapel Road and Upper Green to be started in the next few weeks. Ridge tiles on **Fire Engine Shed** have been repointed.

09/01/13 Correspondence

- 1) Parishioner – requesting answer to previous correspondence – Cllr.Bambury to respond
- 2) Preschool playgroup – Plans and request to erect signs – Council were not happy with size and colour and it was decide that Cllrs.Gill, Isaacs and Williams Cuss would meet the Preschool to discuss
- 3) RoSPA – Playground Inspection Training 2nd March 2013 – 3 Councillors had expressed an interest and will contact RoSPA themselves and Council will fund the training.

4) All letters for donation requests will be looked at during the March meeting

10/01/13 Planning

Nil

11/01/13 Report of District Councillor

Nil

12/01/13 Monthly statement of accounts

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS
SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved

13/01/13 Accounts for Payment

The following had been paid since the previous meeting and required approval

BT (Post Office)	Telephone	96.99
Mellors	Fuel	45.00
S.E.Electric	Switch Timer	90.00
M.Dew	Salary & Casual (Nov)	1207.02
HMRC	PAYE & NI	351.97
Mellors	Fuel	20.00
Trotters Treeworks	Tree Surgery	995.00
D.Rolls	Mowing	300.87
M.Dew	Salary & Casual (Dec)	661.32
HMRC	PAYE & NI	168.02

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS
SECONDED BY Cllr WILLIAMS CUSS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the payments be approved

14/01/13 Precept setting 2013/14

Following discussion regarding the new government regulations and guide lines which Council found to be confusing it was decided that after comparing with Band D the precept should be set at £19,200 a reduction from the previous year

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr BAMBURY
SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS
IT WAS RESOLVEDX that the precept for 2013/2014 be set at £19,200

15/01/13 Committee reports

Recreation and Leisure

To meet Wed 6th February and to include costings for repair of rec field fencing

Environmental

To meet 21st February to discuss playing field Cottage Road , Views and grants etc. in conjunction with village meeting (DWH application Faringdon Road)

16/01/13 To discuss proposed access to Old Nursery Site

Chairman informed of meeting with land agent who was keen to take on the PC and village requirements. The strip of land owned by the PC is required for access to the site and the PC does not have to sell the land. Chairman to report to land agent that when a decision is made about the application at Faringdon Road the PC will return to further discussion regarding the Old Nursery site

17/01/13 Date of next meeting

6th March 2013

Questions/comments from parishioners

A questions was asked about the precept tax base and who decided how many houses in the Parish. This figure is notified by District Council.

Several parishioners question “affordable housing” and the need in Stanford in the Vale and the fact that it was in fact “Social Housing” administered by a Housing Association. It was also said that people had moved out due to cost into cheaper accommodation.

As previously reported the Council considered the letter from the Clerk offering to withdraw his resignation. After discussion regarding “Job Specification” it was decided to accept the Clerks offer to stay until at least the end of this Council’s life and that a decision should be made as to his 6 months notice should be before or after the life of Council. *The Clerk has since intimated that it would be 6 months after the next election*