

Minutes of a meeting of STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 in Stanford Village Hall

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

Cllr.N.Lewis Cllr.Jackson Cllr.Bailey Cllr.Jenkins M.Dew(Clerk)

Cllr.Fitzgerald O'Connor (OCC)

01/03/18 To receive apologies and reason (If offered)

Cllr.Howes (personal)

02/03/18 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on any agenda item

Nil

03/03/18 To receive, approve and sign as a true record minutes of previous meeting 7th Feb 2018

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.WARREN

SECONDED BY Cllr.ISAACS

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

04/03/18 To receive report of County Councillor

The County budget had been approved as per previously reported in PC minutes. The Councillor was asked about responses by County staff regarding QEII field and the fact that unless responses were received by June we would lose a £10,000 grant. Pot holes and use of "Dragon" machine were discussed and the bad workmanship being carried out – was this Council staff or contractors and if contractors was there not a warranty. The Councillor said she would look into all the above

05/03/18 To receive report of District Councillor

Nil

06/03/18 Questions/comments from parishioners

Concerns raised in relation to the storage of old window frames behind houses on Faringdon Road (opposite High Street) and was planning permission required to store them there

07/03/18 To receive report of Clerk

Dog signs – Cllr.Jackson provided 5 "NO DOGS" signs , 2 for Nursery End play area and 3 spare

A new axle for the salt gritter had been received

Working from home allowance. An OALC newsletter had stated that £18 per month could be allowed without attracting any PAYE or NI. Clerk to forward to Chairman who said that there were other tax allowances available.

Cllr Warren said that regarding the OALC newsletter there was an article regarding encouraging parishioners to stand for Council and that our next election was in May 2019

08/03/18 To receive report of Chairman

QEII - Easement - ongoing discussion with OCC ref costs, in touch with SSE's solicitor, very helpful, organised and shares our concerns in relation to OCC timescales. Unfortunately, he's now on paternity leave, but don't expect this to impact the easement.

Amanda Benham of Benham Law contacted me, forwarding a "requisition" from HM Land Registry in relation to the lease of the QEII field. It seems that we were sent the "wrong" version of the lease originally (by Benham Law), since ours only bore the seal of OCC. The root issue though lay in a change to Land Registry procedures some time ago, so where there are 2 signatories, these should be witnessed individually. In my opinion, this is something that Benham Law should have known full well and it verges towards incompetence that the signature sheet provided did not reflect this. We arranged for the additional witness attestation, but Amanda Benham then felt this didn't deal with the Land Registry's requirement to prove that we had the authority to execute the deed on behalf of Council. I shared the relevant minute & pointed out it was common for the Chairman & Clerk (as Proper Officer) to deal with such business, but she felt this was insufficient, since it did not state who was authorised to sign. I therefore referred to Local Government Administration which claims that a deed should in fact be executed by two members, each witnessed by the Clerk, and so arranged for a 3rd set of signatures to be created, and sent all this to Amanda Benham who proceeded to protest that we could not re-execute the deed. However, after highlighting the discrepancy between her advice and the actual position in law, these were finally submitted to HM Land Registry who have today completed the registration of the lease. I would add that this has consumed hours of my time wholly unnecessarily and I remain far from impressed with the services rendered.

Ahead of the main snow, I did take the gritter for a walk, but unfortunately the axle repair only lasted 45mins or so. I have ordered a new axle, hopefully the Clerk has already received this.

Recently found the 5-bar gate to the play area was open, and have arranged for it to be locked closed again - don't think we want this to become default route into play area/pre-school.

We may however want to look at working with the VH to see if an improvement to the entrance nearest the pre-school can be improved (i.e. from the Village Hall car park), grass has eroded and it's little more than a muddy patch at present.

Condition of grass areas- Church Green & Upper Green (in particular) - whilst they are particularly susceptible to vehicle damage at present, they have really suffered this winter and we should review and assess our options to ensure that this doesn't get any worse.

Thames Water roadworks outside of village: lights appear to be more stable, but barrier removal/rearrangement now taking place almost every night. I spoke again to Developer Svcs on Tuesday morning, when the barriers had been turned into a chicane both here & in Pusey (so it must be someone in a vehicle, not on foot). Left a request with TW to have the temp traffic lights changed to operate on a sensor, to eliminate some of the delays and reduce the opportunity for someone to interfere.

Have also been back in touch with Ede Homes since they now have yet another set of temp traffic lights on Bow Road. I'm told these should be gone by the end of March - again the request was to use a sensor, rather than a timed delay.

