



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 our village. In addition to our regular public meetings, you can contact any councillor directly to provide feedback, make suggestions or have concerns in relation to something that we manage. We're also trialling a "drop-in surgery" as another opportunity to meet members of the Parish Council and share your thoughts or concerns.

The next "drop-in surgery" at the Stanford Coffee Shop will be on Saturday, October 25th, between 10.00 and 12.00.

Parish Council 'Suggestion Box'

As you may already be aware, there is now a "suggestion box" located in the Stanford Coffee Shop (on a shelf on your left, as you walk into the cafe). Suggestion pads and pens are provided, just pop your suggestion in the box and a Parish Councillor will get back to you. For more urgent matters, please use the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Village Wayfinder Trail

The Parish Council is working on the delivery of a Wayfinder Trail. The Wayfinder Trail is a journey through the village, offering an historical insight to many of the buildings and sites of interest in the village. Each site chosen for its historical interest will be marked by a large stone from one of our local quarries, with an inlaid mosaic, depicting a "moment in time". There will also be a QR code which will take you to a web site that will offer more detail about where you are in the village, what the historical significance is and where the other stones are located.

The quarry have had a particularly busy summer, couple that, with the roadworks on the A417 (making getting into River Meadow difficult), we have been delayed.

We hope to be able to offer a more positive update in the December edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Parking on Highway Verges and Village Greens

Please can we make a plea that everyone avoids parking on all grass highway verges and particularly the Village Greens. As we move further into autumn we can all see the damage caused by vehicle ruts. Please park considerately

Footpaths, Highways and Drainage

Whilst we of course encourage the use of the footpaths around our village, if you have a dog, please keep them fully under control and ensure that dog poo is picked up and that poo-bags are placed in the appropriate bins or taken home. Whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible, it was particularly disappointing to find the High Street footpath littered with dog mess on the second day of the school term, as very young children were making their way into school in the pouring rain. Not only is this unpleasant for all concerned, but poses a very real health risk especially for children. If you see someone allowing their dog to foul on public land without picking it up, this should be reported to VWHDC (search their website for "dog fouling") who can issue fixed penalty notices or take the owner to court.

If you are venturing into the footpaths in the fields around our village with your dog, please be aware that eating grass contaminated with dog poo can cause Neospora in pregnant cattle causing them to abort their calves before term. Please also do remain on designated footpaths.

Despite continued pressure on OCC Highways in relation to numerous defects around the parish including the A417, Bow Road and storm drainage issues, we are only getting very limited responses, which is particularly disappointing given the length of time these have been going. We are now pushing for resolution of these matters via our County Councillor, who's update can be found within this newsletter.

Woodland Tree Planting

This winter we will be planting about 750 small trees (whips) as hedging around the Community Woodland and also some fruit trees in the Community Orchard. If you are able to help with the planting please contact Jude Bond jude.bond444@icloud.com and she will add you to the WhatsApp Group that looks after our Community Woodland and Orchard. We are always keen for more volunteers to assist whether aged 4 or 104.

QEII Recreation Field

Following the initial permission for change of use for recreation purposes, we are actively working our way through the planning conditions that were also imposed. Whilst there are only eight conditions, they

require further complex work in order to meet them. We have therefore appointed relevant, specialist professional services organisations in order to move these forward as swiftly as possible. In parallel with this, our team are looking into two Environment Agency approved schemes for the import of soil in order to determine which is most beneficial to the project.

Cottage Farm

The Parish Council has long held the view that the field adjacent to Cottage Farm should be preserved as a green lung. We are also cognizant of the potential for landowners to seek to develop plots around the village – often with little appreciation for local sentiment. Over the past 10-15yrs we have also seen how quickly planning policy and law can change, and the significant impacts that can bring to local services, alongside the benefit of expanding the UK's housing stock. We are therefore in the early stages of exploring the possibility to secure the field adjacent to Cottage Farm for the village, whilst the developer seeks to expand the existing Cottage Farm development by an additional 2 dwellings. Details of the planning application can be found via the VWHDC Planning website under reference: P25/V1445/FUL

Fix my street Oxfordshire

Many of you will be aware of the "Fix My Street" website, where you can report a range of problems in the village to Oxfordshire County Council or Vale of the White Horse District Council <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

If you are unable to use this site to report problems, the Parish Council now has a "Super User", who is able to report and expedite on your behalf. These problems include pot-holes, pavement and kerb repairs and blocked drains.

