



**Minutes of a meeting of STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Middleton (Chair) Cllr. Austin Cllr. Bowers Cllr. Brooks Cllr. Dixon
Cllr. Isaacs Cllr. Kent Claire Lewis (Clerk) Cllr. Caul (VWHDC)
4 members of the public

01/04/24 To receive apologies

Cllr. Howes
Cllr. Lewis

02/04/24 To receive Declarations of Interest from Cllrs on any agenda item

Cllr. Middleton – item 13 charitable donations (member of Vale Community Impact)

03/04/24 To receive, approve & sign as a true record, minutes of previous meeting 6 March 2024

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Dixon
SECONDED By Cllr. Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted

All in favour with 1 abstention from councillor not at the previous meeting

04/04/24 To receive report of County Councillor

Nothing received from Cllr. Ash.

05/04/24 To receive report of District Councillor

1. The draft Vale Leisure Strategy consultation closes on the April 17th:

[Help shape the future of sporting and leisure facilities - Vale of White Horse District Council \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

Currently the strategies only reference one Stanford in the Vale leisure facility in passing – the MUGA. There are no references to other existing facilities or to the plans for the QEII field. The Parish Council has not been consulted in the leisure strategy and it is severely lacking for Stanford.

Action: There needs to be a co-ordinated response on behalf of Stanford in the Vale to include the existing facilities and plans for the QEII field. Cllr. Isaacs to look at the response, though the timeframes make this a challenge. Clerk to put consultation link on village Facebook page and encourage parishioners to respond.

2. Cllr. Caul advised that the application for S106 money should be made as soon as possible for the archaeological survey.

Matters raised by councillors: Bow Road to Horsecroft footpath – it is unclear what the next steps are. There is a land dispute, but that is a separate issue (and away from the footpath). The Parish Council's view is that Vale can progress the footpath.

Nursery End transfer: Some rights of way/old land covenants were not negated when the land was transferred to David Wilson homes. The Parish Council has been advised by our solicitor that we cannot sign any agreements whilst these are still in existence. This is causing delay to the transfer.

Signed.....

Date.....

06/04/24 Questions/comments from Parishioners

A parishioner raised the issue of the A417 speed limit and that the River Meadow development has been allowed to happen before the installation of a crossing and the reduction in speed limit of the A417 from 40mph to 30mph. His question is how OCC has allowed this to happen.

07/04/24 To receive report of Chairman inc. items for next agenda

Community woodland

Following on from the recent meeting with OCC, they have sent us a proposed management plan for the woodland.

Footpaths

We have received the latest unresolved issues list for local footpaths from Oxfordshire Ramblers. We are currently still looking for a parish footpath warden to replace one of the volunteers who stood down a while ago. There is a workshop for parish path wardens on Fri 26th April in Bicester.

Street naming

We've had a request from a parishioner that we change our policy on street naming of not putting forward names of those who have relatives still living in the village. **Action:** The relative's name is on the list for the next street naming. Cllr. Isaacs to write to the parishioner to let them know.

Climate action fund

Recent councillor resignations have left us short-handed in trying to move forward the garden regeneration project in the play area that we have funding for. I'm struggling to free up any meaningful time to look at it due to my workload as chair. If any councillors would like to support this, please let me know.

Church Green corner

We had another instance of the Biffa food recycling collection van trying to make the 'impossible turn' left out of Church Green, which has previously led to damage to the corner of the green where we added topsoil and reseeded. Cllr Lewis has been speaking to Biffa to try to resolve the issue with a suggested change of route.

Daffodil planting

I have written to Nick Boden to thank him on behalf of the parish council for planting by hand the daffodils that have been blooming recently on the greens and verges.

Surveys

I put two surveys in the recent parish council newsletter: one on the proposed 30mph limit on the A417 and one to consult on the skatepark teen shelter in support of the S106 application.

Manorwood homes

Following on from our meeting, we are waiting for them to share with us the legal advice they received regarding the status of Upper Green and potential access to the Old Mill Nursery site via Upper Green.

Action: Cllr. Brooks will review the woodland management strategy

08/04/24 To receive correspondence and Clerk's Report

Correspondence – relevant copies are in the meeting correspondence folder

1. The OALC newsletter is in the folder.
2. There is a letter concerning the EV microhub rollout in the folder. See also [Oxfordshire awarded £3.6 million to triple public electric vehicle charging provision by 2025](#)
3. Cottage road will be closed for one day on June 9th for Openreach work - TTRO in folder.
4. The Preschool has written to let us know that they have received an 'Outstanding' grading by OFSTED, with no suggestions for improvement. A copy of the OFSTED report is in the folder. **Action:** Cllr. Isaacs to write a letter of congratulations to preschool.

