



Parish Council Update

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Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
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Welcome to the Issue 3 of the *Parish Council Update* - keeping you up to date with the latest news from Stoke Mandeville Parish Council. If you are aware of friends or neighbours who live in our parish and would like to receive the Update please ask them to forward their email details to smparishcouncil@btconnect.com. The Parish Council will not share email details with any third party.

Parking Safely and Considerately

The majority of our local residents park responsibly, whether parked on their own driveways or on the road, however the Council has received a number of complaints recently regarding inconsiderate parking near junctions as well as reporting damage to grass verges caused by people parking on them.

When parking on the road, think about your neighbours and access for emergency services - please do not park:

- Anywhere where you would prevent access for emergency services vehicles
- Within 10 metres of a road junction
- Opposite another parked vehicle
- In front of an entrance to a property

Parking on grass verges can be a safety issue as well as damaging the verge;

- Utilities may run directly beneath verges which are not designed to take the weight of a vehicle, this could result in damage to services directly affecting nearby properties
- Parking on verges can cause visibility issues - both for people trying to exit/enter their drives and for pedestrians/cyclists

Parking on grass verges damages our green spaces and re-instating them takes time and funding – ***Please do not park on verges.***

Annual Parish Meeting – 11th April

The Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place on 11th April. The Parish Council will meet at 7pm and the Annual Parish Meeting will start immediately after at 7.30pm.

We are delighted to announce that there will be a presentation at the meeting about the history and excavation of the old church site by Archaeologists involved in this work due to begin shortly, with questions and discussion.

There will also be an opportunity for residents to raise issues about which they are concerned within the Parish. Refreshments will be served.

Come along and meet your Councillors

Street Furniture

The new bus shelter has been installed in Orwell Drive, opposite the junction with Lambourne Avenue and is already being well used.



The Parish Council regularly inspects its street furniture, however if you notice any issues with benches, bus shelters, litter and dog bins, please report to the Clerk (details above).

Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Mandeville.

The next important step in the process is the distribution of a questionnaire to all households in the parish – we need your input. This is your opportunity to have your say in the way housing is developed in and around the village.

The Aylesbury Vale District Council needs to allocate the land to build 33,000 homes in the next few years and all the districts in the Vale need to consider what their contribution will be. The Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan is not intended to attempt to restrict planned growth in the area, but it can guide and influence the development of future infrastructure and facilities.

The deadline for responses is Friday 17th March – please complete online by going to www.smpn.org.uk or by completing the hard copy that will come through your door. If you are not able to access the questionnaire online, your completed paper version can be handed in at designated collection points or you can request collection from your home.

Additional Trustee required for Charity

A vacancy has occurred for a Trustee of the Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity which considers grant bids from local residents and organisations for funding.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee of the charity contact the Clerk of the PC before the 31 March.

Information about the Charity can be found at www.smandop.org

HS2 – Royal Assent – what happens next in Stoke Mandeville?

After seven years after the initial announcement of HS2 we now know that the scheme will go ahead in that Royal Assent has been given to this project. The first work to take place in Stoke Mandeville will be the excavation of remains and artefacts from the ruins of the original St.Mary’s Church, built in 1170, and the surrounding fields where many are buried and over which the train will run. It is our understanding that this will start in May of this year with up to a hundred Archaeologists working in this area at any one time for up to two years. We are told that this site is the most significant archaeological find along the route. See details of Annual Parish meeting above.

The main works contractors are expected to be appointed in July and enabling work will occupy the first twelve months. The first priority will be the realignment of the A.4010 from near the Freemantle Nursing Home and emerging along Lower Road just before the Belmore where a new roundabout will be built. A Community Engagement Officer has been appointed for this area who can be contacted at HS2 Helpdesk, High Speed 2 [HS2], 2 Snowhill, Queenswat, Birmingham B46GA. Email HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or telephone 0207 944 4908.

Parish Council Meetings:

The upcoming meetings are as follows – all meetings are open to the public.

| Date | Time | Details | Venue |
|------------------------|---------------|---|------------------|
| 14 March | 7.30pm | Parish Council | Community Centre |
| 21 March | 2.30pm | Leisure Committee | Community Centre |
| 23 March | 10.30am | Planning Committee | Community Centre |
| 11 th April | 7pm 7.30pm | Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting | Community Centre |
| 18 th April | 7.30pm | Environment Committee | Community Centre |

Oats Close development

The Parish Council is aware of issues with contractor vehicles parking around the site at Oats Close and understands that parking provision has now been made on the site which should help reduce the incidences. Lorries are permitted to park on public roads provided they are parked legally and not causing an obstruction.

Clerk to the Council

Our Clerk, Sarah Copley, has handed in her notice and will be leaving the Parish Council in April.

Arrangements are underway to recruit a replacement Clerk, we will also be recruiting an assistant later in the year.