



Monthly Parish Council Surgeries.

The Parish Council is committed to engaging with all parishioners and helping (where we can) with improving all aspects of living in the village. We fully appreciate that not everyone is able to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings (normally in the large Village Hall) and if they do, time is usually quite limited as the agenda is always full.

In an effort to offer additional access to the Parish Council, we will be trialling a monthly "surgery" between 10.00 and 12.00 on the last Saturday of every month at the Village Cafe, next to the Co-Op, starting on Saturday 26th July 2025.

It's your opportunity to come and meet members of the Parish Council and discuss your thoughts on how we all work together to make Stanford in the Vale a great place to live.

A417

The Parish Council and our County Councillor have been pushing hard for the work on the A417 to be completed more quickly than the official completion date of October 2025. Whilst there is no commitment to finish sooner, we are led to believe that the work is currently slightly ahead of schedule.

Separately our County Councillor is pushing hard for a full resurfacing of the road particularly the 2 areas around Mill Farm and the Shellingford crossroads

A417 Roundabout

For the last 16 months the Parish Council have been pushing Oxfordshire County Council to properly finish the surface on the top of the A417 roundabout. We are pleased to report that they have now signed an agreement with David Wilson Homes for the rubble and weeds to be removed, top-soil to be put down and seeded and then suitably watered until the grass is established

FixMyStreet Superusers

Would you like to help to improve the state of the roads in our village? If so, there is an opportunity to become registered as a superuser on FixMyStreet, the website used to log problems with local roads, including potholes, damaged curbs or blocked drains.

FixMyStreet is the online portal used to register any highways defects for the county or district council to action. Anyone can register and log a defect as a normal user, and we encourage people to do this; even if it doesn't always result in rapid resolution of the problem, it's a first, and necessary, step to getting highways repairs done by the local authority.

Becoming a Superuser enables you to prioritise defects for repair and provides a means of getting more rapid attention for urgent problems. You don't need to be a parish councillor to do this. If you are interested in volunteering as a FixMyStreet superuser, please contact the parish council clerk or chair. Becoming a superuser

involves a couple of hours of training at the county council's offices and a bit more time on an online course, but less than a day for everything. Once you are a Superuser you would need to have an hour or two to spare every few weeks to inspect and log any defects in your local area.

Highways defects can be logged online by anyone, Superuser or not, at

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

Bus stops on High Street and Upper Green

The County Council has installed 4 new bus stop hard standings, 2 on High Street near the A417 and 2 on Upper Green.

Following lobbying by the Parish Council, 3 of these are plastic grids (instead of tarmac) to allow grass to grow through, so as to provide the hard standing, but without despoiling these important parts of the Conservation Areas. All have drop kerbs to assist those with limited mobility. These bus stop hard standings should not be used quite yet though and remain fenced off. Residents living nearby are encouraged to water them, if they are able, until the grass is established through the grids.

QE2 Field

We finally have planning permission to level the QE2 Field subject to a number of conditions. It has taken many, many years to get to this stage, but finally the project is accelerating. Huge thanks to all involved but in particular Cllr Sean Silk and Frank Coldwell.

In parallel with working on meeting all the planning conditions we are now starting to work on the next phase which is to finalise the facilities to be provided. The Parish Council will be seeking updated feedback on this over the coming months from the community.

More new play area equipment

We are slowly investing in new play equipment in the village as we replace worn out items. Below is a picture of a new unit in the Toddler area of the play area behind the Village Hall.



Particular thanks to Cllr Peter Lewis for organising this new equipment

The Parish Council are also taking over responsibility for the Play Area on Nursery End, although we are yet to receive funding which has yet to be released by the District Council.

The 3 play areas that the Parish Council are responsible for are now the one behind the Village Hall, The Aerial Runway, Skate Park and MUGA by the Football Club and the Nursery End Play Area. All other play areas in the village are maintained by the developer or a management company.

Skate Park

A working group has been established to define the requirements for and raise funding to replace the existing skate park. This will be a major project for the village. If you think that you can help or want to get involved, please contact Cllr Jason Page.

Wayfinder Trail

What is the Wayfinder Trail? - The Wayfinder Trail will be a guided history tour around our village, with large stones from our local quarry, strategically placed near sites of historical interest. Each stone will have a mosaic depicting an image of a local historical event and a QR code, to enable you to get more detail about where you are in the village and what local history is nearby. There will be maps, situated around the village, showing the Wayfinder Trail, making it easy to follow.

When will the Wayfinder Trail be open? - All of the stones for Phase 1 of the Wayfinder Trail have been selected and are being stored at Hatford Quarry, ready for pressure washing and delivery. The sites for the stones have been chosen and the Parish Council will be contacting households adjacent to the proposed sites, to ensure that the positioning of the stones will not cause any issues. Our chosen artist has completed the construction of the mosaics, ready for installation and the QR Code plaques will be ordered in July. Unfortunately, the roadworks on the A417 has delayed the installation of the stones until mid-October, and we are scheduling the artist to begin the inlaying of the mosaics at that time. We are looking to open the Wayfinder Trail mid-November this year.

The money to fund the Wayfinder Trail is not coming from Council Tax but from money allocated to artistic projects from the developments west of the A417 topped up by a generous donation from David Wilson Homes. The Parish Council are also extremely grateful to Earthline Limited for committing to provide and deliver the stones.

Some of the mosaics will look like these:



Site no 8, Hat
English civil war 'robber' post helmet
and 'robber' pole.



