

Minutes of a meeting of the STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 13th July 2011 in the Millennium Hall Stanford in the Vale.

There were no comments/questions from Parishioners

**Present: Cllr Gill(Chairman) Cllr Bambury Cllr Hughes Cllr Monahan Smith
Cllr P.Lewis Cllr Jackson Cllr.N.Lewis Cllr Warren**

Cllr Sharp(VWHDC) @ 2040 D.M.Dew (Clerk) 4 Parishioners

01/07/11 Apologies

Cllr Isaacs(Business) Cllr Williams Cuss((Personal)
Cllr Tilley(OCC – Meeting) Cllr Sharp(VWHDC – Meeting) until 2040

02/07/11 Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any agenda item

Cllr P.Lewis - Item 11 Communications inc website

03/07/11 Minutes of previous meeting 22nd June 2011 to be received and signed as a true record

05/06/11 Report of Chairman – 1st line delete 4th word “Were” insert “where”

06/06/11 Correspondence – Cllr Hughes said that he had asked for a copy of the chairmans reply to be sent to him – This was not accepted by the meeting as the chairman was to read out his reply
After these alterations

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr P.LEWIS
SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY

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

04/07/11 Report of Clerk

Vandalism – Appears we have a spate of vandalism – Play equipment,notice boards and lock on mower storage door (Filled with glass)

Playarea gates – Chairman and Cllr Jackson had made enquiries regarding gate closures and 5 – 8 seconds closure are recommended. Quotes were awaited from fencing companies.Cllr N.Lewis asked if we should not be obtaining 3 quotes but it was felt that this was a matter of Health & Safety and not a large contract.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr HUGHES

SECONDED BY Cllr MONAHAN SMITH

IT WAS RESOLVED that up to £250 be spent on closures if required

Speed Bumps Cottage Road – Highways had informed clerk that no finance was available and pointed out restrictions on speed bumps.

Pre-school playgroup building ownership – Information received from council solicitor changing the original decision it now appears that the building is a council asset

Remembrance day – Clerk asked about wreaths as village organisations had used original one each year and as these had now become “tatty” and been taken away what would be the arrangements for the coming year ceremony. Clerk to write to organisations explaining the situation

Trees – Some of the trees (12 Apostles) in Chapel Road seem to have a disease. The Tree Officer (VWHDC) has been informed for advice

Mowers – Both out of action 1 x Puncture 1 x Hydraulics both being attended to. Cllr Jackson questioned the use of John Deere engineers. Clerk replied that local engineers had carried out stopgap repairs previously.

Transfer of funds – Due to large floodlight erection bill clerk has transferred £10,000 to current account

Gratuity – Clerk explained that he had refused a pension in favour of a gratuity due to cost to council of a pension. A sum of money had been set aside but clerk had discovered that this amount was over the legal limit and had with the internal auditor taken the amount out of the accounts earmarked funds back into council accounts. Clerk had received notice from NALC that the official breakdown is Lower earning level (£5304) x years service x 3.75% at present in clerks case equates to £2780 approx.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr GILL

SECONDED BY Cllr BAMBURY

IT WAS RESOLVED that a gratuity payment be approved and that the present amount of £2780 be included in accounts

05/07/11 Report of Chairman inc items for next agenda

PPC had written re Floodlight grants and request for allotments in the QE 2 fields. The council were a long way from taking over the field and therefore were not in a position to agree.

Footpaths – OCC Highways were still looking at the clearance

Play area gates - as previously discussed

Floodlights – installation was taking place. Cllr Jackson thought that the contractors had not adhered to the planning application and were also galvanised silver rather than green. Clerk to check with SEB and co-ordinator Mr McMorrow

