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# STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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# NEWS UPDATE June 2021

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## Parish Council Vacancy

Following our notice of a casual vacancy, we are pleased to welcome Cllr Mike Dixon to the parish council. We would like to thank the other parishioners who applied and it was very encouraging to see that a number of people were interested in filling the vacant role. As usual contact details for all of our councillors can be found in this newsletter should you wish to contact any of us.

## Skate Park

We are looking at options for updating the equipment in the skate park as we recognise that some of it is coming to the end of its life and is posing an increasing challenge to maintain. This is likely to be a long-term project, necessitating securing funding, but is something that we hope to keep moving along in the background.

Unfortunately we are still seeing some instances of anti-social behaviour, including the setting of small fires in the park. If you see anything suspicious please let us know or contact Thames Valley Police.

## High Street Flooding

As we reported last time, there remains an ongoing issue with water pooling around the gullies outside the Co-op and on the corner of Sheards Lane. OCC Highways believe they have identified a collapsed pipe in this area, and we will endeavour to ensure that addressing the problem receives priority.

## QEII Recreation Field Update

As we said in the last parish council newsletter, we have submitted the planning application for the first stage in our project for a new recreation field on the land at the top of Cottage Road, opposite the Football Club.

We are working through the consultation responses received, which has necessitated some minor modifications to the layout and some additional ecological surveys which will be in progress in the coming months. In addition we have also been carrying out some drainage tests in the field to ensure that any changes we make do not impact the surrounding fields and roads. Particular thanks are due to Darren Rolls for helping us with the tests.

## Litter picking

Our thanks to the Stanford in the Vale WI, who spent their morning litter picking in the QEII Recreation Field, the Community Woodland and Strip woodland. Between eleven people they collected nine bags of rubbish. Ideally, this would be one of those jobs that didn't need doing – please remember to take any rubbish home with you or use one of the litter bins around the village.

## Footpaths

We're pleased to report that the collapsed stile on the one of the popular circular walks south of the village has now been repaired by the county council footpaths team. We're sorry it has been out of action for quite some time, but arranging these types of repairs is not always straightforward. We're grateful to the county council for their work to fix it.



## Law surrounding virtual council meetings

The expiry of the law permitting virtual council meetings in England at the beginning of May has placed the parish council in a difficult position – wanting to safeguard the health of councillors and parishioners on one hand and abiding by the law on the other.

After discussion at the last council meeting we have decided to hold our next meeting, in June, remotely, as we have been doing since the start of the pandemic. The council felt that our duty of care towards members of the public and councillors, particularly those who may still be shielding, overrode the legal position.

We will be reviewing this again at our next parish council meeting.

## And finally

At the last council meeting Cllr Peter Lewis stepped down as chair after a number of years. We're very grateful for all he has done for the village in the role and also pleased that we'll continue to benefit from his contribution to the council as deputy chair.

Kevin Middleton

Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council

[kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com)

**The Parish Council were very concerned to hear a report that 16 cows/ calves have had to be destroyed or been born with birth defects due to Neospora infections over the last year in our Parish.** This can be caused by cows eating dog poo.

Please could all dog owners ensure that dog poo is picked up from fields as for pavements and correctly disposed of. This will alleviate much animal suffering and cost to our farmers – Thank you'



**Protect Your Pooch –**  
A New Dog Theft Campaign Launched By Neighbourhood Watch

**In response to the increased fear of pet theft, Neighbourhood Watch has launched our PROTECT YOUR POOCH campaign.**

The campaign will run on social media from 17th – 30th May but those who do not use social media can support the campaign by displaying the poster below in their community, or attending our online Dog Theft webinar on the 27th May at 5pm. The webinar will be led by Neighbourhood Watch Network with speakers from the Met Police and Crimestoppers,

as well as special guest speaker Katy Bourne, PCC for Sussex.

To book your place, go to

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/webinars>

The PROTECT YOUR POOCH campaign encourages people to keep their pets SECURE, IN SIGHT and SEARCHABLE, and to HELP MAKE PET THEFT A SPECIFIC CRIMINAL OFFENCE. The Met Police and Crimestoppers are backing our SECURE, IN SIGHT and SEARCHABLE message. More information on the campaign can be found on [www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch)

You can support the campaign by acting on our advice and sharing our messages in the following ways:

1. Follow us on [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#) and share our campaign posts
2. Print this poster and display it in your community
3. Share this yellow campaign image below on your local WhatsApp groups
4. Help make pet theft a specific criminal offence by signing a petition or writing to your MP. Find out more on [www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch)
5. Attend our online Dog Theft webinar on 27th May, 5pm. Book your place go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/webinars>
6. For a PROTECT YOUR POOCH campaign pack, please email

[Deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:Deborah.waller@ourwatch.org.uk)



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349



## PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs **SECURE**, **IN SIGHT** and **SEARCHABLE**, and to help make pet theft a **SPECIFIC OFFENCE**.

Keep them:

- 1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)
- 2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)
- 3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT  
**A SPECIFIC OFFENCE**

Find out more on all of the above and more at [ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch](http://ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch)




Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it. This is also incorrect - both new and old cars are at risk. Having a car stolen or broken into is more than simply a hassle, it can impact on people's livelihoods.

The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk to their car. With only a 46% recovery rate<sup>3</sup> we're reminding everyone to leave your car **locked**, **lit** and **empty**."

## PROTECT YOUR CAR, LEAVE IT:

- 1. LOCKED**  
LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN YOU LEAVE IT
- 2. LIT**  
PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA
- 3. EMPTY**  
HIDE ANY ITEMS ON SHOW

SHARE THESE 3 STEPS WITH 3 FRIENDS



[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

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Keep safe,  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK, Central Support Team**



## Neighbourhood Watch Launches Protect Your Car Campaign

Car crime is a real problem in the UK. Alarmingly, **one car is stolen every ten minutes**.

With Covid-19 and the recent lockdowns, many people aren't driving or checking on their cars as much as they used to. At Neighbourhood Watch, we need your help to remind car owners to remain vigilant about where and how they park their cars, in order to keep them safe.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, says

"Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. This isn't always correct.

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<b>Mike Dew (Clerk)</b>	-	<b>01367 710387</b>
<b>Cllr. Mike Dixon</b>	<a href="mailto:mike.dixon4@btopenworld.com">mike.dixon4@btopenworld.com</a>	
<b>Cllr. Simon Howes</b>	-	<b>07875 249265</b>
<b>Cllr. Mark Isaacs</b>	-	<b>01367 718719</b>
<b>Cllr. Tina Jenkins</b>	-	<b>07443 906150</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Lewis (Deputy Chair)</b>	-	<b>01367 710166</b>
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