

PARISH MAGAZINE AUTUMN 2014

Annual General Meeting

Not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting which took place in April, the AGM took place on 13th May. Councillor Jenny Hunt was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and Councillor David Starr as Vice Chairman. Members of the Council are –

Hawkslade – Brian Adams, David Starr and Pat Wood

Stoke Leys – Marcus Rogers and one vacancy

Stoke Grange – Andrew Clarke, Brian Tyndal and Stephen Watson

Village – Richard Butler, Barbara Ezra, Jenny Hunt and one vacancy

Details of Councillors are on Parish Council notice boards. They can be contacted by telephoning the Parish Office on 01296 613888

Parish Council Casual Vacancies

Two places have recently become available on the Parish Council due to the resignations of Councillors Mark Palmer and David Kennedy to whom we extend sincere thanks for the time and commitment they have given to managing the affairs of the Parish. Both vacancies have been advertised and no elections requested. The Council may now, therefore, co opt from those people who have expressed an interest and interviews will take place at the beginning of September.

Elections for Parish Councillors take place every four years and the next election will be during May 2015. Nominations will be sought nearer the time by Aylesbury Vale District Council. This is your opportunity to stand for election to Stoke Mandeville Parish Council should you wish to do so. Councillors will be sought from the four electoral wards within the Parish as shown above. Current Parish Councillors are eligible for re election. Should there be more than twelve nominations a public poll will take place.

Grass Cutting

The cutting of grass verges throughout the county has been an issue of considerable concern this summer. Bucks County Council has that it is keen to enable Parish and Town Councils to take on this work, together with weed spraying, cutting footways, hedges, clearance of public rights of way and other environmental maintenance tasks. Each Parish Council would be part of a cluster of Parishes and commission services with funding from Bucks County Council which would decrease after a two year period. Devolved budgets for grass cutting would only apply to areas within a 30mph speed limit with grass verges in other areas continuing to be cut by the Highways Authority twice a year. In Stoke Mandeville this is only Station Road and side roads, a small part of Lower Road, Marsh Lane and small area of Wendover Road. It would not relate to any grass verges or green amenity area in Risborough Road, parts of Wendover Road and Lower Road, Grass cutting in Hawkslade, Stoke Grange and Stoke Leys would continue as all are within a 30mph zone. The Parish Council is challenging this criteria considering that 40 mph road verges should also be included. With the reduction of funding in future years, it is likely that the Parish Council precept will have to be increased in order to maintain the current service.

Resurfacing Station Road

Resurfacing is due to take place during September along Station Road down to the junction of Marsh Lane and Lower Road and to the junction of Risborough Road and Chapel Lane. The work will include the roundabout near the church which has been in a poor state since the winter and will take place over four nights when roads will be closed from 19.00hrs to 6 am.

Car Parking

- i) **Stoke Leys** - We have been advised by the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust that work will start during August on the new multi storey staff car park at Stoke Mandeville Hospital with completion in January 2015. It is expected that parking on local roads may increase for six weeks during the building period due to loss of spaces on the hospital site. The Experimental Traffic Regulations Order (ETRO) should be implemented by the Highway Authority (BCC) in August and will make No Waiting at road junctions at any time and No Waiting between 8 am – 6pm on one side of the road in Bradenham Walk, Roblin Close, Kynaston Avenue and Winterton Drive. Also on both sides of the road in part of Winterton Drive with access protection at Waddesdon Green. To date we are unaware when the ETRO will become operational but understand that residents will be advised. Please remember that this is an experiment in an attempt to overcome the current difficulties of car parking in these areas.
- ii) **Village** - Aylesbury Vale Housing Trust has advised that it is reviewing parking arrangements for residents in Hampden Road and Eskdale Road. The Police have advised us that they are visiting regularly and have places warning notices on cars parked inconsiderately or illegally. They are also working with residents to ensure that cars are parked safely.

Allotment Land Marsh Lane

The Council has agreed to return the land in Marsh Lane back to its original purpose of allotment land when the Lease of the tenant expires this year. The land will need to be cleared and made accessible and fit for purpose before it can be re let as allotment plots. At this time of the year we are always mindful of people taking on allotments and not fully maintaining them as stated in their Allotment Agreement. As we have seen with wet and warm weather, seeds from untended allotments can spread to adjoining plots which becomes a general nuisance to other plot holders. Allotments should be cultivated or returned to the Parish Council for reallocation to those on the waiting list.

Boundary Review of Aylesbury Vale District

The final report of the Local Government Boundary Review has been issued and states that Stoke Mandeville Village will from next year remain in the Aston Clinton Ward with Weston Turville, Aston Clinton, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland parishes. There would be no change at Hawkslade, Stoke Leys and Stoke Grange.

Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Mandeville.

