

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Issue Spring 2015

Parish Precept – Finance

In January of each year the Parish Council has to estimate its expenditure for the forthcoming financial year in order to submit a precept demand to Aylesbury Vale District Council as the principle authority. The District Council collects this money through the Council Tax of every household to hand over to the Parish Council.

For the financial year 2015/16 starting on 1st April, the Precept has been set for £97,020, an increase over the current year held at £90,888 being 6.75%. The average increment based on a band 'D' property will be 6%.

Reasons for this increase includes the future cutting of grass roadside verges and green areas as well other ancillary work on hedges, trees, ditches and parish footpaths by the Parish Council from 1st April taking this over from Transport for Bucks [BCC] . A grant will be received on a decreasing basis over the next four years after which the Parish Council meets the full cost.

Full details of the Council's precept for the coming financial year can be found on our website or by contacting the Clerk on 01296 613888 and requesting a copy.

High Speed Rail 2

With the forthcoming General Election a lull in activity from Government is anticipated. However, meetings and discussions are continuing locally with neighbouring Parish Councils and organisations. It is not anticipated that the visit by the Parliamentary Select Committee will take place before the May election and our appearance before the Select Committee not until the autumn or later.

A big issue for Stoke Mandeville is the question of the train coming out of the northern portal as it exits the 25km long bored tunnel through the Chilterns. Currently this is planned to emerge at Mantles Wood, being ancient woodland, near Little Missenden. However, a move by local authorities in Buckinghamshire with Conservation Groups, to bring the portal nearer to Stoke Mandeville Village at an additional cost of £400m is currently under discussion. This proposal is expected to be submitted to HS2 Ltd within the coming weeks and if accepted will be the subject of public consultation as an Additional Provision.

In the meantime the Government has announced a voluntary purchase compensation scheme for owner occupier homes and small businesses generally between 60 – 120mtrs away from the centre of the line in rural areas who will receive a full un-blighted amount for their property. Whilst this does relate to a few properties in Stoke Mandeville it does not go near enough to relieve total hardship and adjacent properties of a few metres will often not receive this compensation. Other properties in Risborough Road, Isis Close and Oat Close could receive compensation between £7,500 and £22,500 depending on distance from the centre of the line.

Street Lights

Three LED street lights are to be provided in Carters Ride as a pilot scheme before further work are undertaken to convert street lights in the village and Stoke Leys. Bucks County Council is currently converting street lights to LED along Wendover Road.

A request has been received for a light outside the 'bus stop at Freemantle Court Nursing Home which is being taken up with Transport for Bucks and the Freemantle Trust.

Trees

A number of complaints have been received from residents at the felling of the mature Ash Tree on the green at the top of Marsh Lane. The green and the tree belongs to Transport for Bucks. In a report from the Tree Officer it states that a fungal bracket was found at the base of the tree which is a common infection of ash trees caused by white rot decay. We have been advised by TfB that there is no intention to replace the tree.

Roundabout

The new roundabout opposite the Church has been the subject of criticism since it was installed. The removal of the "hump" and re-siting of the white circle off centre is seen by many as a retrograde and dangerous step. We have taken this up with Transport for Bucks and await a response and action.

Maintenance Work to Burial Ground and Playing Field

Trees and hedgerows have been trimmed back and overgrowth removed in the burial ground and in around the Playing Field.

We do from time to time receive calls about overgrown trees and hedges but the Council is only responsible for growth on its own land which is the playing field, allotments, burial ground and old church site. Until the 1st April such matters should be referred to Transport for Bucks (Bucks County Council) Tel 0845 230 2882.

Need for New Burial Ground

As well as being a Parish Council we are also a Burial Authority which means that we are responsible for providing and maintaining a burial ground. The current burial ground has only sufficient space for around eight new burials which at the current rate of use will be for two to three years. In 2001 a Government Report was published stating that if the public are to continue to have access to affordable, accessible burial in cemeteries fit for the needs of the bereaved, there would appear to be no alternative to grave reuse. No such legislation has been made and the problem of the lack of sites remains. The Parish Council is seeking land either gifted or for purchase to provide as future burial ground for Stoke Mandeville.

