

STANFORD IN THE VALE
PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2015

Welcome to new Parish Council

Local Elections

Cllrs. Stuart Bambury, Derek Monaghan-Smith, Nona Lewis & Steph Punfield all decided not to seek re-election in May, for a variety of personal reasons. I would like to thank them all for the many hours that they gave in serving our community.

Peter Gill, Mark Isaacs, Simon Jackson, Janet Warren, Karin Williams-Cuss & Peter Lewis stood for re-election, and we are delighted to welcome Amanda Bailey to the Parish Council.

Council Vacancies

Following the local elections, we have three vacancies on the Parish Council. We can co-opt up parishioners to fill these vacancies, so please do speak to the clerk if this is of interest to you. If you are interested in serving the local community in this way, but unsure as to what the role entails, please do contact any serving councillor, or the clerk who will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

We are also seeking a volunteer, to compile and edit this newsletter, which is usually published every other month. All content is provided, usually by email, and content can easily be assembled using a computer.

Chairman's Report

Burial Ground

As many of you will be aware, the Churchyard is rapidly approaching capacity, and St Denys Church therefore has to operate strict eligibility requirements for the remaining burial plots. If you, or someone you know has a plot of land within the parish, that you believe may be suitable for a future burial ground, then we would very much like to discuss the matter with you. This might be by way of a gift (or legacy) to the village, or perhaps by way of private sale. Please do contact the Clerk or Chairman if you wish to discuss this further.

Community Defibrillator

We are continuing to work with the Community Responders to install a number of Community Defibrillators within the parish. These will be in

secured cabinets, accessed via a combination code, which would be provided to you, where appropriate by the 999 operator. The first of these is already ordered and we hope to have it installed at the Village Hall before the Summer Festival.

Thames Water

After much confusion, Thames Water have had to repeat their survey of the existing sewers along Faringdon Road, and are supposed to be finalising their investigations into our reports of issues with water pressure. Despite assurances that we would have received their formal response prior to this going to print, I regret to advise that we are still awaiting this – further details will follow once they are received.

Planning

In early April, despite the numerous and detailed objections, the Planning Inspectorate allowed the planning application for 18 dwellings at Penstones Farm, Horsecroft. Essentially, without a 5-year land supply, the Inspector's view being that the benefit outweighed the harm.

We also expect a decision from VWHDC regarding the extended scheme at Bow Farm imminently.

Peter Lewis. plewis.sitv@gmail.com

District Council Election

I would like to thank all for their support at the recent election.. This time the Stanford Ward has doubled in size to Uffington, Woolstone, Baulking and more. I congratulate Robert Sharp and I know he will working with us all for the next four years re any issues that this village raises.

Thank you once again- Peter Gill- Parish Councillor

20 mph limit -

The Parish Council is currently researching 20 mph zones and the possibility of having one agreed in certain areas of the village, particularly near to the Village School. Further information will be provided as progress is made.

Recreation and Leisure Report

Preschool Vandalism -

Unfortunately the PreSchool has experienced several incidents of vandalism over the last couple of weeks by local teenagers. If you are aware of who these teenagers are, please ask them to stop, as climbing onto the roof is not only very dangerous, it is also

likely to lead to prosecution if more damage is sustained.

Further vandalism has also occurred in both play areas - up by the football field and by the village hall. A substantial amount of broken glass has been found all around the skatepark making it very dangerous for anyone to use. Loose nails were also found at the foot of a slide in the play area nearest to the Village Hall, so please be extra vigilant before use. Routine weekly inspections continue to take place in both play areas according to ROSPA guidelines, but obviously further incidents of such mindless vandalism could again occur at any point in time. We therefore ask anyone who uses either of the play areas to be extra vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the Police.

Gate Latches - Play Area near to Village Hall

We have recently installed two new latches in the Play Area near to the Village Hall. These are positioned on the inside of the two gates nearest to Joyce's Road. After receiving two reports of young children managing to get out of the play area and onto Joyce's Road, ROSPA were contacted and asked to review their current guidance for Stanford Play Area. Due to the proximity of Joyce's Road to two of the exits from the park and due to the bad bend and weight of traffic, ROSPA deemed it appropriate for us to install two gate latches.

Please can all users of the play area therefore ensure that these two latches remain in place (as we have already had one removed!) and that the gates remain latched at all times to ensure the safety of all young children who use the play area.