In the last issue Neighbourhood Plans was mentioned in that the Parish Council is anxious to start the process of developing a plan in according with Government guidelines, to ensure that any future housing or employment sites are controlled in such a way as to meet the community needs of the

Parish. If this is not done by the Community of a particular area it is likely that developers or local authorities will make those decisions. So Parish Councils need to involve their communities in neighbourhood planning in order to find out what their community *thinks* about more housing, employment opportunities, open spaces and so on. The Plan when completed has to go through several hoops of approval with local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate with a referendum of the local population. If successful the Plan must be used for determining planning applications. Community engagement is a necessary and important part of producing a Neighbourhood Plan but the Parish Council cannot do this alone. The support and involvement of local people is important. We need residents to work with us and be part of a Community Group. Five Councillors have agreed to establish a Steering Group but need at least equal that number of residents to work with them. The work is not onerous but will be steady over a period of time. If you are interested please contact the Clerk to the Council on smparishcouncil@btconnect.com. To find out more about Neighbourhood Plans look at Aylesbury Vale District Council website on Neighbourhood Planning at www.AylesburyValedc.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhoodplanning.

HS2

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council met with Sir David Higgins Chairman of HS2 Ltd when he visited the area on 31 July. We discussed with him the diversion of the A.4010 Risborough Road around the back of the village, the Old Church site, compensation (or lack of it) and mitigation for properties in Isis Close and Oats Close at Hawkslade. Sir David was keenly interested to hear our views but we found little encouragement in his responses to the points we raised. The Parish Council and SMAG are to seek a meeting with Engineers of HS2 Ltd in the near future concerning "haul" routes for heavy traffic which will pass daily through the village during the three year period of construction.

HS2 Ltd is seeking powers over additional parcels of land in the Parish to build and operate HS2 which is in addition to that already known. Details will be deposited in the Parish Office at The Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5UJ from mid September for public viewing. Check our website for details.

A Property Consultation has been launched by HS2 Ltd giving details of the Alternative Cash Offer and Homeowner Payment. The two consultations run to 30th September 2014 and are open to everyone to contribute their views. Owner occupiers of properties within 1km of the line in rural areas and 300m of the line in urban areas will be made aware of the consultation direct. The document is available online at – <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultation/hs2-property-consultation-2014>

Ash Tree Marsh Lane

The mature Ash Tree which has stood for many years on the grass verge to the left hand side of Marsh Lane near to the school is causing concern because of its size and shape and could have the common infection of ash trees. The tree is owned by Transport for Bucks (BCC) as it stands on a roadside verge. The Parish Council has been advised that the tree is in a deteriorating condition and is likely to suffer a common infection of ash trees causing white rot decay that can lead to partial collapse of elements of the trees structure. The Parish Council is to seek advice as to whether anything can be done to preserve this tree whilst at the same time ensuring that it presents no danger to the public. .

In Brief

- A new recycling bin is to be installed by the Salvation Army on the car park at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field in partnership with the Parish Councils as a joint project the proceeds from which will support the work of the Salvation Army. The large blue bin ownership unknown, is awaiting removal.
- 'No littering' stickers are to be obtained for lamp posts in the village.
- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has undertaken its annual check of equipment in the children's playground and the few minor faults have been dealt with.
- The Council is to pay 50% of the cost of roof insulation at the Community Centre the remainder being met by the Stoke Mandeville Village Community Association.
- Following inclusion in the last edition of the Magazine suggestions for use of the section 106 funding for Hawkslade have included a 'bus stop/shelter in Anton Way and the provision of allotments. We are investigating the possibility of a bus stop/shelter as this funding is for leisure but sadly the purchase of land for separate allotments for Hawkslade would be difficult due to finding suitable and affording land nearby.
- The Council has agreed to the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society holding an open day at the site of the former St.Mary's Parish Church off Risborough Road during the autumn in order to draw attention to the potential destruction of the site by High Speed Rail. .
- Consent has been given to Stoke Mandeville Village Community Association to convert the changing rooms at the Centre into a self contained function room with new toilets and storage facilities. The accommodation will be used by the Pre School which has funded the work.
- Problems have been identified concerning overflowing litter bins near the Co-Op Shop at Barley Close, Hawkslade which are owned by the Parish Council. This appears to have been continuously filled with domestic waste and is being investigated by AVDC Environmental Health Unit.

Planning

The following Planning Applications have been determined by the local planning authority:

- 14/00790/APP. Siting of two temporary buildings, Quilters Way, Triangle Business Park. Com Dev Europe. Triangle Business Park – **Permitted**
- 14/00660/ATP Pollarding of one Willow tree The Chilterns Old Risborough Road – **Permitted to 7m**
- 14/01387/APP. Removal of conservatory and erection of part single, part two storey extension , 5 Patrick Way Aylesbury – **Permitted**
- 14/01102/APP – Erection of New Dwelling and conversion of old building to garage, Longacre, Risborough Road – **Permitted**
- **14/0989/APP** . First floor side and rear extension with front and rear dormer windows, 29 Ligo Avenue - **Refused**
- **13/01281/APP**. Erection of four industrial units, Manor Farm, Lower Road - **Permitted.**

Jenny Hunt
 Chairman, Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
 August 2014