Cllr. Caul has asked me to share the following with you:

Signed.....

Date.....

1. Councillors might find the Rural Services Network Seminar on the Rural Economy of interest:

[RSN Seminar: Rural Economy Registration, Wed 24 Apr 2024 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#)

2. Respond to the Town & Parish Council consultation on Climate Action which closes on the 18th April:

[Supporting your council to take climate action - Join the conversation - South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse - Citizen Space \(southandvale.gov.uk\)](#)

Clerk's report

1. A resident has been in touch to ask about marking out parking bays on Upper Green. This is classed as OCC highway so I have directed to them in the first instance.
2. Another resident has enquired whether a neighbour, who has installed a mobile home in their garden, with mains water and electricity, with someone living in it, needs planning permission. I have offered to speak to VWHDC planning.
3. A hedge company erected an advertising hoarding on the A417 roundabout (amongst others). I raised a FixMyStreet on 22nd March and received an email on 3rd April to tell me that the PC could help by removing it ourselves, but otherwise they will remove it within 7 days. It seems to have blown down in the interim.
4. We have received the first half of the precept, £15,000, today.
5. The saga of Church Green corner continues, with the wooden edging been driven over several times. Cllr. Lewis has spoken with Biffa, whose food bin collection vehicle continues to drive over it. I will speak to Mr Willis after the school holidays about a more permanent solution.
6. I completed a FOI request for information about an OCC highways officer.
7. I requested more dog fouling signs – a Vale Environment Enforcement officer wrote to say he had put more up in 'in the key areas around Stanford in Vale'. If you receive complaints of any other areas of concern, please let me know so that I can chase.
8. The link to the A417 speed limit consultation is on the village Facebook page.
9. A dog bin has been removed on the corner of Green Lane and Horsecroft. I will follow up with Vale Waste team.
10. Recent application decisions:

P23/V2330/LDE and P23/V2331/LDE – CLEUD Dixie Down Meadows – REFUSED

09/04/24 To discuss planning applications:

- a. **P24/V0488/N4B - Mill Farm** – poultry house conversion

The Parish Council has no response to this application.

10/04/24 To approve Accounts for Payment

7:23 PM

02/04/24

**Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
Reconciliation Detail
Current Account - TSB, Period Ending 31/03/24**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						3,698.42
Cleared Transactions						
Cheques and Payments - 9 items						
Bill Pmt -Cheque	23/02/24	BACS	Community First 1	Annual subscription	-70.00	-70.00
Bill Pmt -Cheque	18/03/24	BACS	EON.Next	EON February bill	-105.40	-175.40
General Journal	28/03/24	2021-1...	Claire Lewis	65hrs @ SCP 22	-1,058.35	-1,233.75
Bill Pmt -Cheque	28/03/24	BACS	D Rolls	Wages and expenses	-293.74	-1,527.49
Bill Pmt -Cheque	28/03/24	BACS	Stephen Rolls	Litter picker wages	-98.37	-1,625.86
Bill Pmt -Cheque	28/03/24	BACS	Oxfordshire Playing Fie...	OPFA Renewal	-59.00	-1,684.86
Bill Pmt -Cheque	28/03/24	BACS	Claire Lewis (Expenses)	Litter pickers and land search	-54.61	-1,739.47
General Journal	28/03/24	2021-1...	HMRC - PAYE & NI	65hrs @ SCP 22	-42.76	-1,782.23
Bill Pmt -Cheque	28/03/24	BACS	SITV Village Hall	PC February meeting	-20.00	-1,802.23
Total Cheques and Payments					-1,802.23	-1,802.23
Deposits and Credits - 2 items						
Deposit	14/03/24			Gigaclear wayleave	1,650.00	1,650.00
Payment	23/03/24		SITV Football Club	Balancing payment for lease	181.96	1,831.96
Total Deposits and Credits					1,831.96	1,831.96
Total Cleared Transactions					29.73	29.73
Cleared Balance					29.73	3,728.15
Register Balance as of 31/03/24					29.73	3,728.15
Ending Balance					29.73	3,728.15

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

Signed.....

Date.....

