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# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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# NEWS UPDATE JUNE 2016

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## Election of Officers

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 4<sup>th</sup> May, officers were elected for the forthcoming year: Peter Lewis - Chairman, Janet Warren - Deputy Chairman, Karin Williams-Cuss - Hon. Secretary and Peter Gill - Senior Councillor.

## Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field

Thanks to all of you who attended the recent public meetings surrounding initial proposals for the new recreation area, and specifically to those who volunteered their time or expertise to help bring this project forward. Over the coming months we will be endeavouring to deal with the relocation of the power lines and begin the planning work that needs to be undertaken in order to level the site.

## Suspected Arson and Criminal Damage

Over recent weeks, as the days have grown longer there has been a spate of petty issues including damage to play equipment in the play area behind the village hall, as well as broken glass being left behind during the evenings. Whilst no injuries have been reported, this is largely because the items have been cleared/repared as necessary, but it is unnecessary time and expense caused by a few mindless individuals. Ultimately, it is your taxes that are used to foot the bill for these works - if you see anything suspicious, please report the matter to the police. Whilst this was most notable during the school Easter holidays, during May there was a suspected arson to a large quantity of straw bales in Horsecroft. A reward has been offered for information leading to the successful prosecution of the culprits – any information should be passed onto the police in the first instance. Having contacted the police, in order to claim the reward please get in touch with the landowner, Mark Stoneham – [markstoneham@btconnect.com](mailto:markstoneham@btconnect.com)

## Allotment Holders

Please be advised that it is illegal to drive along the footpath to access the gateway leading to the allotments. As previously notified by the allotments committee those doing so risk being reported to the police.

## Dog walkers

Despite previous warnings, we are aware of at least one successful enforcement notice that has been served upon someone for failing to clean up after their dog. Evidence of anyone allowing their dog to foul the verge or pavement, without clearing it up can be submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council's Environmental

Protection team via [env.health@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@southandvale.gov.uk) or via telephone 01235 540555.

We will continue to highlight the issue around the village through the use of an environmentally friendly chalk-based spray paint – it would however be preferable not to have the issue in the first place, so *please clean up after your pet.*

## Weeding

Whilst it is impractical for the Parish Council to attempt to clear weeds from the edges of every path around the village, they can become unsightly as the weeds grow more vigorously during the early summer. If you're able to do so, clearing the edge of the paths/kerbs neighbouring your own home would provide a simple solution that is of benefit to the whole community.

## Peter Lewis

*Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council*  
[plewis.sitv@gmail.com](mailto:plewis.sitv@gmail.com)

## STANFORD IN THE VALE COMMUNITY

### SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

CSW has been active in Stanford for the last few months. You may have seen volunteers standing by the roadside (usually early in the morning) in fluorescent vests, with equipment that is able to accurately capture the speed of approaching vehicles. Any vehicle travelling in excess of the speed limit (30mph throughout the village + a small margin) has its registration and details noted down, and this information is then collated and passed to the police. The aim is not prosecution – but deterrence and education. It is suspected that many of the 'offenders' caught are not actually Stanford residents, but people using Stanford as a cut-through to the A417 or A420. To date the recorded highest speed captured has been **50mph** – which is both a ridiculous and unsafe way to be using our roads. With the recent, and planned future, developments the Stanford roads are only going to become more congested and hazardous – with an increase in the danger to both pedestrians and cyclists. If you feel strongly that Stanford's roads are dangerous because of speeding drivers then please consider volunteering for the CSW Team, contact details are: [pam@fayre.eu](mailto:pam@fayre.eu) or 01367 710144

## Damage to Play Area Equipment

Unfortunately, several items of equipment have recently been vandalised in the play area by the village hall, which has not only impeded the enjoyment of many children but has also caused serious concerns relating to health and safety.

