

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of Stanford in the Vale held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Stanford Village Hall**

**Present: P.Lewis(Chair) P.Gill M.Isaacs J.Warren T.Jenkins**

**K.Williams Cuss M.Dew (Clerk) 3 Parishioners**

**1. Apologies**

A.Bailey

**2. Welcome to meeting by Chairman of Parish Council**

Cllr. P. Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present that it was a village meeting which is required by law to be held annually

**3. Thames Valley Police report**

There being no one from Thames Valley Police in attendance, Cllr.Jenkins a member of the Speedwatch reported that following an increase in reported speeding incidents there was a concentration by police on traffic. It was also reported that a local constable had won an award for work within the area

**4. First Responders report**

In the absence of a First Responders representative , Cllr.Gill reported that there were only two operatives in the village and they also offered training exercises there being one tonight which explained their absence. It was a volunteer role and thanked them for what they do. In response to a question about defibrillators – yes they are tested periodically

**5. Report of County Councillor**

Nil – Councillor Tilley not seeking re-election to OCC on 4<sup>th</sup> May

**6. Report of District Councillor**

Nil

**7. Questions from parishioners**

There was some discussion regarding the demolition of barns at the Bow Road development site.

Comment was made regarding litter bags in Joyces Road. Clerk explained that these were street litter collections placed there for collection by Biffa although the Clerk had often had to remind Biffa to collect

There were still concerns regarding lack of graveyard space and while District Council had not been helpful the Vicar had suggested that Oxfordshire County Council might be more supportive

## **8. Finance report**

Those present were provided with copies of 2016/2017 PROFIT & LOSS and BALANCE SHEET. Asked if s106 Nursery End was available yet , Chairman stated that it was although it had to be claimed and an expense plan and project had to be submitted

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

- Following the challenges with Planning Applications in recent years, it has been a welcome step forward to see the introduction of Vale's Local Plan Part 1, which will help to provide some security and stability around what is permissible from a planning perspective.
- The Parish Council has worked to address local concerns as well as securing the best possible facilities for the village from the various developers as they've come forward, something that I envisage will be an ongoing process for the next 3-5 years. Indeed, we're still actively pursuing the final details in relation to, amongst others, the handover of Public Open Space from the Nursery End development
- I'm pleased to report that earlier this year we secured the Change of Use necessary for the proposed Queen Elizabeth II recreation Field, and negotiations are continuing between the SSE Power Distribution and the County Council to agree the necessary wayleave in order to relocate the power lines.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee continue their efforts to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish, albeit amongst an ever changing sea of rules. Their commitment to seeing this through is commendable, especially given the widely varying advice that has been provided by the relevant public bodies.
- The Parish Council has also secured funding to remove diseased Ash trees from the community woodland, and these will be replaced with a number of alternative species.
- Unfortunately, we've had less success in identifying an area to become a burial ground in the future, which is a matter of growing concern, given the limited space available within the churchyard at present.
- I would like to thank our Clerk, staff, contractors & volunteers for all their hard work throughout the year, since without their efforts, our work would be made significantly harder !

- Finally, my personal thanks to all members of the Council, who give up their time to provide expertise and insight into all Council matters including recreation, leisure, environment , finance & planning. We currently have a single vacancy , along with 2 candidates and so we expect to fill this position at the next PC meeting during the first week of May

## **10.Environmental Committee report**

As previously reported the new Footpath Officer is Mr.B.Hudson and he has already arranged some repairs

The Woodland Officer/Guardian is Ms E.Crichton. The loss of trees due to ash disease and drought has resulted in over 1000 trees being replaced

David Wilson Homes were not cooperative there being issues over improper fencing, wrong trees and disputed ownership. Despite communication with both VWHDC and OCC there had been no response from either

Environmental Committee Chairman Cllr. Isaacs thanked both Cllr Bailey and Cllr Jenkins for all their effort and work

Cllr Jenkins said that a questionnaire regarding use of QEII field will be sent to all householders

Cllr Gill pointed out that there were grants available from Jewsons

## **11.Recreation & Leisure Committee report**

Chairman of the committee Cllr.Williams Cuss reported that the RoSPA inspection had been carried with only minor comments. There was a continual need to upgrade repair items and noted that £1500 had been earmarked in the budget 2017/2018. The weekly playarea inspections were being carried out

## **12.Neighbourhood Plan report**

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee of the Parish Council is continuing to work towards producing The Neighbourhood Development Plan.

We are currently working on developing the policies which form the core of the Neighbourhood Plan, covering area such as housing , business , environment ,infrastructure , amenities and facilities for the Parish. These policies need to be sustainable and align with those of the developing Local Plan of the District Council . The VWHDC are reviewing our draft and supporting us in this work

We have also spent time responding to the Strategic Site(West of A417) planning applications ensuring your views are put to the developers and the District Planning Authority so that the development includes as many improvements as possible at the early planning stages.

Despite many people wishing to see the school remain in its current location, we need to consider alternative sites for education purposes , ensuring that a new primary school can

be built if the present site is not able to expand , either now or at some time in the future. The County Council has still not decided if expansion is possible and we await the publication of their feasibility study on this subject.

To assist our collation of evidence on the environment a number of parishioners have formed SWAT – Stanford Wildlife Assessment Team . We very much appreciate the active support of this group of enthusiastic volunteers. This important work will provide a sound foundation of evidence supporting the conservation of green spaces in and around the village.

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

Cllr. Williams Cuss spoke about the Playgroup of which she is Chair. There is a waiting list at present and with extra hours due to government legislation double capacity from the present 30 is needed and asked if there was any possibility of land being available. The meeting thought that maybe a second play school was needed

There was discussion regarding the recent cutting of hedges and the possibility that nests had been disturbed. It was requested that any further hedging be left until Autumn

At this point the Chairman again thanked those who had attended and the meeting closed at 8.40pm