

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Precept 2017/2018

At the beginning the year the Parish Council sets the amount of Council tax it requires to be collected by Aylesbury Vale District Council as part of the Council Tax to be allocated to the Parish Council to fund its activities. It is known as the Parish Precept and to date remains uncapped by Government. Over the years we have tried to keep this as low as possible but some increase has become inevitable. The Parish Council is to provide a new burial ground as the current facility in Swallow Lane has very few plots remaining. If the necessary permissions can be obtained we would hope to use part of the allotment land in Marsh Lane for this purpose. It has been necessary, therefore for us to raise the precept by 10%. Overall the increased precept will add an additional £5.20 per annum for a Band 'D' property which is a 3-bed semi detached house. Other householders will pay more or less according to their tax band.

HS2 Community Update

The final decision of the Government on the HS2 scheme has been debated in the House of Lords with the majority in favour of the scheme. The final decision is expected sometime later in February. If you have any questions or you would like to find out more telephone 020 7944 4908 or e mail HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. By the time you read this the HS2 Hybrid Bill is likely to either have obtained or shortly be obtaining 'Royal Assent'. This will make the Bill into an Act of Parliament and grant powers to the 'nominated "undertaker" to build the line. After this work will commence almost immediately on what will be a most uncomfortable time for us all for several years to come. The Parish Council will attempt to remain a focal point in monitoring and liaison.

Excavation of Old Church Site

The Parish Council has been engaging with archaeologists from HS2 Ltd and Atkins, their contractors, concerning the excavation of the former St. Mary's church sited near Stoke House off Risborough Road about which much has been written within the last couple of years. Should Royal Assent be granted to proceed with this project it is anticipated that work will start this March in accordance with Government, Church Authorities and English Heritage guidelines. Abandoned by the village hundreds of years ago it fell into ruin and became dangerous and was destroyed in the mid nineteen sixties. The last burial took place in 1908 long after the church was deserted and it is estimated that there are some 4000 to 6300 burials on the site and in the surrounding fields going back to the 12thc. It is possible there was a manorial church, possibly late Saxon and used during the time of the Norman Conquest. The old church we understand is the most significant historic interest along the route. All remains will be excavated and where possible identified. Excavation work will be led by Archaeologists and is anticipated to take nearly two years.

The old church ruins which are covered by banking and vegetation is owned by the Parish Council and has been deconsecrated. In their Petitions to the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the Parish Council and SMAG asked that all remains of those buried be re interred at an agreed site within the village on which will be a memorial garden funded by HS2 Ltd. We are keen to hear from people who have family buried at the old church and anybody who can recall the destruction when it was blown up by the Royal Engineers in 1966. Snowdrops and daffodils will soon be in bloom inside

the Victorian iron fence. Please visit and walk along its pathway. This may be your last opportunity to do so before the contractors move in.

A talk on the work and considerable research which has already been done and that anticipated, will be given by Archaeologists at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th April at 7.00pm at the Community Centre . Please come along and hear about the discoveries which have already been made and the lives of those who lived in our historic village during that time. I would like to pay tribute to Stuart Allen who recently passed away after suffering a long illness. Many of Stuart's ancestors are buried at the old church in which he maintained an interest. He assisted in its upkeep for many years while a Parish Councillor.

Multiple Dwelling Housing Sites

For the past year we have been experiencing an influx of speculative planning applications for multi housing on a number of sites. Most of these have been within the village which currently has 476 dwellings. The land shown on the concept plan for Aylesbury Garden Town also sits within the confines of Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville Parishes. The current situation is ~

- Permission has been granted for a site adjacent to the BCC Social Club & Sports Ground in Lower Road for 190 houses. *Parish Council Opposed application.*
- 117 dwellings opposite the Bell PH in Lower Road was approved subject to agreement on financial contributions from the applicants to pay for infrastructure. *Parish Council opposed – Decision from AVDC awaited.*
- Permission is being sought for 73 houses on land to the rear of Eskdale Road/Station Road which is landlocked and three bungalows on the roundabout in Eskdale Road have to be demolished to gain access. Decision awaited on this application. *Parish Council opposed application*
- Permission is being sought for 81 houses at Thornbrook House, Risborough Road. Decision awaited. *Parish Council opposed application*
- Permission is being sought for 375 houses along Wendover Road opposite the Weston Turville Marroway which has met with fierce opposition from local residents. Decision awaited. *Parish Council opposed*
- Application for 125 houses on land adjoining the Ambulance Station in Lower Road. *to be discussed [February]*
- In addition 24 houses are currently being built on land at Oats Close. *Parish Council raised no objection subject to a number of conditions*

The presumption of the Government towards development is the reason why we and adjoining Parishes are in this situation. Currently, Aylesbury Vale District Council does not have a Local Plan because until recently it did not have a five year supply of land for housing which is a necessity. Elsewhere in the Magazine you will see a report from the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for which the Parish Council has overarching responsibility. When the questionnaire arrives through your letter box asking for your views on future development in Stoke Mandeville, please ensure that you complete and return this. Without a Neighbourhood Plan Parish Councils have little leverage in the decisions made on planning applications by the local planning authority .

