

Minutes of a meeting of STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held Wednesday 2nd January 2019 in Stanford Village Hall

Present: Cllr.Lewis(Chair) Cllr.Gill Cllr.Isaacs Cllr.Warren Cllr.Williams Cuss

Cllr.Bailey Cllr.Jackson Cllr.Middleton

D.M.Dew(Clerk)

01/01/19 To receive apologies and reason (If offered)

Cllr.Howes (Business) County Cllr.Fitzgerald O'Connor(Unwell) District Cllr.Sharp(Business)

02/01/19 To receive Declarations of Interest from Councillors on any agenda item

Nil

03/01/19 To receive, approve & sign as a true record minutes of previous meeting 5th December 2018

Cllr.Bailey said no mention had been made regarding budget for Fruit Trees. Chairman stated that some funding had been agreed as part of the WWI centenary commemorations. Additional Budget had been missed from agenda, but would be an item for next agenda which would also include new computer/software for Clerk

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr BAILEY

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

04/01/19 To receive report of County Councillor

Comment received by telephone – County budget to be set in February

05/01/19 To receive report of District Councillor

Nil

06/01/19 Questions/comments from parishioners

Solar lights in Bus Shelter – replaced following vandalism/theft

07/01/19 To receive report of Clerk

Regarding rumours of Co-Op closure for 3 months. Had spoken to Manager who stated that it would be more like 1 month due to renovations especially electricity supply. They hoped to arrange for temporary premises but there would not be a Post Office facility due to security. No date had been set for the work to commence. The siting of a DeFib had received favourable response from CO-Op head office but not until after the scheduled work was completed. Bootcamp – organiser has agreed to the terms offered by Council and is arranging for arrears to be paid.

08/01/19 To receive report of Chairman

We have made good progress towards implementing Internet Banking and I am hopeful that January's payroll/regular payments will be put through instead of cheques being raised. Cllr

Warren advised that she had now received details from TSB, but wasn't certain of the process – Chairman to share details.

I met with the landowners in relation to the fallen tree partially blocking the Hatford footpath – there was some discussion as to how (in their opinion) it wasn't their tree as outside the fence line. Shared details of common practice for fencing to be set back from physical boundary, and in a similar way to where a field borders the public highway, the landowner holds responsibility for the maintenance of the boundary. They wanted to know what OCC's opinion was, given that the footpath falls to OCC and so I have contacted the footpaths officer and explained the situation. Whilst he shared my view that it was likely to officially fall to the landowner, in this instance they had a team available who were able to assist and consequently the tree was removed within a week.

I have replied to the Nursery End resident bordering the public open space and set out our position, once again, in terms of public open space needing to remain as such, our intended approach for general maintenance and frustrations that we were still awaiting official handover from the developer in light of numerous issues, including that of the non-existent management company for the (private) trees at the south-western boundary.

Other matters – precept & pre-school fencing will be covered by separate agenda items. Concerns around the existing graveyard reaching capacity have been raised with me again. To date, we've not received any confirmed offers of land to create a new burial ground, however it was felt that pre-application advice should be sought from the Planning Authority (VWHDC) – I shall aim to discuss the practicalities of hypothetical pre-app advice and report back to you.

09/01/19 To receive Correspondence

Thames Valley Police – survey reminder Increase in Council Tax to protect operational policing
VWHDC – Notification s106 funds received re Land at Penstones Farm Horsecroft
NALC – S137 expenditure increased to £8.12 from £7.86

10/01/19 To discuss Planning Applications

Nil

11/01/19 To discuss further investigation re: New DeFib placement

Nothing further . See Clerks report CO-OP

12/01/19 To discuss Preschool fence

Jewson had already provided Feather-Edge fencing to Pre-School. There was a discussion around whether it should be trialled rather than insisting on it's replacement, however Council felt that their previous decision was appropriate, given the openness of the current location. Chairman to contact Preschool regarding replacement and suggest that finance may be available via the PPC if Jewson were not able to assist further.

13/01/19 To approve Accounts for Payment

There was a query as mowing was shown in one of the previous timesheets. Clerk stated that even now there could be a need to mow. As for painting playarea equipment several coats had been needed

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr ISAACS
SECONDED BY Cllr WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Accounts be approved/paid

14/01/19 To approve Monthly Statement of Accounts

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr WARREN
SECONDED BY Cllr WILLIAMS CUSS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Monthly Statement of Accounts be approved

15/01/19 To consider Budget/Precept 2019/2020

Following discussion, a review of spending to date and looking at various % rise figures. It was proposed by Cllr Isaacs that a 1.5% rise be implemented – not seconded. A counter proposal by Cllr Gill was for a 1.25% rise be implemented

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr Gill
SECONDED BY Cllr LEWIS
IT WAS RESOLVED that a 1.25% rise be approved

This will result in a precept of £23,000 (2018/19 £22,500) Band D cost £25.52 (£25.20)

16/01/19 To receive report of Environmental Committee

VWHDC to be contacted regarding footpaths

17/01/19 To receive report of Recreation & Leisure Committee

Weekly checks being carried out. Annual inspection better than previously used RoSPA. Toddlers area matting needs replacing. Not recommended that matting be used again but use rubber (Wet pour ?) or loose fill although concerns about vandalism of these. 2 quotations had been requested

18/01/19 To receive report of Public Works of Art Liaison Working Party

No progress although contracts are being drawn up between VWHDC and Artist

19/01/19 To receive report of Neighbourhood Plan

Waiting for VWHDC Statutory Consultation

20/01/19 To receive report of Millennium Green Trust

Nil

21/01/19 Date of next meeting

6th February 2019

22/01/19 Questions/comments from parishioners

Nil