



**Minutes of a Meeting of STANFORD IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at Stanford in the Vale Village Hall**

Present: Cllr. Middleton (Chair) Cllr. Burls Cllr. Foulkes Cllr Horrobin Cllr. Howes
(arrived 19:55) Cllr. Isaacs Cllr. Kent Cllr. Lewis Cllr. Page Cllr. Silk

Cllr Evans (OCC and VWHDC)

Claire Lewis (Clerk)

1 member of the public

01/07/26 To receive apologies
None

02/07/26 To receive Declarations of Interest from Cllrs on any agenda item

- Cllr. Kent – pecuniary interest accounts for payment
- Cllr. Silk - pecuniary interest QE2

03/07/26 To receive, approve & sign as a true record, minutes of previous meeting 3rd June 2026
ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Burls
SECONDED By Cllr. Isaacs
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted, subject to changing wording on 22/06/26 from “will do weekly visual checks and log these checks” to “will continue to do weekly visual checks and log these checks”. Discussion also held on changing the name of the “precept and budgets” group but no decision made. In favour, with abstentions from 1 not present at the previous meeting and two others.

04/07/26 To receive report of District and County Councillor
District:

- Asked for data to be published on increase in general waste since introduction of booking system for recycling centres.
- New local plan
- Chasing on Leisure strategy update following suggested updated from Parish Council
- Local authority searches currently take around 20 days following move to new planning system. Was previously 8 days.
- Question going to full council on support for rural pubs

County:

- Motion to council on disabled facilities grant. This is funded by central govt but assessed by CC and delivered by district. Taking extended time to receive.
- Blue badge applications taking over 3 months – pushing to publish data
- SEN consultation open

Signed.....

Date.....

- Govt has decided to devolve some parking issues to local areas
- Shellingford crossroads resurfacing completed
- Tree at Chapel Road – have now agreed to remove and replace. Will ensure we are asked for our input on replacement
- County Council priority fund application for bridge/bank repair on Hatford footpath now approved
- Drainage investigation Sheards Lane has been delayed – no date set
- Huntersfield verges will be inspected this month
- Still chasing 30mph SID for A417 outside River Meadow
- Drains to be moved into grass verges on A417 from Shellingford crossroads to A420 from September

05/07/26

Questions/comments from Parishioners

- Cllr Isaacs asked for Cllr. Evans' support as we apply for S106 funds for the QE2 project.
- Clerk requested support regarding Land registry info needed for PWA application – **Action:** Clerk to send information to Cllr. Evans

The Parish Council puts on record its thanks to Cllr. Kent for his great efforts on the Waymarker Trail.

06/07/26

To receive Chair's report

I've been contacted by a parishioner over the condition of the footpath from Church Green to St Deny's Church that runs along the north-western side of the green. The broken surface is causing problems for wheelchair users needing to access the church. I've reported on FixMyStreet (ref 9695872) and am awaiting a reply from Oxfordshire County Council.

Related to the above, I note we are still awaiting OCC making repairs to the Joyce's Road to Church Path footpath, reported in October 2024 after a parishioner fell and sustained a serious injury as a result of the uneven surface. I have re-reported this issue on FixMyStreet (ref 9695931).

07/07/26

To receive correspondence and Clerk's Report

Correspondence – relevant copies are in the meeting correspondence folder

1. OALC newsletter in folder
2. Concern raised by parishioner of the fire risk of QE2 in hot weather
3. The White Horse Medical Centre is withdrawing the Co-Op prescription collection service from this Friday. Response to my complaint is in the folder. Alternative solutions are available but there is a risk that some vulnerable and elderly patients may need assistance in getting these set up, or may not have the technology to do so. I have had two parishioners volunteer to do collections. **Action:** Cllr Lewis to contact WHMP
4. OCC will be carrying out a speed limit review with stakeholders (including Parish Councils) July-September, followed by statutory consultation. See documents in folder for the roads under consideration. **Action:** Clerk to add agenda item to September meeting. Cllrs. Kent and Lewis will prepare a response ahead of the meeting
5. Vale Waste has produced a chart defining the responsibilities of each authority for waste and street cleaning – see graphic in email. I will post a copy in the noticeboards.
6. I received two complaints (one anonymous) that the stone in the POS in Nursery End by the willow tree was placed close enough to the hedge that dogs could use it as a stepping stone to jump over the fence. On investigation, the residents have concerns about two dogs that play in the park off lead and unmuzzled and run at the railings when people walk past. The complainant believes that they are XL bully dogs – they have been told by the owner that he has exemption certificates and that they do not need to be muzzled (which is not true if they are XL Bully).
7. TTROs:
 - a. A section of A417 Denchworth Road in Wantage (near Fitzwaryn School) to be fully closed from 22 July to 1 September for gas main replacement work.

