

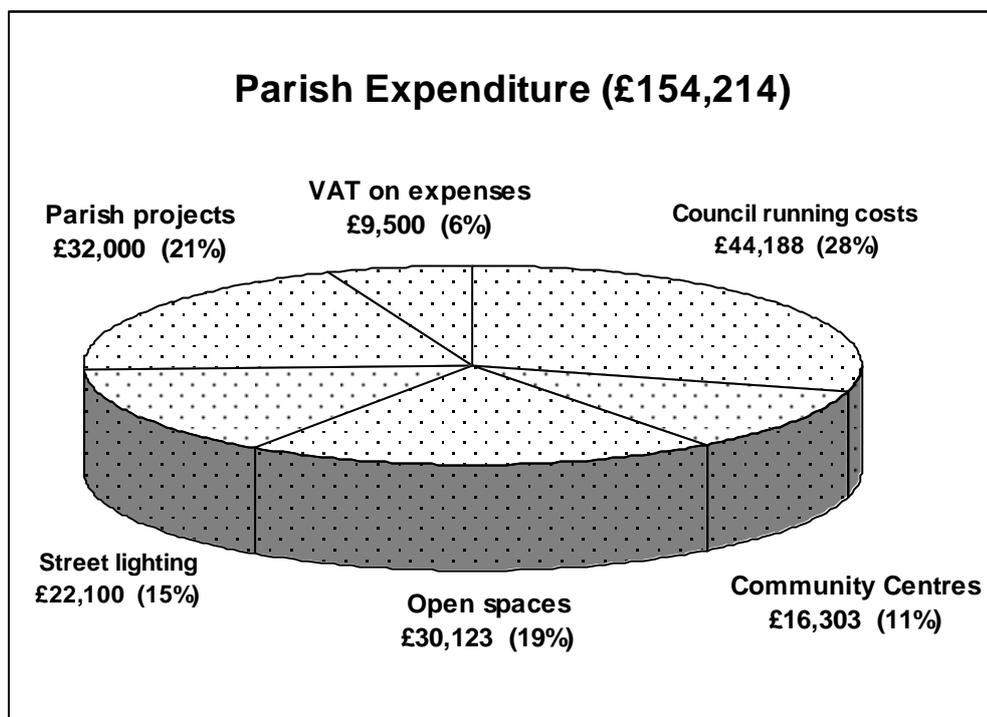
## STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL - SPRING 2016 EDITION

**High Speed Rail** – During November a group of Parish Councillors, representatives from SMAG, the Headteacher from the Combined School, local residents and businesses attended at the Select Committee in the Houses of Parliament in order to put our case for enhanced mitigation to counteract the effects of visual blight, noise and pollution in Stoke Mandeville. We were represented by our Roll B Agent Marcus Rogers and well received by MP members of the Select Committee. We heard that the diversion to the A.4010 around the village is within HS2 plants. However, we were disappointed to have received no positive response to our “ask” for a green tunnel or a series of green bridges across the line as it travels through fields at the back of Isis Close and Oat Close or for additional mitigation in the village along Risborough Road and the village centre and bearing in mind that the school is only some 400m from the line. Our case was again referred to by David Lidington on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Select Committee which continues to hear from Petitioners until 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The report from the Select Committee will be published later this year.

**Parish Precept** - for the next financial year starting on 1 April 2016, the precept of the Parish Council will increase by just under 16p per week for a property falling into council tax band ‘D’ and will vary from that upwards or downwards according to which council tax band your property falls within. The increase is necessary to deal with a number of high cost projects which have to be completed over the next three to five years as listed below.

- upgrading the street lights for which we are responsible to in accord with current requirements
- completion of a Neighbourhood Plan to help to manage the future growth and development of our Parish
- continued delivery of services devolved from Bucks CC with reducing subsidy
- identification and development of a future burial ground for the Parish

Even after the proposed increase in the precept, this parish should remain in the bottom half of the table for the level of parish precepts within Band D council Tax across the whole of Aylesbury Vale. This coming financial year, your Parish Council spending will be analysed as:



**Replacement Street LED Street Lights** are to be provided in Ligo Avenue, Coombe Close, Meadow Park, Dorchester Close, Walnut Close and Carters Ride during February as the first stage of a five to seven year programme.

**Allotments** – Three vacant plots are available for rent at the allotments in Lower Road at a cost of £12.50 per annum for a half plot and £25 for a whole plot. If you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact the Clerk for further details.

**Speed Limit** – The new speed limit of 30mph along Risborough Road and Lower Road should be introduced by the end of February. The Parish Council successfully applied to Aylesbury Vale District Council's New Homes Bonus funding scheme who provided a grant of £5,000 towards this change. Unfortunately it was not possible for the white cross hatching to be extended further into the village as part of this work.

**Bus Shelter Hawkslade** - We are anxious to provide a 'bus shelter at Hawkslade but are unable to locate an area where there is sufficient space without intruding on to adjoining property and which would be well used. If you have any ideas please let us know.

**New Burial Ground** - The burial ground in Swallow Lane belongs to the Parish Council who purchased the land in the 1930s due to the closure of the churchyard for burials. The Parish Council became a Burial Authority and has managed burials in the Parish ever since. In 1997 the then Parish Council began to look for additional land either to be gifted or purchased but without success. Nothing further was done until more recently when we have once again taken up the search as there are now less than 20 plots left. Parish Councils have no statutory duty to provide a burial ground or if they do it does not have to be in the Parish. We are now looking into the possibility of using some of the allotment land in Marsh Lane which belongs to the Parish Council for a new burial ground. By law a number of permissions have to be obtained from various Government departments and local Councils for use of the land for this purpose.

