

**STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMER 2015**

Parish Council Elections

Ten candidates standing for election to the Parish Council were elected unopposed and two vacancies remain for Stoke Grange Ward. The Parish Council is now able to co opt two Councillors for this Ward but unlike when standing for election it can now be anyone living within the Parish or three miles outside the boundary. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for Stoke Mandeville please contact the Clerk on 01296 613888 or e mail smparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Elected Councillors for the next four years are

Hawkslade Ward [3]

Thea Garrett
David Starr
Pat Wood

Stoke Leys Ward [2]

Stephen Pluckwell
Marcus Rogers

Stoke Grange Ward [3]

Andrew Clark
(two vacancies)

Village Ward [4]

Richard Butler
Barbara Ezra
Jenny Hunt
Richard Swinney

We said goodbye to Brian Adams [Hawkslade] who did not stand for re election.

Parish Council Accounts 2014/2015

Below is a synopsis of expenditure by the Parish Council for the past financial year. These will be displayed on our web site once audit has taken place. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

	£
Receipts	114,476.76
Payments	
General Administration	35,462.05
VAT	7,910.67
Community Centres	14,058.00
Open Spaces *	17,079.72
Allotments	570.56
Burial Ground	583.20
Street Lighting	16,777.96
Assets	8,256.33

The surplus is allocated as follows:

	£
Street Lighting Upgrade	8,000.00
Emptying Dog Bins (14/15)	1,590.00
Cleaning Tennis Court	650.00
Structural Testing of Street Lights	1,640.00

*Includes repairs and upgrade to play equipment

Car Parking – Stoke Leys

A meeting for residents took place during April organised by Councillors for the Hawkslade Ward, M Rogers and S Pluckwell. The purpose of the meeting was to listen to feedback from residents on their views or any concerns they may have about the Experimental Traffic Regulations Order so that these could be reflected by the Parish Council when responding to the consultation planned for the end of April. It is also important that residents themselves respond to the consultation at the end of this experimental period.

Speeding on Local Roads

We have heard that our request for reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph along Risborough Road and Lower Road has been accepted by Bucks County Council who will now undertake public consultation. Thames Valley Police are supportive of the proposal, The consultation will begin on 14th May for a period of six weeks. Please watch Parish Council Notice Boards and website for details of the public consultation and give your views.

The MVAS has been installed on Lower Road near the School warning speeding motorists to slow down. It will be used along Wendover Road, Station Road, Anton Way, Risborough Road and Lower Road, for a period of two weeks at each site. The equipment is also shared with Weston Turville Parish Council.

Street Lighting

Three LED street lights have been sited on column Nos. 4, 6 and 8 Carters Ride until the end of June as a trial. Comments on the LED street lights would be welcome by contacting the Clerk of the Council.

Allotments

The growing season is well underway and some of the allotments are looking extremely good whilst others are not so well tended. It is important that all allotments are fully cultivated from March onwards. The Allotment Agreement states that notice will be given for any allotments which are not cultivated and the tenancy terminated.

Play Equipment Hawkslade

Plans for an outside table tennis facility at Hawkslade are unlikely to go ahead on land belonging to Aylesbury Vale District Council. AVDC had offered the Parish Council the lease of green spaces in Hawkslade and Stoke Grange with responsibility for grass cutting and other work. This was in addition to the land identified for a potential playground. The Parish Council has resisted this proposition as unaffordable but is hoping to seek an alternative solution.

Grass Cutting

Bucks County Council Transport for Bucks has given Parish Councils the opportunity to take on roadside maintenance including the cutting of roadside grass verges, funding for which is to come down from BCC in the form of a grant for a period of four years on an annual decreasing basis. Due to complaints received last year about the state of grass cutting the Parish Council agreed to go along with this initiative by joining a "cluster" of Parishes working with Aylesbury Town Council. Since the beginning of the year negotiations have been taking place between Bucks County Council and Parish Councils and legal advice has been taken. Unfortunately, delays have arisen in the signing of the Agreement and whilst we remain convinced that the best way forward is for the Parish Council to manage the cutting of grass verges we also consider that any Agreement has to be right for our area. Negotiations therefore continue but we hope for an early resolution.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

Rogers Haines has been awarded the contract for grounds maintenance following a tendering process. Roger is a resident of the Parish and has been taking care of green areas, burial ground and allotments as well as the playground and bus shelters for several years.