To try to improve the response from VWHDC/OCC, we now have a trained Super User within the Parish Council - if you are aware of a fault that remains outstanding after the repair window (28 days for standard road defects) please contact Cllr Bob Kent (contact details below)

Thames Water Emergency Repairs

On 27th August Thames Water had what they describe as an 'issue' at the village sewage treatment plant south of the High Street. A piece of equipment in one of the processing tanks stopped working properly. To investigate and carry out the necessary repairs, they need to use mobile wastewater tankers to empty the tanks so that they can make the repair. Due to the complexity of the repair, they are unable to give a precise timeline for completion. However, they expect the work to take around four weeks so hopefully it will have finished as this newsletter goes to press. We are aware of damage caused by the tankering operations on the High Street and are

pushing Thames Water to protect the verge as well as to fully reinstate the damaged verge on completion of their works.

If you have any questions or need support, please call Thames Water's 24-hour customer centre on 0800 316 9800 and quote reference number BB 01279289.

Defibrillators

In the last newsletter, we suggested that residents might like to visit www.defibfinder.uk to find out the locations of the village's six defibrillators. For those who don't have access to the internet, they are located at:

1. The village hall
2. The school
3. The football club main entrance – use side gate if Cottage Road gates are locked
4. The Horse and Jockey
5. The Gymnastics Centre on the White Horse Industrial Estate
6. 1 Whitfield – Whitfield is the first turning on the right as you leave the village along Bow Road

All defibrillators are in locked cabinets but are available 24/7.

If you have dialled 999 because of a medical emergency and the Ambulance Service call handler decides that a defibrillator is required, they will give you the location of your nearest cabinet and the code to open it. It's imperative that someone stays with the patient and continues to do chest compressions while another person goes for the defibrillator.

When the person gets back with the defibrillator, open it and it will give verbal instructions on what to do. In addition, the call handler will stay on the line until paramedics or Community First Responders arrive.

Early and effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) really does save lives. So, as well as familiarising yourself with the location of defibrillators, why not also familiarise yourself with how to do CPR. A very easy way of doing this is to complete the British Heart Foundation's free, online RevivR course at revivr.bhf.org.uk. It will only take 15 minutes, and you get a certificate on completion.'

Information from our County Councillor – Lee Evans Household Waste Recycling Centres

I have great concerns about the way the County Council is approaching tips (or Household Waste Recycling Centres) in our area. The County Council intends to introduce a booking system later this year, meaning residents will have to book in before using the tip. The County Council has also recently completed a consultation on reducing the opening hours (for example by closing the tips on certain days, or by reducing their opening hours) which will make tips less convenient for residents.

tipping in and around local tips – with Stanford in the Vale, as well as Shellingford, Hatford, and Goosey – suffering the consequences.

I challenged these plans at the recent County Council meeting and I will continue to oppose them.

Condition of the A417

Lee Evans writes: Improving the condition of the A417 is one of my top priorities. In the past few months, there has been some good progress, with the road by Mellor's resurfaced, the worst potholes by Mill Farm filled in (but there's much more work needed here) and the majority of issues with grids between Shellingford and Faringdon fixed.

To keep things moving forward, I asked County Council officers from the Highways Team to meet with me on the A417 to discuss what needs to happen next. In particular, I wanted them to see the need to make further repairs near Mill Farm and to fix the road between Shellingford Quarry and the Shellingford cross-roads.

On Mill Farm, the County Council's 'dragon patcher', which is capable of fixing larger sections than the usual 'patching', will soon be deployed on this stretch of road. I'll then visit the site to check if the repair has worked as we all hope. If it isn't good enough, I won't hesitate to raise it again and ask for a proper resurfacing of that stretch of road.

On the A417 by Shellingford crossroads, this has been raised as a CAT3 defect on the County Council's system. Beyond the technical term, that means it's now in the system for repair. I'm pushing for a timescale for action on this, as some issues remain as defects on the system for a long time. This is an issue I'll be continuing to push on until the road is fully repaired.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

If you are interested in serving your community and getting involved in local decision-making, we currently have a vacancy for a volunteer Parish Councillor. No previous experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute. If you'd like to find out more or put your name forward, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or any member of the council.

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 below.

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
- Mowing some areas of the village on behalf of the County Council
- Litter picking – we employ a litter picker for several hours per week

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