**Swallow Lane Burial Ground** - We are grateful to those who attend to graves regularly and help keep our burial ground in Swallow Lane tidy. However, recently we have been saddened to learn that some visiting dogs have been seen running free in both the burial ground and the churchyard and we would urge owners to keep their pets on leads at all times.

**Parking** on grass verges has become a problem especially in the extremely wet weather causing damage to the verge and churning up mud making it difficult for those walking. We are investigating the possibility of using byelaws to prevent this occurring. Once again we have to ask those parking on the roadside for whatever reason to be careful not to block access to either pedestrians or other vehicles. You should also not park on or near a road junction. Emergency vehicles require a minimum of 3 metres [10ft] clearance to get through. Remember that inconsiderate parking can cost lives.

**Litter on Streets** – A recent inspection of Stoke Leys has revealed considerable litter especially around the road entrance to ASDA and Stoke Mandeville Hospital. On 5th/6th March a national litter pick up is being promoted called "Clean for the Queen" for which we hope to organise litter picks around the parish. Further information will be on our website and leaflets giving details will be delivered to householders.

**Celebration Event Ninetieth Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II** – To celebrate the Queen's ninetieth birthday this year communities around the country are being encouraged to hold celebration events on or around the week end of 11/12<sup>th</sup> June, to bring local organisations and communities together as well as a way of raising funds for local projects. St.Mary's Church and the Parish Council of Stoke Mandeville as well as other organisations within the parish are taking this initiative a little further on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June with a Celebration Event on the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Eskdale Road as from 12 noon starting with own picnic lunch, music, entertainments and activities until 5 pm. See notice elsewhere in this magazine.

**Conservation Area** – A Conservation Area is an "area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". We are aware that Stoke Mandeville will be targeted as an area for considerable future housing development within the next few years and therefore have been looking at how we can preserve the heritage which surrounds us. In the area along Lower Road, Swallow Lane, Marsh Lane and Risborough Road there are thirteen listed buildings including a number of attractive thatched cottages. This does not necessarily mean that this can be categorised as a conservation area but we are attempting to take the necessary steps to see if this is possible. If anyone is willing to work with us please contact our Clerk.

**Resilience Planning** – No rivers exist in the Parish but we are in an area of considerable underground streams and Stoke Brook which from time to time leads to flooding on our roads. We are also on a flight path, have two main railways travelling across the parish and two main roads as well as being a hub for traffic entering and leaving the town. In other words like many villages and towns we are at risk of a major incident. For this reason the Parish Council is attempting to draw together a Resilience Plan known previously as an Emergency Plan. We desperately

need enthusiastic and interested people to assist with this short term project. If are able to help, please ring 01296 613888 or e mail [smparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:smparishcouncil@btconnect.com).

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** - A steering group consisting of parish councillors and local residents are working on developing a neighbourhood plan for the parish. A planning consultant has been engaged to assist the steering group with the process. It is a huge undertaking and we need your help and support. The steering group is currently compiling the evidence base for the parish as it is now. If you are interested in helping with this research please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

What happens next?

Engagement with and input from the community is vital in developing the right neighbourhood plan for our parish. We want to hear your questions and listen to your points of view and will be holding Community Engagement Days in April and May, look out for dates and further information on the Council's website and notice boards.

These events are your opportunity to shape the neighbourhood plan and we need your feedback and input, for example:

How much new housing should the parish have, what site are suitable for development and what should that development look like?

What green spaced should be protected? Is there enough education and health capacity to support our growing parish? What leisure facilities are needed?

What improvements are needed to the transport system?

Come along to our open days and tell us your views!

**Planning Applications** – The following decisions have been received from Aylesbury Vale District Council.

#### **Permitted Development**

- First floor side extension – 10 Nash Close Aylesbury
- Loft Conversion - 77 Ravensbourne Road, Aylesbury
- Single Storey Portable Building - Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road, Stoke Mandeville
- Erection of Trellis on top of fence - 227 Wendover, Road, Aylesbury
- Two storey side extension - 4 Evans close, Aylesbury.
- Single storey rear extension - 77A Station Road, Stoke Mandeville
- Two storey side and rear extension - 8 Diana Close, Aylesbury
- Single storey rear extension - 34 Winterton Drive, Aylesbury
- Conversion of garage to living accommodation and single storey rear extension – 17 Hanson Way, Aylesbury
- Extension of car park - Community Help Service, Winterton Drive, Aylesbury
- Certificate for development of seven dwellings – Whitethorn Farm, Old Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville

#### **Refused**

- Erection of Triple Garage - Christmas Barn, Marsh Lane, Stoke Mandeville
- Single Storey side extension - 22 Chalgrove End, Stoke Mandeville

#### **Withdrawn**

- Change of use of part of site to car wash facility, cabin and canopy - Fountain Business Centre, Lower Road. Stoke Mandeville

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

**12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

**Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville**

Come along and meet your Parish Councillors and find out more about the work being undertaken to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Mandeville parish which enables residents to have a say in where future development should be sited. See that above.

Jenny Hunt  
Chairman Stoke Mandeville Parish Council  
1 February 2016