SECONDED BY Cllr. Brooks

IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts be approved. All in favour

11/04/24

To approve Monthly Statement of Accounts

4:26 PM

20/05/24

Accrual Basis

Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
Statement of Accounts - Summary
As of 31 March 2024

	31 Mar 24	31 Dec 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Current Account - TSB		
Reserves - Comm. Garden	1,645.00	1,645.00
Reserves - Security	1,000.00	1,000.00
Reserves - CIL	498.68	4,998.68
Reserves - NP	145.10	145.10
Current Account - TSB - Other	439.37	2,709.70
Total Current Account - TSB	3,728.15	10,498.48
Redwood 35 Day Savings Account		
Reserves - Play Equipment Savin	750.00	750.00
Reserves - CIL Savings	45,133.23	40,633.23
Reserves - NP Savings	3,589.05	3,589.05
Redwood 35 Day Savings Account - ...	7,556.70	11,603.76
Total Redwood 35 Day Savings Account	57,028.98	56,576.04
Total Cash at bank and in hand	60,757.13	67,074.52
Total Current Assets	60,757.13	67,074.52
NET CURRENT ASSETS	60,757.13	67,074.52
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	60,757.13	67,074.52
NET ASSETS	60,757.13	67,074.52
Capital and Reserves	0.00	0.00

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved. All in favour

12/04/24

To discuss progress on the Horsecroft to Bow Farm Footpath

Covered in discussion with Cllr. Caul above

13/04/24

To agree which charities will receive the £250 23/24 budget grant

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Middleton

IT WAS RESOLVED to give £175 to Citizens Advice Bureau and £75 to The Place. All in favour. **Action:** Clerk to communicate and set up payments.

14/04/24

To approve changes to the Financial Regulations in line with revised thresholds

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED to change £25000 to £30000 in section 11 b and h to bring in line with the latest government-defined contract thresholds. All in favour.

Action: Clerk to make changes

15/04/24

To review rates of pay for the maintenance contractors

Signed.....

Date.....

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED that the contractors rate of pay be equalised at £12.50 per hour, effective April 1st

16/04/24

To approve supplier and authorise purchase of replacement play fort

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED that the PC selects the Alvia play unit and add-ons from Eibe as per the quotation, up to a total of £30,000

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED that the PC sets a budget for removal of existing play fort and installation of new fort of up to £5000.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED that the PC applies to the PPC for the installation costs

17/04/24

To discuss managing areas of grass verge for nature recovery and biodiversity gain

Cllr. Brooks proposed that a trial of a triangular piece of land between Spinages and the United Reform Church be left. Cllr. Brooks to liaise with the residents and investigate putting up signage. Cllr. Middleton will put something into the newsletter. **Action:** Clerk to let Darren know not to mow.

18/04/24

To discuss a Gypsy and Traveller policy

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council is authorised to spend up to £4000 for the removal of illegal Gypsy and Traveller encampments if necessary. 5 in favour and 2 against.

19/04/24

To discuss the Football Club lease

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Isaacs

IT WAS RESOLVED that a working group of Cllr. Isaacs, Cllr. Austin, Cllr. Kent, Cllr. Middleton and Cllr. Lewis is formed to negotiate and draft the terms of a new lease.

20/04/24

To discuss maintenance of the A417 Roundabout

Parish Council is awaiting a response from OCC. Roundabout is possibility for a Public Work of Art.

21/04/24

To discuss Nursery End transfer

Covered in discussion with District Councillor above

22/04/24

To receive an update on Gigaclear and Airband issues

Airband are removing all the infrastructure as they are no longer coming into the village. Gigaclear – meeting scheduled for 11th April and OCC infrastructure manager to walk around the village and check that everything has been reinstated/identify further work.

23/04/24

To receive an update on protection of grass verges from vehicle damage

Clerk is awaiting details of matting from Cllr. Lewis.

24/04/24

To approve expenditure on improving Joyce's Road raised beds

The Parish Council needs a more detailed quote to approve expenditure. Public Work of Art team will inspect the beds when walking the village next week.

25/04/04

To approve any training requests

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Brooks

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr. Kent and the clerk attend the Talking Tables event on May 16th

26/04/04 To agree organisations to invite to the Annual Parish Meeting

Clerk to invite PCSO/Police and First responders

27/04/04 To receive update from the Public Works of Art working group

The group is looking to create a wayfinder trail around the village with 12/15 points of interest. Artists brief to be available for the next Parish Council meeting, ready to go to first S106 approval for designs. A work for the Ware Road roundabout could be in next phase. Aim to have trail in place by end of calendar year. **Action:** Clerk to add agenda item to approve first S106 application to May agenda.

28/04/04 Provisional date of next meeting – Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7.30 (preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15).

29/04/04 Questions/comments from parishioners

Meeting finished at 21.59

Signed.....

Date.....