

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 in Stanford Village Hall

Present: Cllr.P.Lewis(Chair) Cllr.Warren Cllr. Bambury Cllr.Gill
Cllr. Isaacs Cllr.Sharp(District Councillor) M.Dew(Clerk) 4 parishioners

Chairman asked for a few moments silence in respect of Cllr.Peter Twentyman who passed away last week. He had not been a Councillor for long being co-opted earlier in the year.

Questions/comments from Parishioners

Regarding closure of Challow Bridge by Networkrail – Chairman stated that he had discussions with the relevant authorities and it is not possible to install a temporary bridge due to lack of space although there will be a footpath. It is hoped that the closure would be less than the 4 months predicted. Cllr.Isaacs asked that assurances be made regarding access for emergency vehicles. It was also feared that diversion routes could be blocked by flooding

1/07/14 Apologies:

Cllr.N.Lewis (Business) Cllr.Williams Cuss (Medical) Cllr.Jackson(Personal)
Cllr.Monahan Smith(Business) Cllr.Tilley(County Councillor – County business)

2/07/14 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Item 11 Accounts for payment – Cllr Gill, Cllr.Warren

Item 8 Correspondence – Cllr.P.Lewis – Tree lopping

Item 14 Neighbourhood Plan progress – Cllr.Warren – reference to Stanford Primary school

3/07/14 Minutes of previous meeting 7th May 2014 to be received and signed as a true record

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr WARREN

SECONDED BY Cllr ISAACS

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record

4/04/14 Report of County Councillor

Read by Clerk:

- We are working with Networkrail to minimise disruption when the Challow Bridge is worked on
- I am also trying to minimise disruption when Stanford gets a new road surface
- I am also working with Environment on the Cottage road field. I cannot understand why this is not going ahead. I will speak to the Leader and the Cabinet Member again today and try to organise a meeting for Peter, Mark and myself to try to shake something up.

- I suppose all the road works will be a good thing eventually, meantime, everyone will find life difficult. Anything else please let me know. Melinda Tilley

5/05/14 **Report of District Councillor**

Local Plan next consultation is due in October/November following responses to the previous consultation. Recycling, the Vale is rated third in the country. There is consideration regarding reverting to a weekly refuse collection, food waste already being collected weekly. Question about a recent planning appeal Councillor Isaacs stated that the video used was not good and planning officers comments were at times untrue

6/05/14 **Report of Clerk**

- Re: printer – asked that purchase of new economical printer be delayed to use existing mono cartridges the colour having been returned to Viking for a credit note – Agreed
- **Flower box Cottage road** – believed to have been “demolished” by OCC contractors. OCC informed and are investigating. D.Rolls to manufacture new box , Primary school to plant
- Forest Grove grass cutting – Vale had been contacted and were willing to award us the contract at £689.83 for 11 cuts this being for grass only. Having looked at the area and actually mowing the area it was found that some parts were virtually inaccessible and length of time taken did not make this a feasible proposition.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr.BAMBURY

IT WAS RESOLVED that District Council be informed that at this time we would not take the contract but in the future following the expected purchase of more economical machinery we would contact them again

- Winter preparations – Have passed communication from OCC to Cllr Gill who had dealt with order of salt the previous year
- Mower key – Cllr Gill to contact SVS regarding replacement ignition key
- Flooding High St – Following communication from a parishioner OCC contacted and informed of owner of field adj 63-71 High St where it is thought that blocked ditches are causing flooding
- **Litter bins** – I replaced by VWHDC in village hall carpark we will have to replace one on Millennium Green with one we have in stock **Now in Forest Grove**
- Cllr Gill commented on grass cutting of verges at junctions. Clerk stated that this was an OCC Highways task. Cllr Gill said it was at times so overgrown as to be dangerous as was the verges
- **In Bow Road. Cllr Isaacs asked if the Clerk could provide a map of areas that were contracted for us to cut by OCC.** It was also resolved that Cllr Gill contact a contractor to cut verges in Bow Rd