In looking for land there are two things against us - the possibility of HS2 and the awaited Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. But nothing is more certain that we need a new burial ground in the near future. Please let us know if you can help.

Car Parking Stoke Leys

The Experimental Traffic Order has been in place for a few months and feedback to us is that the new scheme has generally led to improvement in street parking. The consultation for the Order is on Bucks County Council website and closes at the end of April 2015. If you have any comments to make on this new parking scheme please follow this link -

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=928>.

We are also interested in establishing a group of residents to monitor the introduction of the Order and to link in with the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming part of such a group to be led by Ward Councillor Marcus Rogers, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Parish Councillors

Stephen Watson, Parish Councillor for Stoke Grange, resigned at the end of January due to increasing professional commitments. Stephen was an active and enthusiastic Councillor for many years and will be missed.

Stephen Pluckwell has been co opted to represent Stoke Leys Ward until May when Parish Council elections will take place.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor contact Aylesbury Vale District Council for further details of the forthcoming Parish Elections and will be advertised nearer the time. The Parish Council has twelve members who work in a voluntary capacity; the Council meets during the evening on the second Tuesday of every month and the work is varied and interesting. In addition there are a number of small Committees which meet four times a year. No special qualifications are required but a number of reports and papers need to be read and assimilated. You must be aged 18 years or over and be a British subject, a citizen of the Irish Republic or a citizen of a member state of the European Union and be an elector in the Parish or a person who has during the whole of the past twelve months either occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the Parish or has resided in that area or within three miles thereof or has, during the same period, had his principal or only place of work in that area

Leisure Equipment

The Parish Council is intending to provide outdoor concrete table tennis tables at the playing field in Eskdale Road and also at Hawkslade where a basket ball stand and net will also be erected. All of this is subject to adequate funding being available and permission forthcoming from AVDC.

Notice Boards

Replacement notice boards are to be provided at the Hawkslade Community Centre, outside the Primary School in the village and also outside the Post Office in Station Road.

If there are items of street furniture, amenities or facilities you would like us to consider for your area please contact the Parish Clerk.

Proposed Change to Speed Limit Risborough Road and Lower Road

The Parish Council has secured funding to implement a speed limit reduction for Risborough Road from 40mph to 30mph and including Lower Road as far as the traffic island. Before the speed limit can be implemented, there will be a full consultation with residents and agencies such as the Police, Ambulance service and other road users. At that time it is necessary for you to respond to the consultation and make your views known. Please watch the local press and website of BCC and the Parish Council for further details as and when available.

Planning Applications :

Permitted Development

- Storage Sheds at Chiltern View Nursery, Wendover Road
- First Floor Extension, 100 Kynaston Avenue
- First Floor Side Extension, 11 Elizabeth Close
- New External Door & Internal Alterations Community Centre, Eskdale Road
- Two Storey Rear Extension, 12 Lower Road
- Non Illuminated Sign, Co Op Orwell Drive Aylesbury
- Single Storey Side Extension, 17 Irvine Drive
- Crown Reduce Two Ash Trees and one Sycamore and Pollard One Willow Tree, Longacre, Risborough Road
- Conversion of part Garage to Living Accommodation, 10 Ligo Avenue
- Single Storey Side and Rear Extension, 9 Edward Close, Aylesbury

Refused

Removal of 150 m hedgerow, Moat Farm, Marsh Lane

Withdrawn

Erection of 2 detached dwellings, 279 and land to rear of 281 Wendover Road,

Dates of Parish Council Meetings

Meetings of the Parish Council are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, when members of the public are welcome to attend. Please note the May meeting will be a week later on 19th May due to the elections.

Dates of all meetings are displayed on our website at www.stokemandevilleparishcouncil.org.uk. and on Parish Notice Boards.

Jenny Hunt

Chairman - Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

1 February 2015