8. Response from Thames Water regarding verge is in correspondence folder. **Action:** Clerk to add agenda item to September to approve application to Small Claims court

Clerk's report

1. Mower is now fixed. I have still not received any bills from Farol – I have called and emailed.
2. Awaiting measurements from handyman for fixings so that signs can be erected
3. New hose pipe and storage reel purchased – Dave will be storing it. We now have a 100m hose.
4. I have completed and submitted the external audit. As our income was over £200k last year, we were considered to be an intermediate authority and so more information had to be provided. Since then, I have had two further requests back from the auditor, requesting:
 - a. Evidence that actuals are reviewed against budget, adjusted accordingly and budget accepted by the council
 - b. Full detail of all income in FY24/25 and FY25/26
 - c. Further explanation on increase in income in 25/26 (Nursery End S106)
 - d. Evidence that the external auditor's report was discussed and accepted last year
5. Issues with Zoho drive access being investigated by Cllr. Lewis – I have kept Google drive for the moment. I can email links to the shared folders, but not an ideal solution.
6. Planning decisions:
 - a. P25/V2123/HH: Coss Hall, High Street, Stanford in the Vale - APPEAL DISMISSED

08/07/26 To approve Accounts for Payment

Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

30 June 2026 (2026-2027)

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
55	08/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Monthly Floodlight Bill	Yu Energy		39.64	1.98	41.62
38	11/06/2026	25/05/26	Current Account (TSI)		Printing of Wayfinder Trail mat	White Horse Print and Sign		2,250.00	450.00	2,700.00
36	11/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		HIAB hire for wayfinder stones	Berkshire HIAB Hire		1,800.00	360.00	2,160.00
37	11/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Internal Auditor Fee	White Rose Accounting		350.00		350.00
41	15/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Village Hall Hire	SITV Village Hall		32.35		32.35
40	15/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		PWA meeting lunch	Bob Kent		52.17	10.43	62.60
43	15/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Google Workplace Monthly sub	Google Cloud EMEA		5.90		5.90
39	15/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Defib Pads	Safelincs Limited		53.49	10.70	64.19
42	15/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Monthly camera SIM subscrip	Lebara		7.33	1.47	8.80
45	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Litter picker salary	Stephen Rolls		176.51		176.51
44	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Clerk's Salary	Claire Lewis		1,383.63		1,383.63
47	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		HMRC employee tax and NI	HMRC - PAYE & NI		208.49		208.49
48	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		HMRC employer NI	HMRC - PAYE & NI		164.57		164.57
46	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Handyman salary	Dave Rhodes		136.80		136.80
49	24/06/2026		Current Account (TSI)		Mowing wages	Darren Rolls		412.65		412.65
Total								7,073.53	834.58	7,908.11

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Foulkes

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves the accounts for payment. All in favour

Signed.....

Date.....

Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council

A	Bank Reconciliation at 30/06/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		113,120.99
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026		25,683.37
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026		138,804.36
	Cash in Hand 30/06/2026 (per Cash Book)		25,701.37
B			113,102.99
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Current Account (TSB) 30/06/2026	10,956.98	
	Savings Account (Redwood) 30/06/2026	53,164.30	
	CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund 30/06/2026	45,962.43	
	HRBS Account 30/06/2026	3,019.28	
			113,102.99
B	Less unrepresented payments		
			113,102.99
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		113,102.99
	A = B Checks out OK		

Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2026-2027

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Earmarked					
CIL Funds	99,071.32	-16,602.78			82,468.54
S106 Projects	-12,347.02		4,050.00		-16,397.02
Security	241.81	-21.99			219.82
Neighbourhood Plan	3,734.15				3,734.15
Community Garden	10.71	-10.71			0.00
Public Open Spaces reserve	6,015.90	280.92			6,296.82
QE2		16,602.78	16,602.78		0.00
Total Earmarked	96,726.87	248.22	20,652.78		76,322.31
TOTAL RESERVE	96,726.87	248.22	20,652.78		76,322.31
GENERAL FUND					30,261.61
TOTAL FUNDS					106,583.92

Notes:

1. CIL - awaiting confirmation from Vale Infrastructure to confirm if any CIL payable to council this FY
2. S106 PWA application in process for £33k
3. Community Garden balance transferred to general fund. Community garden now managed under Greens and Gardens budget
4. QE2 reserve created: currently reflects YTD spend, transferred from CIL. Does not include all committed spend - will work with QE2 group to identify and transfer

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Foulkes

SECONDED By Cllr. Page

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves the monthly statement of accounts. All in favour.