Play in the Park

Dates for Play in the Park to take place at the Eskdale Road Queen Elizabeth Playing Field are the morning of Tuesday 28th July and the afternoon of Tuesday 11th August. Sessions are organised and managed by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The 'Stoke Mandeville Way'

At the March meeting of the Council a presentation was given by BuDS about a project to develop the world's first fully accessible pathway for disabled people, linking local places to the spiritual home of the Paralympic movement at Stoke Mandeville. The route starts at Station Way Aylesbury, continuing down Walton Street and Wendover Road, turning into Elm Farm Road, through the underpass, up Stadium Approach and turning left into Lower Road, concluding at Stoke Mandeville Church. It will include special features of a level, step free access suitable for use by most disabled or older people, especially wheelchair users and people with mobility impairments; clear signposting to help people with less severe vision impairment or learning difficulties and additional seating where people can rest before continuing along the 'Way'. The Parish Council has agreed to accept ownership and ongoing maintenance of a seat and information boards sited in Stoke Mandeville Parish.

HS2

Work continues in preparing for the visit by MPs which was due to take place on 21 May but has been put back probably until July due to likely changes in the membership of the Committee since the General Election. However the Parish Council with SMAG has prepared a schedule of the areas to be visited which are worse affected by HS2 in Stoke Mandeville. It is anticipated that presentation of our Petition to the Scrutiny Committee will not take place until December. A proposal was published during February by local authorities and conservation groups in Buckinghamshire for the extension of the bored tunnel through the Chilterns to exit at the north east of Nash Lee Road facing Stoke Mandeville village at an additional cost of £400m. Should this Petition go ahead it would have a major adverse affect on Aylesbury town and surrounding areas by nature of the movement of heavy materials, additional heavy goods vehicles and manpower required for period of between five and seven years but moreso on Stoke Mandeville village. The Parish Council has agreed to reserve judgement until the publication of the Additional Provisions and Environmental Statement in July which should lead to public consultation. However, should the extended Chilterns Long Tunnel become reality there would be no benefits for Stoke Mandeville only dis benefits including significant noise for our Parish once HS2 is operational.

Development of Land Lower Road

Pre application information has been received from Gladmans Developers for the provision of 200 homes on land adjoining the BCC Sports Ground in Lower Road Stoke Mandeville. This is a speculative pre application in respect of which developers are encouraged to engage with the local community. Aylesbury Vale District Council currently has no Local Plan and this is not expected until 2017. In the meantime a number of applications for large scale residential development are being submitted across the Vale and Stoke Mandeville being so close to Aylesbury town is particularly vulnerable. Opportunities will exist for the public to make comments when a formal application is received. The Parish Council is arranging to engage with the developers which meeting will be open to the public.

Resilience [Emergency] Plan

Have you thought about what might happen if Stoke Mandeville was caught up in a major emergency, such as large scale flooding, an extended power cut or very heavy snow fall? If communications were cut, we would need to be able to look after ourselves for a while. We are in a flight path to Luton Airport and further afield, we have a major train line running through our area and heavy industrial vehicles travel the A.4010 on a regular basis. Last year the village was cut off due to flooding blocking access to Stoke Mandeville Hospital and elsewhere with four mile queues on three roads. It could become much worse with the arrival of HS2 and EW Rail. The Parish Council is putting together a team of local volunteers called "Parish Responders" and looking for people with skills which might be needed in an emergency situation. We are also looking for local people and companies who might be able to supply equipment or other items vital in an emergency. If you would

like to become a Parish Responder or are able to assist in any way, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01296 613888. Further details can be found on the Parish Council's website.

Decisions of Planning Applications

The following applications have been considered by Aylesbury Vale District Council and the following decisions notified:

- Installation of Solar Panel, Hawkslade Community Centre. Stoke Mandeville.
- 2-Storey Front Extension, single storey rear extension and detached double garage at front – 31 Carters Ride. Stoke Mandeville
- Demolition of Existing Conservatory and Garage and Construction of Single Storey Rear and Side Extension including new attached Garage to front – 7 Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville.
- Variation of Planning Condition 11 to gain more Sales Space, ASDA Stores, Lower Road, Aylesbury to increase the net sales area of the store from 1,000 sq m to 1,250 sq m.

Jenny Hunt
Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
12 May 2015