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr.JENKINS

IT WAS RESOLVED that a CCTV camera be purchased at a cost of up to £150

09/03/18 To receive correspondence

a) Grant donation acknowledgments –

Received from Wantage Independent Advice Centre
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

b) Parishioner – request for donation (£35) to purchase Snowdrops. Council felt it needed to share locations. Council unable to authorise a donation due to not being an agenda item (Financial Regulations) and it would need to be an item for next agenda and would be rather late to plant Snowdrops. Cllr. Isaacs said with this in mind his company would underwrite costs of up to £100. Chairman to talk with parishioner

10/03/18 To discuss planning

P18/V0406/HH 9 Cottage Road SN7 8HX - Single storey extension

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. GILL

SECONDED BY Cllr. WARREN

IT WAS RESOLVED that there were NO OBJECTIONS to this application

P18/V0026/HH (Amended) 9 Sheards Lane SN7 8LW

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. JENKINS

SECONDED BY Cllr. WILLIAMS CUSS

IT WAS RESOLVED that the application be REFUSED

P18/V0022/FUL land adj 31 Cottage Road

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. ISAACS

SECONDED BY Cllr. P. LEWIS

IT WAS RESOLVED that Council OBJECTED to this application.

Chairman to speak to VoWH Project Officer regarding Car obstructing footpath and dimensions

11/03/18 To discuss use of recreation area for Pre-school event

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. BAILEY

SECONDED BY Cllr. JENKINS

IT WAS RESOLVED that this be permitted

12/03/18 To approve accounts for payment

15 th Feb	Viking Direct	Office Supplies	52.13
15 th Feb	Wantage Ind Advice center	Grant donation	40.00
15 th Feb	Oxfordshire Assoc for the Blind	Grant donation	40.00
15 th Feb	Home Start Southern Oxfordshire	Grant donation	40.00
15 th Feb	WEL Medical Ltd.	Def Pads(Grant)	155.70
23 rd Feb	D.M.Dew	Salary	691.20
23 rd Feb	C.Stallard	Litter pick	60.00
23 rd Feb	HMRC	PAYE & NI	198.19
7 th March	OPFA	Membership	53.00
7 th March	OALC	Membership	412.50

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.N.Lewis
SECONDED BY Cllr.WILLIAMS CUSS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the payments be approved/paid

13/03/18 To approve monthly statement of accounts

Cash at Bank

£16,325.20

30 day Notice Business Account

£2,904.00

Neighbourhood plan

£4,237.20

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr.JACKSON
SECONDED BY Cllr.ISAACS
IT WAS RESOLVED that the monthly statement of accounts be approved

14/03/18 To receive report of Environmental Committee

Bow Farm to Horsecroft footpath link will not be classified as an OCC footpath but would be created through an easement with the landowner and remain available for public use.

15/03/18 To receive report of Recreation & Leisure Committee

There is concern that maintenance work is being delayed and there are some Health & Safety issues with equipment. It is intended to advertise for an additional person to undertake some of this work. Cllr Williams Cuss will contact our current maintenance person regarding outstanding jobs. The Councillor thought that the old wooden tower slide is not being used and could be replaced by something else. Cllr Gill reported that the mowers are being serviced

16/03/18 To receive report of Public Work of Art Liaison Working Party

The scheduled forge visit had been cancelled. It was disappointing that nothing had been received from the chosen artist and he had been sent a warning letter and were considering a back up

17/03/18 To receive report of Millennium Green Trust

Hedge cutting had been undertaken

18/03/18 To receive report of Data Protection Officer

A short training session for Councillors to be arranged. This will be held on 18 April at 7.30 after a MGTrust meeting. There was discussion regarding individual emails for Councillors with nothing decided

19/03/18 To receive report of Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Gill reported that a wildlife report was being compiled to be shared at the Annual Parish Meeting. Chairman stated that he had circulated a “working practices” document as proposed by the Steering Committee (NPSC). There then followed a lively discussion about the importance for the Steering Committee and the Parish Council to work more closely together and it was felt that some individuals in both groups did not necessarily see “eye to eye” which was hindering the ability to work in a better way. Some Councillors felt that the PC were not being kept fully apprised of decisions made by the Steering Committee. Chairman shared that there was currently limited documentation available in terms of a draft plan, but that he had been encouraging a focus on NP Policies since Christmas, which he anticipated would be shared as soon as they were available. There were also concerns raised in relation to the Steering Committee’s assertion that they represented the *whole community* given the dwindling number of members. Cllr Jenkins recommended that they undertook a recruitment drive to encourage new members/interest and to help spread the workload.

20/03/18 Date of next meeting

4th April 2018