Noted that all QE2 work MUST be supported by a Purchase Order issued by the RFO.

10/07/26 To review expenditure against budget for Q1 April-June 2026

Signed.....

Date.....

Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Receipts and Payments compared with Flexed Budget (01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026 - All Cost Centres)

	Budget Receipts		Act. Receipts	Budget Payments		Act. Payments	Variance
	Total for year	Year to Date		Total for Year	Year to Date		Year to Date
Cost Centre Income							
1 Precept	33,408.00	16,704.00	16,704.00				
2 Grants Received							
3 Agency Work - Grass Cutting	2,784.31	2,784.31	2,784.31				
4 Interest on Investments	3,500.00	874.97	1,173.78				298.81
5 Rent Received	3,289.60	620.00	620.00				
6 Miscellaneous							
Sub Total for Income	42,981.91	20,983.28	21,282.09				298.81
Cost Centre Staff Costs							
7 Litter Picker Wages				2,215.00	553.78	529.73	24.05
8 Clerks Salary				16,830.72	4,207.68	4,151.09	56.59
9 Employee PAYE & NI				2,088.00	522.00	592.67	-70.67
10 Employer NI				2,022.00	505.50	493.71	11.79
43 Handyman wages						280.80	-280.80
Sub Total for Staff Costs				23,155.72	5,788.96	6,048.00	-259.04
Cost Centre General Administration							
11 Newsletter Expenses				50.00	12.50		12.50
12 Hall Hire				261.00	65.25	96.85	-31.60
13 Insurance				1,600.00	155.00	152.54	2.46
14 Membership Fees				850.00	650.00		650.00
15 Office Expenses & Subscriptions				200.00			
16 Sundries						52.17	-52.17
17 Training & Education				200.00	49.97		49.97
35 Election Costs							
36 Publications							
37 S137 Payments							
44 Software				550.00	420.00	575.99	-155.99
45 Shipping Costs						3.50	-3.50
Sub Total for General Administration				3,711.00	1,352.72	881.05	471.67

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Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Receipts and Payments compared with Flexed Budget (01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026 - All Cost Centres)

	Budget Receipts		Act. Receipts	Budget Payments		Act. Payments	Variance
	Total for year	Year to Date		Total for Year	Year to Date		Year to Date
Cost Centre Capital Spending							
18 CIL Projects							
19 S106 Projects						4,050.00	-4,050.00
20 Play Area				1,000.00	250.03	47.00	203.03
21 Other Community Assets				280.00	70.03	49.99	20.04
22 Jubilee Gardens							
23 Community Wood/Orchard							
41 Other Fixed Assets						285.00	-285.00
46 QE2						9,775.00	-9,775.00
Sub Total for Capital Spending				1,280.00	320.06	14,206.99	-13,886.93
Cost Centre Running Costs							
24 Contractors - Strimming				400.00	200.00	19.65	180.35
25 Contractors - Maintenance				1,800.00	600.00	117.90	482.10
26 Contractors - Mowing				1,200.00	600.00	786.00	-186.00
27 Equipment Service/ Repair				1,300.00	1,300.00		1,300.00
28 Greens & Gardens				800.00	350.00	15.96	334.04
29 Leisure & Recreation				4,350.00	1,087.50	246.93	840.57
30 Mower & Strimmer Expenses				500.00	300.00		300.00
38 QEII Field				500.00			
39 Health & Safety				300.00	75.00		75.00
40 Repairs & Sundries				1,100.00	330.00	35.83	294.17
Sub Total for Running Costs				12,250.00	4,842.50	1,222.27	3,620.23
Cost Centre Legal & Professional Fees							
31 Legal & Professional Fees				1,000.00	400.00	350.00	50.00
42 Land Registry Checks				70.00	17.53	7.00	10.53
Sub Total for Legal & Professional Fees				1,070.00	417.53	357.00	60.53
Cost Centre Grants Allocated							
32 Grants Allocated				786.64	196.69		196.69

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Signed.....

Date.....

Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Receipts and Payments compared with Flexed Budget (01/04/2026 to 30/06/2026 - All Cost Centres)

		Budget Receipts		Act. Receipts	Budget Payments		Act. Payments	Variance	
		Total for year	Year to Date		Total for Year	Year to Date		Year to Date	
Sub Total for	Grants Allocated				786.64	196.69			196.69
Cost Centre	Donations								
33	Donations				310.00				
Sub Total for	Donations				310.00				
Cost Centre	Contingency								
34	Contingency								
Sub Total for	Contingency								
GRAND TOTALS		£42,981.91	£20,983.28	£21,282.09	£42,563.36	£12,918.46	£22,715.31	£9,498.04	

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton
SECONDED BY Cllr. Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that the council has reviewed and approved the expenditure against budget, subject to allocating a portion of the running costs budget to staff costs budget for the newly employed handyman. It was noted that the bulk of the negative variance is in Capital expenditure, notably the S106 expenditure for the PWA, for which the council is awaiting payment and the QE2 expenditure which is using CIL monies. All in favour.

11/07/26

To receive an update from the budget and precept working group

The working group will provide recommendations in November as an input to budget discussions and will review the following areas:

- Long term provision for Assets and Tools needed for the Village, such as:
 - New Mower
 - More flower boxes
 - Scheduled replacement of children's Play Equipment
 - Replacement of computer equipment
 - MUGA refurbishments
- How to provide better services for the community

It was noted:

- Can't rely on CIL and S106 in the future
- Consider a different way of considering Precept to include a forecasting approach
- Similar sized local councils have much higher precept because they do not have CIL money:

Our Precept was £28.83 per Band D in 2025

Average Precept of 5 next smaller and 5 next larger is £71.12m

Highest £113.47, smallest £40.03 (excluding SITV)

12/07/26

Bow Road to Horsecroft footpath:

a) To consider appointment of a solicitor for legal advice on Deed of Easement

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED to spend up to £2500 on legal fees. Clerk to investigate S106 funds originally allocated. All in favour

Signed.....

Date.....

b) To approve costs for a Stock Proof Fence

Defer to future meeting

13/07/26 QE2 Recreation Field project:

- a) To receive report of the QEII Field working group
- b) To approve QEII working group terms of reference

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Lewis

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the terms of reference

- a) To approve additional expenditure in relation to QEII Field project – nothing to bring forward
- b) To agree scope of works to be undertaken this calendar year – will be discussed at working group and brought back to council. Suggestion that online meeting the day before full council may be more productive.

14/07/26 Wayfinder Trail:

- a) To receive an update on the Wayfinder Trail
- b) To nominate two councillors to sign the S106 funding agreement for the Wayfinder Trail.

- ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton
- SECONDED BY Cllr. Lewis
- IT WAS RESOLVED to nominate Cllrs. Kent and Horrobin along with the RFO, to sign the agreement. All in favour.
- c) To agree invitations and costs for the Trail launch event

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Middleton

SECONDED BY Cllr. Lewis

IT WAS RESOLVED to invite the artist and his wife and allocate up to £150 expenses.
Majority in favour with 1 against

15/07/26 To approve expenditure on 2 aquarolls and a tap for the Community Woodland

ON THE RESOLUTION OF Cllr. Isaacs

SECONDED BY Cllr. Lewis

IT WAS RESOLVED to spend up to £130 from running costs. All in favour

16/07/26 To discuss options for community woodland damage

The council believes that an investigation would not be productive as it is highly unlikely that it could achieve any recompense. It requests that the information regarding the damage is added to information held about the person's mental health. The council also seeks reassurance that this will not re-occur when it replants the area.

17/07/26 To consider a concrete platform for bench on Millennium Green

To be discussed by the MG trust

18/07/26 To discuss security cameras

Action: Clerk to investigate SIM cards

19/07/26 To discuss a Security Gate for QE2 field

Discussed in item 13/07/26

20/07/26 To discuss the employment of a road sweeper

Suggestion that Earthline might sweep the village. **Action:** Cllr. Kent to investigate

21/07/26 To discuss Ware Road noise issues

Action:

Clerk to chase industrial estate.

Cllr. Middleton to chase DWH

22/07/26 To receive an update on the cycle path to Faringdon

Deferred – to be brought back at a future date

23/07/26 Provisional date of next meeting – Wednesday 2nd September 2026

A Finance and Planning meeting will be held on 5th August if necessary

24/07/26 Questions/comments from parishioners

Meeting finished at 21.59

DRAFT