Clerk reminded council that was now a vacancy for a councillor and cooption should be considered. Cllr Isaacs stated that he knew somebody who was interested and although council were glad that someone was keen to volunteer it was thought that the position should be advertised both on notice boards and newsletter

7/07/14 Report of Chairman inc Items for next agenda

- As reported in my opening comments to the meeting, further to the very sad news of the death of Cllr. Twentyman, I have sent a card to Cllr. Twentyman's wife, on behalf of Council. Furthermore I would like to propose that we send either flowers or a donation when the arrangements regarding the funeral/memorial service are known.
- **RoSPA Play Safety Team Play Area Inspection** – scheduled for July
- **Burial Ground** – have been in touch with the vicar to confirm that we are aware and investigating – this matter is ongoing
- **High Street – road closure.** Cllr Gill reported that he had met with an officer from OCC, there were to be additional markings on the corner between Horsecroft and Sheards Lane, with a "Slow" marking added to the road surface between Church Green and Horsecroft, with the 30MPH sign moved to the footpath side at the same location. OCC appeared to have suggested that they would not be in a position to amend their proposed 2 week closure until works began. Chairman requested contact details for the officers at OCC and would follow this up further.
- **Challow Bridge – closure.** I attended the meeting in the Village Hall earlier, hosted by Network Rail, and discussed the various issues with their lead Project Manager. He is adamant that the 4 month closure is the worst-case scenario and that they are actively working with the contractor to find ways to significantly reduce this time frame. He also advised that if there were opportunities to re-open the road at any time, during the works they would do so. I further suggested that Network Rail & their contractors need to put in place a suitable communications programme so that updates relating to the progress of the works, expected delays, or improvements to the timeframes can be easily communicated to the wider community.
- **DWH 'Nursery End' development** – have had significant correspondence with OCC and believe, based on emails received today that we are all agreed that the raised tables will not be relocated to alongside the letting rooms of the Horse & Jockey. No further news on surface water approach/modifications (OCC believe it to have been modified, but don't have any details) – have drawn this to the attention of the new Development Manager at VWHDC, awaiting reply. Have also been discussing the **Puffin Crossing proposals** and associated "street furniture" with OCC as part of their consultation – we sincerely hope that the officers take due regard of the points raised. Change of materials – deferred until the developer produces a sample "wall" for District Councillors to inspect.
- **Bow Road Development** – as you will be aware I attended the Planning Committee recently, following discussions with OCC beforehand surrounding concerns regarding the access. In light of this we urged the Planning Committee to ensure that a condition was placed to ensure that the access met Highways standards. Planning

permission was granted, with this condition in place. We are also working with the developer/land-owner towards delivering a public right of way to the east of the village, as part of this agreement.

- **Internal Audit** – I already circulated recent correspondence between myself and the internal auditor, which has led to the audit being approved. 2 main recommendations:

1 – cheques to be signed accompanied by invoices (which can be filed once signed)
2- risk assessment – annual review (with particular regard to fidelity guarantee)

I would propose that we adopt the auditor's recommendations.

- Unfortunately, our current Internal Auditor, John Hardcastle, is unexpectedly moving house. I wish to propose a vote of thanks for his hard work, but Council should be aware that we have a vacancy and an obligation to find another Internal Auditor at the earliest opportunity.
- I received a complaint concerning over-growth reducing access to the footpath between Cottage Road and Joyce's Road as well as between Perry's Road and Cottage Road (alongside the football field). Whilst one of these is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council, we have taken measures to address the issue and ensure that the paths are useable again.
- **Finance/S106** – as you know we are expecting to receive a significant sum of money towards the long term upkeep of the Public Open Space areas within the DWH 'Nursery End' development. Personally, I would advocate investing the capital and the return should be used to fund the ongoing long term works. To that end I have approached both my own IFA as well as the Public Purposes Charity to see what options maybe available to us. There are some government guidelines, but with the sums involved it is for the Parish Council to determine to what extent the guidelines should apply. However, we will need to draw up an Investment Strategy. In due course, I will circulate draft for consideration in due course.
- **Old Mill Nursery Site** – you will have seen the correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate confirming that it is possible to explore a "land exchange" for an area of Village Green. This would be subject to an independent adjudication of the exchange by a Planning Inspector and at a cost of some £5,000. This was discussed by Council, with the overall opinion being that the matter was best left until the Neighbourhood Plan had completed its work with regards site assessments.