Environmental Report:

The proposed 125 year lease of the 19 acre field on the other side of Cottage Road from the Football Pitch is progressing. This will add a significant amount of land for recreation use for our village

Heads of Terms have now been signed and a lease is being prepared.

Separately 2 new pollution surveys have been taken on the land.

- The first survey was to assess for low level Radiation (medical waste etc) that for years it has been rumoured may have been dumped in the former landfill pit (now capped) behind the Recycling Facility and adjacent to the field. It is pleasing to report that there are no abnormal signs of radiation in the field.
- The second survey was to assess for other pollutants from the adjacent former tip that may have leached into the field. The report is

reassuring and states that: Where substances were detected, none of these determinants approached threshold values so as to indicate levels of contamination that would require either any form of intervention, or preclude the intended use of the site as public open space.

Most of the outstanding issues are therefore now resolved and it is to be hoped that this project can start to progress

As soon as we have achieved the signing of the Lease we will be holding a Village Meeting to ascertain what uses Parishioners want to see this land used for. There will no doubt also be lots of opportunities to be involved in many ways on this exciting project for the village

Fly Tipping

The Vale DC Environment Officer has visited locations in the village where rubbish has been tipped (garden waste/grass clippings etc) on the highway.

Two areas on the corner of Upper Crale and Cottage Road behind the Bus Shelter and on the footpath from Joyces to Cottage Road have been noted.

Letters will be posted to houses nearest to the offending areas giving information about fines to be given for **illegal tipping**.

Community Accessible Defibrillators

You may have seen in the April 2015 Parish Council newsletter that it is planned to locate a community accessible defibrillator at the village hall and a second one at another location in the village.

I'm pleased to report that we are progressing well with this following a grant from the Public Purposes Charity (PPC). I should like to thank the PPC for their support of this potentially life-saving initiative.

We plan to hold awareness sessions in the village for anyone who is interested in knowing more about community accessible defibrillators, how to access them and how to use them.

If you are interested in attending an awareness session, please send an email to stanfordcfr@btinternet.com or a text to 07833 049303 which should include your name and telephone number.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Community First Responder CFR) in Stanford, please contact me using the details above. Alternatively, telephone 0800 587 0207 or email cfr@scas.nhs.uk

Les Harding, Stanford in the Vale CFR team co-ordinator

Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC) – June 2015

The Trustees held a Trustees' Meeting on Thursday 30th April 2015 in the Village Hall Committee Room.

Financially the Charity remains in good shape. The total portfolio has increased by 10% over the past 12 months and the quarterly income available for grants remains at around £5,000 per 3 month period.

Approved Grant Applications paid and outstanding include:

- A grant of £1,600.42 for support for the SitV Preschool for new and varied materials was approved in October 2014. Invoices amounting to £816.78 have been received and paid so far. The remaining grant approved by Trustees amounts to £783.64.
- A revised proposal from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for support for a grant to open part of the church wall on to Church Green in order to make the memorial more inclusive for the village as a whole has been received. The trustees agreed to a grant of up to £5,000. It was suggested that this sum can also cover the movement of the St Denys sign on entering the church path from Church Green to the other side of the path.
- A request for support from the SitV Community First Responders for the purchase of two community automatic external defibrillators, which will be accessible by members of the public if needed to help someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest, was unanimously approved by the Trustees. A grant of £3,000.00 was agreed.

Allotments:

The waiting list has now risen to nine parishioners. It has been noted that a large quantity of water (60 m³) has been used in the Joyces Road Old allotments over the spring period. A check has not identified a leakage and it is possible that a tap was left on by mistake for a time. Allotment holders are requested to ensure that taps are closed after their use.

Any parishioner who wishes his or her name to be added to the allotment waiting list should please contact Paul Corrigan on 01367 718 325.

Villagers are reminded of the PPC Trust Mission Statement:

“Striving to improve and strengthen the community within Stanford-in-the-Vale by providing a source of finance for projects that will benefit the parish.”

Success of course depends on such projects being brought forward. The Trustees are considering the production of a set of simple guidelines to encourage organisations to make grant requests.

The Trust continues to have around £20,000 to £25,000 per year available for grants. Grant Applications are made to the Trustees through the Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, who can supply Grant Application Forms on request either by e-mail or hard copy. (Tel: 01367 718 480)

The next meeting of the PPC Trustees will be on Thursday 9th July in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

David N. Axford

Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, SitV Public Purposes Charity

Tuesday, 12 May 2015

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