Street Lights

Some fifty street lights in the village have already been replaced by LED lights which are more environmentally friendly save considerable energy and maintenance costs.

The next stage of upgrade are street lights in Bradenham Walk, Kynaston Avenue, Roblin Close, Chequers Court, Claydon Path, Hughenden Green, Mandeville Mews, Mentmore Green, Pearce Close, Waddesdon Green, Winterton Drive and Wootton Path, Petersfield, Castlefield and Arnold Close.

Problems experienced with street lights and those not working in the village and Stoke Leys should be reported to the Clerk of the Council on 01296 613888 and for Hawkslade and Stoke Grange to 0845 230 2882. Please take the reference number painted on the side of the street light column and use this when reporting a fault.

New 'Bus Shelter

A new 'bus shelter has been provided on Orwell Drive opposite the junction with Lambourne Road which is very smart and will we hope prove useful. Our thanks to those residents who made suggestions as to the most appropriate place for it to be placed. If you have comments about any benches, 'bus shelters, litter or dog bins near you, please ring 01296 613888 and leave details. Do not forget to leave your telephone no. in case we need to get back to you.

New Parish Councillor and Councillor Vacancy

In December the Parish Council welcomed new Village Councillor Mrs. Gillian Watts who has lived in the village for fourteen years. We still hold a long standing casual vacancy for Hawkslade and if you are interested please contact the clerk on 613888 or e mail smparishcouncil@btconnect.com. You do not have to be a resident of Hawkslade although this would be preferred.

Allotments

The growing season is once again upon us and soon allotment holders will return to sow their broad beans, peas, onions, potatoes, herbs and other delights. If you would like to harvest your own fruit and vegetables then take a half plot which is a good starting point. The results of your labours can be immense. Now is the time to start digging. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

Public Access Defibrillator [PAD]

The Parish Council has funded a PAD which has been placed on the left hand inside wall of the outer porch at the Community Centre to be used for anyone suffering cardiac arrest. If you can offer CPR you should do so. On the cabinet you will see instructions which will involve ringing 999 when you will be put in touch with a professional who will guide you. We understand it can be used on any adult or a child of one year and over. The cabinet is bright yellow in colour so cannot be missed.

Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity Trustee

A vacancy for a Trustee has occurred for this Charity for which meets four times a year to consider applications and allocate grants to residents of the Parish and organisations. The Parish Council has nominating rights for Trustees and is interested to hear from anyone by the end of March who may be interested in becoming a Trustee. You do not

require financial expertise but should be interested in the local community and the wellbeing of its residents. Please contact the Clerk of the Parish Council with details at smparishcouncil@btconnect.com, or telephone 01296 613888 or write to Stoke Mandeville Parish Council, The Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville HP22 5UJ.

Decisions on Planning Applications

Aylesbury Vale District Council has made the following decisions on planning applications from within the Parish :

- Conversion of existing garage into habitable accommodation – 5 Plough Close, Aylesbury - Approved. [retrospective application]
- Replacement of two timber windows and installation of three replacement doors to rear elevation – 1 Swallow Lane. Approved
- First floor side extension – 76 Anton Way, Aylesbury. Refused.

Resignation of Clerk

It is with great sadness we advise that our Clerk of five years, Sarah Copley, is leaving the Parish Council on 23rd April. Sarah has been a most hard working and competent Clerk and a pleasure with whom to work. We send Sarah best wishes from all of us in Stoke Mandeville for her helpful advice and support during the past five years. The recruitment of a new Clerk for 25 hours a week and for an Assistant for 15 hours a week is underway.

Dates of Future Meetings 2017

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm usually at the Community Centre in Eskdale Road. Dates for meetings during 2017 are

14 th March	11 th April [Annual Parish Meeting 7pm]	9 th May [AGM]
13 th June	11 th July	8 th August [Provisional]
12 th September	10 th October	14 th November
12 th December		

E Magazine

The Parish Council now circulates an e-Update Newsletter giving details of events and items of specific interest which arise in between publication of this magazine. If you would like to receive a copy please send your e mail address to the Clerk of the Parish Council smparishcouncil@bt.connect.com. We undertake not to divulge your details to a third person.

Jenny Hunt

Chairman

1 February 2017

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