If anyone is aware of who is committing this mindless vandalism, please contact one of the Parish Councillors or contact the Police direct

### **Broken Glass in Play Area and Millennium Green**

About 15 broken beer bottles have now been found in the above areas which are prime locations for families with small children to play. This is unacceptable, so if you are aware of who is doing this, please ask them to stop before someone is seriously hurt.

Broken bottles have been found near to the Preschool entrance/ the gates/ the school gardening club adopted area and the back/ side of the Millennium Green - please be aware!

### **Job Advert - Preschool Administrative Assistant**

The Preschool is looking to recruit an administrative assistant to work 8 hours a week from September 2016. Please contact the Manager for more details or to apply for the post. Deadline for applications is 27th June

### **Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC) – mid May 2016**

The Trustees met on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

The current Trustees are as follows:

Roy Walker - (Hon. Chairman)

Paul Corrigan	Kathleen Campbell-Cave
Joyce Gardner	Bill Grant
Julia Grinsted	Andrew Higgins
Roger Griffin	Dan Huby
Alan Robinson	David Axford - (Hon. Clerk)

### **Approved Grant Applications still outstanding at 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and those awaiting further information include:**

- The agreed grant of up to £5,000 for the 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 is still outstanding. It is thought that the work will be carried out soon, but it was noted that if it is not completed in 2016 the grant application will be annulled and an application will need to be made again.
- With regard to the request for support for the SitV CE Primary School to improve the Foundation outside area the Trustees agreed that a grant of 1:1 matched-funding with funds raised by the Parents Association and FOSS (Friends of Stanford School) up to a maximum of £10k should be offered to the school. This grant offer remains outstanding.
- The Trustees have agreed to visit the SitV Preschool, to discuss their grant for the purchase of lockable storage cupboards for confidential information and custom built storage for equipment. The details of the request are yet to be finalised.
- A request for support from the SitV Local History Association to publish a book entitled "The Living Churchyard: A Guide to God's Acre" concerning the history of St Denys Churchyard and the wildlife sanctuary established there, was considered. A grant

of £440, which comprised 80% of the cost of producing 50 copies, was agreed.

- A request from the St Denys Parochial Church Council (PCC) to pay for a booklet on the history of the church building was delayed owing to possible inaccuracies in the text. These will be considered by the PCC.
- A grant to support the installation of a defibrillator in Hatford was approved after the Trustees confirmed that Hatford lies within the Stanford in the Vale parish. A sum of £1,658.10 was approved.
- A request by the Stanford Book Club for £250 to purchase bookshelves for the club's books in the Huddle Café was approved by the Trustees.
- The Huddle management made a request for support to set up an internet café in the Huddle. The Trustees decided that, while the idea of an internet café open to all in the village sounded attractive, the charity was not able to support a financial business directly. It would be possible for a village organisation to ask for support if it wished to sponsor such a venture and look after matters of security and control of usage.

### **Allotments:**

This spring there have been a number of changes in the allotments. Two new allotment holders have taken over allotments in the Jubilee allotments and also three new allotment holders are now in the Old Allotments. As a result, and following a questionnaire to those on the waiting list, the waiting list has now fallen to 4 villagers. Hedge trimming and some water problems have been sorted out.

As usual, Allotment holders are reminded that, if they do not keep up their allotments according to the Rules laid down by the Trustees, their allotment holding will be withdrawn and given to the next villager on the waiting list.

Any parishioner who wishes his or her name to be added to the allotment waiting list should please contact Paul Corrigan on 01367 718325.

### **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 village organisations and societies which feel the need to improve their facilities are encouraged 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 Trustees will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to be held in the Village Hall Committee Room.

David N. Axford - Hon. Clerk/Correspondent,

SitV Public Purposes Charity.

## REPORT TO SIV PARISH COUNCIL FROM OCC

### PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

Without consulting the public or OCC, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of OCC and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils. In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with OCC, such as social care and major road projects.

The Districts put out a tender to consultants to produce a report to support their proposals. Their brief to consultants initially stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary is best would not be approved. The OCC view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered, and stated that it would therefore be forced to commission a separate report.

