



Vacancy – Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

As advised in the last newsletter, we currently have a vacancy for the position of Parish Clerk. Interested candidates can find out more about the role and how to apply below.

The role of the Parish Clerk & RFO is to facilitate the work of our Councillors, to carry out decisions made by them and to manage the Council's day-to-day financial affairs. The successful candidate will work closely with all members of the Council. As the Proper Officer of the Council, the Clerk prepares the agenda for and takes the minutes at Parish Council meetings, deals with correspondence, manages the Council's website and deals with enquiries from the public. Additionally, as RFO you will maintain detailed financial records and prepare annual audit returns.

The successful candidate will be self-motivated, proactive and highly organised with excellent communication skills and high levels of computer literacy. Whilst not essential, you would ideally have prior experience of working within the local government sector, and either hold or be prepared to undertake training towards achieving the Certificate in Local Council Administration - more details can be found here <https://www.slcc.co.uk/qualifications/>.

This is a home-based, part-time role with flexible working time arrangements. Attendance at monthly Parish Council meetings (1st Wednesday of the month) is required. Dependent on skills and experience we envisage that the role would require up to 15 hours per week. We will reward the successful candidate at between £12.89 - £14.03 per hour (SCP 18-23), based on national pay scales.

Candidates should contact the Parish Council Chair, Kevin Middleton, either by email at kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com or by phone on 01367 718395.

Skate Park

We realise that the skate park has always been well-used and that the continued closure of elements of it results in a lack of facilities for young people. However, we have now identified a viable option for repair of the damaged parts, and this will enable us to restore the park to full operation faster and at lower cost than the

alternative of wholesale replacement. However, the costs are still significant, and we need to secure funding before we can proceed with the work. We are currently working on funding options and will keep you updated with progress. Although it might not look like much is happening, it takes time to put everything in place for larger projects such as this and it is currently one of our areas of priority.

Speed Indicator Devices

As we reported in the last newsletter, we have been firming up our plans to introduce a number of speed indicator devices around the village. These will show a individual driver's speed along with a message to alert them if they are exceeding the limit. Research has shown that they can help to reduce the proportion of drivers exceeding the speed limit and lower speeds result in significant improvements in road safety. The Parish Council will be purchasing two devices that will be rotated between four locations every 6 to 8 weeks. A support pole and solar panel used for power will be in place permanently in each location. We have identified four spots we think are suitable: on the High Street, Church Green, Cottage Road and Joyce's Road, and we have written to residents in the vicinity to let them know of our plans. The devices will be mounted on the highway verge. The cost of the mounting poles will be met by the County Council. The cost of the devices themselves and the solar panels will be funded partly from Community Infrastructure Levy funds held in reserve by the Parish Council and partly by a grant from the Stanford in the Vale Public Purposes Charity. We are particularly grateful to the Public Purposes Charity for their support, without which the project would not have been financially viable.

School Parking

We are also planning to introduce some yellow zig-zag no parking lines outside the school entrance on the High Street, both to address problems with congestion in the area and to make it safer for parents and children when dropping off and picking up children. This is now tentatively scheduled to take place in the Spring Half Term (21 February - 25 February). The work will be funded partly by Oxfordshire County Council

Highways and partly by a grant from the Oxfordshire County Councillor Priority Fund.

We realise it's not always easy to avoid using a car in a rural village like ours, and that time constraints or mobility issues can sometimes make the car the only option, but we would like to remind people that the Highway Code advises that drivers should not park on the pavement as it "can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs." In addition, parking on the grass verges can damage them, particularly in the winter months. Please avoid parking on pavements and verges when dropping children at school, particularly in the vicinity of the Hunter's Field entrance.

Millennium Green Working Party

We are planning to have a working party in the Millennium Green from 10am to 12.30pm on Sunday 16th January to have a morning tackling some of the upkeep and maintenance jobs around the green. We would welcome any volunteers who would like to turn up on the day and join us. We plan to tackle job such as hedge trimming, weeding and general garden jobs.

So if your new year's resolutions this January are likely to include getting more fresh air, exercise or spending more time in nature, this is a good opportunity to get the new year off to a good start. If you have them, please bring 'heavy duty' gardening equipment, such as loppers, forks, wheelbarrows and gloves. And don't forget a hot drink and a slice of cake to share at tea-break time!

Pre-school vandalism

The Pre-School has reported instances of people getting into the Pre-School garden and causing damage as well as getting onto the roof to retrieve balls. A considerable amount of damage was caused over half-term and climbing onto the roof risks serious injury. It is a criminal offence for a person on a school premises without lawful authority to cause nuisance or disturbance and the pre-school have notified the police are taking advice from local police community support officers. If you see anyone inside the school grounds out of hours who you think shouldn't been there, please contact the police, particularly if you witness them causing any damage.

High Street Flooding

After a lot of chasing by the Parish Council, we now have a date from the County Council for repair of the drains outside the Co-Op to tackle the problem with flooding in front of the parking

area. The drainage work will start on 20th December and last for three days. We realise that the timing, just before the Christmas period, is not ideal, but this is the earliest slot we have been able to obtain from the County Council and the Parish Council's view was that the work should happen as soon as possible, given the increased flooding risk over the winter months and the length of time we have been waiting for the repairs. The work will be carried out under temporary traffic lights on the High Street. This will inevitably mean some disruption and delays, but it should alleviate the persistent problems we have seen with flooding in the area.

Kevin Middleton
Chair – Stanford in the Vale Parish Council
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The PPC Trustees were all hoping that our last meeting for 2021 could have been a 'real' meeting and that we could have invited some of the organisations we have supported to join us for a Christmas drink!

Circumstances forced us into one more Zoom session, but we did see life coming back to the Village with a big portfolio of grant applications to consider.

The Trustees re-elected the Executive Committee:

Chair – Roger Griffin

Clerk/Correspondent – Caryl Oliver

Treasurer – Felipe Vizoso

Despite the pandemic slowing down life for so many, the PPC Trustees have been working hard to help identify and support areas of Village life that can be improved or developed with the injection of grant funds.

It is also exciting to see grant applications coming from a broader base of organisations which expands the diversity of activity offered to those living in Stanford in the Vale.

PPC is actively engaged in seeking new sites for additional allotments so watch this space for what we turn up!

The next Trustee meeting will be in January and we are full of hope, again, for this to be a face to face meeting.

Some of the latest projects and information on how to apply for grants can be found on our website at www.ppcstanford.org
 Wishing all in Stanford in the Vale and joyous Christmas, safe family celebrations and a prosperous New Year.



23M People Used 123456 As A Password

Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices and money at risk - by using the same password across multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers. Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - the UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than **23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password**. You can read more about it here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/most-hacked-passwords-revealed-as-uk-cyber-survey-exposes-gaps-in-online-security>

Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, "RedPantsTree4!"

2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

- make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
- protect you against some cyber crime, such as fake websites

It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

Here are some useful links on how you can start saving passwords in your browser: [Google Chrome](#), [Microsoft Edge](#), [Firefox](#), [Safari](#).

3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

Need help changing your email account password? You can use these links to find step by step instructions: [Gmail](#), [Yahoo! Mail](#), [Outlook](#), [BT](#), [AOL Mail](#).

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>

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