8/07/14

Correspondence

- VWHDC – Notice of planning appeal Land at Penstones Farm Horsecroft – Noted
- I Love Horsecroft Group – re Penstones Farm Appeal – Council comments already made known
- Independent Advice Centre – Notification of AGM
- South & Vale Carers Centre – Thanks for donation
- Internal Auditor – report of Internal Auditor – Noted

30 day Notice Account

Beginning Balance 7873.79

Registered Balance 09/05/14 7873.79

11/07/14 Accounts for Payment

Accounts for payment/approval June/July 2014

7 May	SVS	Mower Service	602.34*
7 May	TVE Hire	Zip Wire Fencing	102.65*
7 May	Viking Direct	Office equip	226.72* *
12 May	Mellors	Fuel	45.00*
12 May	SVS	Mower Service	536.29*
23 May	Village Hall	Hall hire	10.50
23 May	TVE Hire	Zip Wire Fencing Hire	29.33*
23 May	SVS	Mower tyres	162.72*
24 May	D.Rolls	Mowing 408.00 Fencing 16.00	424.00
30 May	D.M.Dew	Salary	684.69
30 May	Post Office	HMRC PAYE & NI	197.59
30 May	C.Stallard	Litter picking	60.00
30 May	M.Johnson	Strimming	154.00
9 June	OALC	Chairmanship course	156.00*
10 June	Mellors	Fuel	20.00*
10 June	Village Hall	Hall hire	10.50
2 July	Sweetfuels	Mower diesel	309.75*
2 July	D.M.Dew	Salary 580.52 Strimming 17.00	597.52
2 July	C.Stallard	Litter picking	60.00
2 July	Post Office	HMRC PAYE & NI	161.21

*Inc VAT

* Viking Direct payment credit note issued £136.16 for returned goods

Plus 8 cheques total £742.98 for Neighbourhood Plan Invoices not yet received

12/07/14 Hiring of Land Agent

On going to completion of Neighbourhood Plan

13/07/14 Reports from Committees

Nothing to report. Clerk stated that weekly reports are not being sent to him

14/07/14 Neighbourhood Plan progress

Council decided that they were not in a position at the present moment to approve a **summary of the plan**. Hopefully Councillors will attend Mondays NP meeting and a decision to

approve the summary could be made by Wednesday. Following a discussion with Cllrs Gill and Warren (Members of the NP steering committee) Cllr Isaacs said that he had attended a Neighbourhood Planning Committee on Monday. He expressed concerns that favoured options were being discussed before all the objective assessments had been made. He expressed particular concerns about the idea of building houses on the football field making the point that this option could not objectively be considered as something that the village had been in favour of from the survey and that once green space (in what will be even more central to the village) was built on it would be lost forever. He stated that although it may take longer to raise money by working with external funding bodies than just selling off land: in the long term he believed that this was in the best interests of the community and he considered that this issue should be put to the village in these terms in the next survey and in the subsequent referendum. Cllr Isaacs also complemented the volunteers on the NP for their hard work.

Cllr.Gill stated that there was bound to be disagreement over emphasis

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that standing orders be suspended due to being past 10pm and allow the meeting to continue

Cllr.Warren said she was concerned about the school and there was a Feasibility study being **donefacilities test** by OCC

In all the NP was making progress

It emerged during discussions that the school had asked OCC to provide no parking road markings outside the school car park entrance which had already been marked out. Council **were unhappy that they had not been asked about this which they considered an unnecessary restriction. Chairman to contact OCC highways for an explanation**

15/07/14 Date of next meeting

3rd September 2014