As a result of OCC and public pressure, District Council leaders eventually agreed to commission a report covering all the options. However, the protocol relating to the commissioning and management of the report could not be agreed between OCC and Districts, so the nett result is that two separate reports costing in excess of £100,000 each will proceed. Initial findings will be available June/July with public consultations to follow. It is likely the Secretary of State will rule on the reports in the autumn.

### CHILDREN'S CENTRE CONTRACTS EXTENDED

OCC has extended contracts for Oxfordshire's children's centres and early intervention hubs until 31 March 2017. The Cabinet is due to meet on 24 May to consider a proposal on how to allocate an additional £2m that the County Council agreed not to cut from early intervention services when the budget was set in February. The extension to the contracts until the spring of 2017 is intended to allow more time to manage the transition into the new service, pending decisions being taken on how the £2m is to be spent. It will also allow more time for OCC to continue working with community groups to develop the best possible local solutions for the continuation of open access services – including proposals for the continued use of children's centre and hub buildings. Following the decision of the Cabinet, the council will carry out an extensive staff consultation regarding the new Children's Service model and the roles within it.

### OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER HIGHWAY SERVICES

Since the launch of the Oxfordshire Together proposals in September 2015, around 140 town and parish councils have expressed an interest in taking on delivery of some local highway services that the council will no longer be able to deliver in the future, or will only deliver to the statutory minimum standard. OCC is now inviting all

interested town and parish councils to sign the necessary agreements that will allow the council to formally transfer the undertaking of highway services under the Oxfordshire Together proposals to town and parish councils that wish to take them on. More information on Oxfordshire Together and the approach and services which can be taken on by Towns and Parishes can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiretogether) and any questions or comments should be sent to [localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:localities@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### COUNTY'S ADOPTION WAITING TIMES AMONG SHORTEST

Children are waiting less time to be adopted in Oxfordshire than almost anywhere else in the country, latest Government figures show. The council is rated among the best performing authorities on three key measures linked to the time taken for children in care to move in with adoptive families. Between 2012 and 2015, 73 per cent of Oxfordshire children waited less than 16 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family - the third highest figure out of 149 authorities across the country. The council was sixth best for the average time taken between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, and recorded the 15th shortest average time between receiving court authority to place a child and matching them with a family.

### PIONEERING PROJECT BRINGS SERVICES CLOSER

People in Oxfordshire with learning disabilities have taken a lead role in the commissioning of services that will provide them with care and support. The project run by OCC involved about 60 people with learning disabilities and members of their families in the appointment of five new service providers to run contracts worth a total £15million. Service users and/or a member of their families sat on the evaluation panels which examined all the bids to provide 18 supported living services before deciding on the five successful providers. This means that on April 1, 2016 when the contracts came into force the appointment of the new providers will have been heavily influenced by some of the people who will use them.

**Cllr. Melinda Tilley**, Oxfordshire County Council  
Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families

Parish Council Website - <a href="http://www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk">www.stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk</a>		
<b>Mike Dew (Clerk)</b>	-	<b>01367 710387</b>
<b>Cllr. Amanda Bailey</b>	-	<b>07777 691336</b>
<b>Cllr. Graham Fletcher</b>	-	<b>07508 428067</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Gill</b>	-	<b>01367 718224</b>
<b>Cllr. Mark Isaacs</b>	-	<b>01367 718719</b>
<b>Cllr. Simon Jackson</b>	-	<b>07979 917001</b>
<b>Cllr. Tina Jenkins</b>	-	<b>07443 90615</b>
<b>Cllr. Nona Lewis</b>	-	<b>01367 710779</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Lewis (Chair)</b>		<b>01367 710166</b>
<b>Cllr. Janet Warren</b>		<b>01367 719789</b>
<b>Cllr. Karin WilliamsCuss</b>		<b>07771 614101</b>