

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of Stanford in the Vale held on  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Stanford Village Hall**

**Present: P.Lewis (Chair) P.Gill M.Isaacs A.Bailey S.Jackson T.Jenkins**

**R.Sharp (District Councillor) M.Dew(Clerk) 8 Parishioners**

**Representative from First Responders**

**1. Apologies**

N.Lewis J.Warren K.Williams Cuss

- 2. Chairman** welcomed everyone present to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Thames Valley Police had said they would attend but if they arrived later then the meeting would be able to ask questions at that time

**3. First Responders Report**

Two defib. have been sited in the village (Village Hall & Football Club). Since the response unit had been formed in the village they had attended over 1000 calls and over 200 this year, covering not only Stanford but other areas as well. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the First responders would be most welcome to the 2 day training course which is due to become a four day course

**4. Finance Report**

The meeting had been provided with copies of the Profit & Loss for year ending March 2016 and Chairman explained some of the points in the account. He spoke about the legal fees which had increased mainly due to prolonged matters with OCC over the lease for the QEII recreation field

**5. Questions from Parishioners**

Regarding the legal fees Chairman stated that it is hoped that these fees could be reclaimed from the s106 payments that Council were due to receive. Regarding the precept there were questions regarding the calculations. Chairman explained the system which was nationwide not just Vale of White Horse DC and that a certain amount was calculated to cover "bad debts" The village precept increase of approx 2.9% was budgeted to cover loss of grants received from county while still having to provide services as in previous years. Neighbourhood Plan and VAT – Chairman

explained that Neighbourhood Plan was not by law entitled to a refund of VAT, however Council has reclaimed the VAT as money for NPL was being held in PC accounts and VAT will be returned to NPL in form of a donation. It should be remembered that any funds remaining at the completion of the NPL has to be refunded to provider.

## **6. Report of Parish Council Chairman**

Following the uncontested elections in May, whilst we saw Cllrs. Bambury & Monahan Smith retire, we've been joined a number of new members, including Cllrs. Amanda Bailey, Tina Jenkins & Graham Fletcher. It's been my pleasure & privilege to chair this Council and I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of our members, as well as the clerk, our staff and contactors for all their hard work and dedication to ensuring that Stanford in the Vale remains a thriving community and that local issues are addressed wherever possible.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committees's efforts have now concluded their public consultations & what you'll hear more about the progress later tonight, again I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the countless hours that have been given up in assembling, recording and analysing the information gathered in preparation for creating a neighbourhood Plan for Stanford in the vale

Until and vale's Local Plan is fully adopted, we continue to experience first hand a number of challenges relating to planning, including speculative planning permissions on sites that would, until recently, never have been supported. Where permissions are sought, we aim to ensure that the local needs (both in terms of community and infrastructure) are also addressed through s106 agreements where appropriate/possible. As part of these discussions, we have secured, through Vale, another segment of footpath, linking Horsecroft to Bow, and completing another segment of what we hope will eventually form a circular walk around the village. For clarity, the path has not yet become a public right of way, and until, such time, remains private property.

Councillors have been heavily involved with discussions with both Thames Water and Oxfordshire County Council in relation to the Nursery End development and we expect similar requirements as Horsecroft and Bow Farm developments commence.

Following on from reports at last Year's annual meeting, this year has seen the installation of two community defibrillators – 1 at the Village hall, the other located at the football club. These can provide swift access to these life saving devices should the 999 operator believe it is necessary

We've also supported and seen the implementation of a Community Speedwatch project, in conjunction with several other local parishes. The camera, operated by volunteers, is already in use locally and the police make a written contact with vehicle owners afterwards.

After lengthy negotiations, I am delighted to report that we have finally been able to sign the lease with Oxfordshire County Council for the new recreation field, which will be

located at the top of Cottage Road. The site is to be transformed from its present agricultural use into allotments, sports pitches etc. and will become a major programme of works to do so. The detail around this is still to be determined, but is likely to require a dedicated project team from the wider community in order to not only fund-raise but to deal with the appointment of contractors etc.

Finally, we are reminded by the vicar that the village is running out of burial space in the churchyard and we are therefore seeking new sites that might be suitable for this purpose in the months/years ahead

## **7. Environmental Report**

The Community Woodland needs reassessing with differing views from the experts. Some of the trees have died which was to be expected and replacements would have to be found at some time. It was asked could bushes be planted. Was the report of methane gas from the recycling site killing trees. This was not known but a large percentage of the trees are healthy and growing.

Regarding footpaths – there is some difficulty with some landowners although discussions are ongoing.

Question asked about Field in High Street opposite Cox's Hall. A sale price of £125,000 was quoted by the agent which is a housing build quote rather than an agricultural one. Council is interested but not at the price quoted

## **8. Recreational & Leisure Report**

Despite some vandalism taking place late last year and earlier this year, after having a word with the youths concerned and some of their parents, nothing has recently been reported, which is great news.

The play area and MUGA continues to be inspected weekly and although a few pieces of play equipment have had small parts replaced, due in the main to "wear and tear", all of it continues to function and is fit for purpose.

The play areas continue to be well used, especially now that the clocks have changed and the warmer weather is approaching.

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan Report**

After much work the Brochure for Land Use was produced and is on the website. The draft consultation is due for the village and PC to view and comment. When questioned about completion – it is hoped that a referendum will be held by the end of the year

## **10. Report of District Councillor**

Cllr. Sharp apologised for arriving late this being his second village meeting that he had

attended this evening.

He spoke of the Local Plan part 1 – Clarifying areas of the report to be responded to by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. If all is OK then the process to stage 2 will start into 2017

Loss of Government funding had led to outsourcing of services and this will result in savings of nearly one million pounds. There is also a feasibility study regarding the formation of 4 unitary authorities within the county

There then followed a discussion regarding Drayton Local Plan and the apparent decision by VWHDC planning officer to ignore the plan when recommending a planning application. Cllr.Sharp stated that he would look into the matter

## **11. Questions/comments from Parishioners**

Notice Boards – can more be place in village – Forest Grove – Main road opp. Garage

Funding in place for one more depending on land owners permission

Flower boxes - Full of dead plants – School has taken over responsibility of the boxes

Forest Grove recreation area – Dilapidated fencing and could goal posts be erected.

Responsibility of VWHDC they having offered a minimal contract for PC to take over maintenance of grass , hedges , fencing and play equipment which was not acceptable

Parking – Nursery End residents parking in Forest Grove – This was due to the lay out of Nursery End and whilst this was pointed out to the planning authority by the PC at planning stage it was ignored as County Highways approved the plan.

The Chairman again thanked those present for attending and invited them to stay for a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan