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# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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# NEWS UPDATE JANUARY 2018

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## **Thank you snow much!**

I know after a cold, damp January that the few days of snow from before Christmas will feel like a very long time ago. However, the Parish Council would like to extend our thanks to all those who helped clear and salt various paths around the village - especially for those who helped ensure the safety of neighbours and the more vulnerable of our community. We have 3 salt bins in the village (Manor Green, Millennium Green, Hunters Field/Glebe Road corner) which are available for use on public paths (not private driveways) should the need arise. Our thanks also to District Councillor Robert Sharp for his help in refilling these after they were well used in December. If you search online for "Oxfordshire Snow Guide" you'll also find some excellent advice from the County Council should the wintry white stuff return.

## **Car Parking**

A very small minority of drivers are parking inconsiderately – either causing additional hazards or damage to the village. The village greens, and other grassed areas are particularly susceptible at this time of year as the ground is often waterlogged and very soft. Whilst a number of parents seem to think that it's acceptable to park on both sides of the road or block residential driveways when dropping off/collecting children from the school, which is simply creating additional hazards. If you must drive, park smart – please! Walking has so many health benefits, both for adults and children alike that it really is worth ditching the car for your next trip to the shop or getting little ones to school.

## **Sheep (and other livestock) Worrying**

The network of public footpaths that we currently have (and that the Parish Council is hoping to expand in the near future), gives fabulous access to the countryside around us. Many of these routes are primarily used to accommodate livestock and are home to wildlife of all kinds. So, it's disheartening to read of one landowner's experiences of dog walkers using these resources without a care (see separate

article). Aside from the impact on the animals themselves, the only way we can expand the network of footpaths is with the co-operation of local landowners – please ensure that it's not you and your dog causing them to be concerned about having rights of way crossing their fields.

## **Skate Park**

It's great to see that this continues to be a popular resource. In recent months we've also seen more scooter riders using the facility. Whilst this is fine in principal, there have been a number of accidents involving scooters, leading to broken bones and other injuries. "Normal" scooters are often not designed to be strong enough for use on ramps, and we highly recommend that helmets and gloves are worn to minimise the risk of injury.

## **Community Events**

There are a huge number of events that take place within the village each year. Whilst we're all keen to let everyone know about them, it would be really appreciated if you took down your posters afterwards – we're frequently removing posters for events that took place many months ago.

## **Money, money, money**

Hot off the press, I'm delighted to share with you that we have secured a generous grant from Vale of White Horse District Council to fund approximately half (circa £10,000) of the relocation of the power lines that are currently crossing the new QEII Recreation Field. Our thanks to Cllr. Mark Isaacs for completing all the necessary paperwork which scored highly with the grant awarding team and to Cllr. Tina Jenkins who was able to attend the grant meeting at short notice, to answer the committee's questions.

## **Peter Lewis**

*Chairman – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council*  
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It's always a great pleasure to walk in the fields, with a dog at your heels, especially around your local village where there are so many public rights of way. Most dog owners adhere to the countryside rules of keeping their pet closely controlled at all times, but unfortunately there are a few dog owners who flout the rules and let their dogs run wild around farmers' animals with no thought to the consequences of what this does to other animals which live in the field.

Letting their charges chase around, while they whistle, shout, flap about themselves trying to get their dogs to obey, letting their dogs foul around barns and driveways and leaving it there, causing havoc wherever they go, digging holes, or not expecting the unexpected and lose control of their pet. When there is a sign that says, 'please keep dogs on a lead', do please keep them on a lead, it's for a good reason, even if the field appears empty. I'm sure the people who don't, would love to have this chaos on their own lawns and properties, disturbing and upsetting their animals and family life. Try treating an animal's infected injury caused by a dog bite or cuts made by barbed wire caused by the dog harassment which startle and frighten sheep, cows and horses, not to mention kill chickens and other fowl, or young lambs at vulnerable times, wildlife also come into this category as I've seen some horrible sights that the dog owners can't deal with and birds/small animals are left to die in agony. It's heart breaking to see animals suffer in this way and know that it could have been avoided. Think also of your own dog that could come to harm while running free, it could become lost or run over on the road, run into farm machinery, get kicked or stamped on and worst of all shot.

Remember it's not the dog's fault, it's the owners who are unable to recognise themselves who do not follow these easy rules. It's so much nicer to co-exist with everyone trying to do the best they can for all animals, so please let's try to work together to achieve this.

#### **Raising the bar in recycling: Your chance to talk rubbish and recycling with Oxfordshire's councils**



Residents are being given the chance to talk rubbish and recycling and tell Oxfordshire's county, city and district councils how they can help them recycle more and create less waste.

Did you know that each household in Oxfordshire produces one tonne of waste each year?

While we are among the best in the country at recycling and composting, recycling rates have started to drop in Oxfordshire.

This consultation will inform the review of the joint countywide waste strategy, which sets out shared priorities across Oxfordshire for waste and recycling until 2030 and which will be approved by the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership over the summer. Then, each council partner will adopt changes later in the year.

We want to do better at recycling and the new joint countywide waste strategy is critical to this. We know that, on average, more than half the items put in the general waste bin could have been recycled - by placing them in the other available bins.

Through this consultation, residents are being asked what would help them to recycle more and reduce their overall waste. This could include expanding the range of materials that can be recycled at the kerbside and tips and advice on leftover food, upcycling clothing or donating or buying second hand goods. The councils are also seeking views on more radical schemes that have been implemented elsewhere in the country, such as changing bin sizes and collection frequency.

Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "In the Vale of White Horse, our residents are able to recycle the majority of their waste through the household collection service that we run, and they do a fantastic job. We're always keen to look at ways to improve, so I would like to encourage our residents to take part in this consultation and help to shape the future for waste and recycling services in Oxfordshire."

Councillor Yvonne Constance, Cabinet Member for Environment at Oxfordshire County Council said: "We want to help residents to increase the amount they recycle and have looked at what other councils are doing. This is a long-term strategy and we will not be making any immediate changes however we are interested in which of these the residents of Oxfordshire think may work for them as we seek to minimise the overall amount of residual waste produced in the county."

Do you want to recycle and reduce waste? So help us by taking part in the online survey at [www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk). The survey is now open and will close on 18 February.

## **Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity (PPC) Report for February 2018**

Unfortunately the January 2018 meeting of the PPC Trustees had to be re-organised to be on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

As a result little of significance has occurred since the December PPC Report.

### **The following Grants are paid or outstanding:**

- The grant of £1,250 in support of Home Start (Southern Oxfordshire) for help towards family support work in Stanford in the Vale was paid in December following a certificate from the Home Start team that action has been taken for the benefit of a Stanford in the Vale family.
- The offer of up to £10,000 support towards burying overhead power cables in the QEII Recreation field requested by the Parish Council remains outstanding.
- Two requests from the 1<sup>st</sup> Stanford in the Vale Scout Group for various equipment will be dealt with at the Trustee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February. In each case two quotations will be available.

### **Allotments:**

The hedges will be trimmed before the start of the next growing season.

The waiting list for this year has now increased to seven villagers.

Allotment holders have been informed that the Trustees have decided to increase the rentals by £2 in 2018 to cover increases in the water rates and hedge trimming activities. Requests for payment will be issued shortly.

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

### **Villagers are reminded of the PPC Trust Scheme Statement:**

***"The Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Stanford in the Vale."*** The Trustees interpret this with the hope that their grants will improve and strengthen the community spirit 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 £25,000 per year available for grants. Grants are made for specific projects, normally for durable items.

Grant Applications are made to the Trustees through the Hon. Clerk/Correspondent, who can supply the latest up-dated Grant Application Forms on request either by e-mail or hard copy. (Tel: 01367 718480 or email [dnax@btinternet.com](mailto:dnax@btinternet.com) )

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SitV Public Purposes Charity,

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