QE2 Field - Grants available (£5000 - £25000) for outdoor improvements
Chairman to contact fund organisers to explain our circumstances
War Memorial – PPC were going ahead with a War Memorial as scheduled by War Graves Commission and British Legion approved designs and with their agreement. The preferred site is inside the churchyard although the Parish Council had previously not agreed with this position. Council agreed a letter should be sent acknowledging the efforts of the PPC in this matter and looked forward to a successful conclusion.
Street cleaning – complaints had been received that the VWHDC road sweeper was not doing a satisfactory job. If parishioners consider this to be so they should contact a Councillor
Chairman read his letter of reply to Mrs G.McMorrow. Cllr Hughes requested a copy and asked why the Chairman felt it necessary to apologise to Mrs Greenwood
Chairman said that he was upset by the meeting where the alleged incidents took place. It was felt that it was up to the VHMC if they wished to apologise and Cllr Warren said she intended to raise the matter at the next VHMC meeting. Cllr N.Lewis said that she found the whole discussion made her feel uncomfortable because of the tone of comments from Councillors.
Next agenda – Newsletter

06/07/11 Correspondence

Mrs.G.McMorrow – Not satisfied with reply from Chairman as he had omitted to “answer any of the specific questions I asked” – Chairman to consider a further reply.

VWHDC – Town and Parish Council Planning Training – Details of training courses 28th September Wantage Civic Hall. Cllrs Warren, Jackson & P.Lewis expressed an interest in attending . To confirm

Thames Valley Police – July report – To Newsletter

O.C.C. – Community Emergency Plans – Item to next agenda

SIV FC – Notification of “festiVALE” at football ground 30th July – Noted

Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme – Details of scheme promoting recognition and awareness of people etc significant in life of Oxfordshire. Nominations requested although there were conditions and approx cost £500 – Noted

PPC – As detailed in Chairman’s report

VWHDC – Monitoring Officer – Decision notices regarding complaints against Cllr.P.G.McMorrow, Cllr.Mrs.G.McMorrow and Cllr.M.Isaacs. On all allegations there was “No evidence to support the allegations and there was no failure to comply with the Code of Conduct” – Noted

Mrs.S.Day – Correspondence regarding the allegations against the McMorrrows and surprise that they had not been re-elected and considered it was caused by a

smear campaign. Considered that a new election be called. – Cllr Bambury and Cllr Hughes are to visit Mrs Day to discuss the letter and her questions

07/07/11 Planning applications

Nil

08/07/11 Monthly statement of accounts

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr BAMBURY
SECONDED BY Cllr MONAHAN SMITH
IT WAS RESOLVED that the monthly statement of accounts be approved

09/07/11 Accounts for payment

Mellors of Challow Ltd	Fuel	87.00
P.Keen	Gardening	130.00
SE Contractors	Floodlights	8273.60
Vale Game	Wasp nest	47.40

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr J.WARREN
SECONDED BY Cllr P.LEWIS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be paid

10/07/11 Cllr.Williams Cuss

Councillor having given her apologies, these items for next agenda

11/07/11 Cllr.P.Lewis

Speed signs would cost about £1600. Felt that council should identify roads that would benefit and council should look at this when budgeting. It was felt that the PPC might give a grant towards purchase
Website was under construction and hosting etc would be no more than £6 pa if his organisation ran it.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr N.LEWIS
SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN
IT WAS RESOLVED to accept this offer with thanks

12/07/11 Recreation and Leisure report

Cllr Jackson, Chairman and Clerk read reports from Cllr Williams Cuss regarding visits to the Jubilee Gardens and the need to tidy and replace as they are in a bad state.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr P.LEWIS

SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the gardens be tidied bearing in mind the original purpose of the gardens

Cllr Jackson also reported on MUGA repair, will provide laminated “NO DOG” signs and reported that the skate park needs painting again according to the users. He has volunteers to carry out the work

13/07/11 Environmental report

Nil

14/07/11 Date of next meeting

7th September 2011

The meeting closed at 21 50 Hours

Questions/Comments from Parishioners

Mrs. Bungay stated that she was still unhappy about the situation regarding the allegations against the 3 accused persons. She wanted to know who had sent the letter of complaint on VHMC letterhead especially when Mrs Greenwood had stated that she had not made a complaint. She felt that the letter sent by Mrs. Day was echoed by other Parishioners. Mrs Stenzhorn said that she and other villagers had voted for the people they knew would do a good job, who were involved within the village and seen around the village. She thought that was why people had not voted for the Mcmorrows. There followed a heated discussion mainly by attending Parishioners until the Chairman called a halt to proceedings at 2205