Site no 8, Hat
Sun with human-like face
and the year 1710.



Site no 8, Hat
A Clergy in the pattern robe of Francis,
founder Bishop of Portsmouth Cathedral.
He was beheaded and legend has it his
body appeared on the beach and was covered in
seaweed, protecting all the way.

Security Cameras

A number of parishioners have brought it to the attention of the Parish Council that acts of anti-social behaviour seem to be on the rise. These include arson, graffiti, general vandalism and drug dealing. In an effort to stem the tide, the Parish Council (to conform with our legal obligations), now has in place a Security Camera Policy and has started installing a number of Security Cameras in the areas most at risk.

The Parish Council has followed guidance from our Police & Crime Commissioner and the Information Commissioner's Office, to ensure that any evidence of anti-social behaviour recorded, is suitable for use in any subsequent prosecution.

Defibrillators

Do you know where your nearest defibrillator is? There are currently 6 in the village. You can find your nearest one at <https://www.defibfinder.uk> or, if you do not have access to the internet, by calling the village clerk.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) facilities

Did you know that you can play tennis, netball and pickleball at the MUGA as well as basketball? The MUGA is situated at the football field and managed



by the Parish Council. It was resurfaced, re-marked last year and new equipment purchased. All the nets are available onsite; contact the Parish Clerk for details of how to access them. There is also a yard brush should you wish to give the court a quick sweep before you start. We welcome groups, teams and individuals who want to use the space and there is no need to book, unless you want to reserve a regular slot. The MUGA is free to use for all parishioners.

The Parish Council plans to replace the current floodlights on the MUGA and children's football pitch with LED floodlights in the coming months to cut energy use.

Footpaths

The Parish Council are lobbying hard for the path from the Bow Farm Estate to Horsecroft to be officially designated. This was promised by Vale of the White Horse District Council (VoWHDC) and the Landowner as part of the development conditions and we are incensed that this has not yet happened. We are also aware that part of the route has been ploughed up. Despite numerous communications from the Parish Council, VoWHDC have not sorted this out and we have asked both our District ad

County Councillors to assist in getting the promises made to the village fulfilled.

Whilst we of course encourage the use of the footpaths around our village, if you have a dog, please keep them fully under control around livestock and ensure that dog poo is picked up and that poo-bags are placed in the appropriate bins or taken home. Please be aware that eating dog poo can cause Neospora in pregnant cattle causing them to abort their calves before term. Please also do remain on designated footpaths.

Wildflowers, Trees & Woodland

We have received a number of very positive comments about the wildflower planting on the Bow Road verge. This is in addition to the over 5,500 daffodils planted around the village over the last 2 years. The Parish Council hope to plant more wildflower areas over the coming years. Any volunteers to help with this are always appreciated.

Many thanks to Jude and Jem Bond who have worked very hard watering the trees in the Community Orchard during the hot weather. The trees are well over 500m from a tap so this is a particularly sterling effort.

Many thanks too to all involved, in July, on the working parties on the Community Woodland and on the garden adjacent to the Toddler Area in the playground behind the Village Hall.

Have your say on the Oxford City Congestion Charge Proposals

There is a proposed new congestion charge scheme for Oxford. You can read about it here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/connecting-oxfordshire/temporary-congestion-charge. You can also comment online, via the same link, but you will need to be quick as the consultation closes on 3rd August.

Have your say on the new Unitary Authority

The Government have mandated that the 2 tiers of County Council and District Councils are merged to make 'Unitary Authorities' from 2028. There are a number of options being explored as follows:

- A single unitary council covering the current county council boundary
- Two unitaries. One including the current districts on Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire along with West Berkshire. The second unitary including the current districts of West Oxfordshire and Cherwell along with Oxford City
- Three unitaries. One covering Oxford City but with expanded boundaries from the current city council. A second including the current districts on Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire along with West Berkshire. A third including the current districts of West Oxfordshire and Cherwell.

Your County Council and District Councils currently have differing views on the way forward. You can read more about the options at:

- www.letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation or

- www.twocouncils.org/home

Additional Information

Your Member of Parliament is Olly Glover (Lib Dem):
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

Your County Councillor is Lee Evans (Cons):
lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your County Council is Lib Dem controlled. They are responsible for schools, roads and footpaths, transport and travel, recycling facilities, children's services and adult social care; see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your District Councillor is Sue Caul (Lib Dem)
sue.caul@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Your District Council is Lib Dem controlled. They collect Council Tax and are responsible for planning, rubbish & waste services, leisure facilities, housing, benefit management and running elections; see www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Your Parish Council by convention does not operate along party political lines. All councillors are unpaid volunteers. Our Parish Clerk is employed for 20 hours per week.

Contact Details are:

Kevin Middleton (Chair)	kevinfmiddleton@gmail.com	01367 718395
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Bob Kent	bob_kent@btinternet.com	07501 250407
Jason Page	jpage1970@gmail.com	
Sean Silk	sean.silk@btinternet.com	07795 540360
Parish Clerk (Claire Lewis)	clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk	07710 760894

The Parish Council lobbies District & County Councils over issues in the Parish and scrutinises and comments on Planning Applications. The District Council decides most Planning Applications.

The Parish Council is responsible for:

- Church Green, Upper Green & Jubilee Green
- The play areas next to the village hall, on Nursery End and the aerial ropeway
- The QEII field
- The Skate Park and MUGA
- The Millennium Green
- The Community Woodland and Community Orchard

