

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council Copy

Summer Edition

Latest – HS2

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish was well attended on 17 April at the Methodist Church Hall, Eskdale Road, when we heard from HS2 Ltd and its contractors on the construction phase of the HS2 Rail route.

We learnt from the Archaeologist that during the next few months ecological and other ground works, surveys and trenching is to take place at the old church site and will be non-intrusive. A walkover photographic record is planned with the use of drones for the aerial photographs but could be delayed due to nesting birds. The mound of rubble covering the old church is to be removed and in order to preserve a legacy a 3D image is to be created from existing photographs. The memorial garden for the burial of the remains will be commissioned in early autumn. A site has yet to be agreed. It is intended to involve local schools and members of the public and an educational programme is in course of being developed.

The main construction contractors Effiage/Kier, advised that the route from Great Missenden to Leamington Spa [including Stoke Mandeville] involves five kilometres of green tunnels and twenty- two kilometres of road closures. It is intended that the design will be completed by the end of November.

Between April and June 2019 earthworks will begin with completion in quarter 4 of 2022 with the railway completed in 2026. A “move it once” process is to be put in place in order for the earthworks to be removed from the cuttings and delivered along the trace to the embankments where it is required.

A pedestrian/cyclist underpass is planned to go under the line near to the Old Risborough Road.

Due to the possibility of delay with the road diversion a temporary “Bailey” bridge may be constructed across the Risborough Road between the Goat Centre and Freemantle Nursing Home. Talks are to take place with Bucks County Council, the local Transport Authority concerning ‘bus routes.

It is hoped that planning for the South East Aylesbury Link Road which emerges in Lower Road will start in 2019 and be completed during the summer of 2021.

A number of assurances and undertakings has to be given by HS2 Ltd relating to noise and environmental impact mitigation.

The core working hours for construction will be 8.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays.

The diversion of the A.4010 road around the village has been delayed and HS2 Ltd are pushing for it to commence as soon as possible but this would not be before 2019 taking 18 – 22 months to build.

Discussions with organisations providing “blue lights” services are also taking place.

The Parish Council is obviously very anxious about the mention of possible delays in the construction of the A.4010 road diversion. At the Select Committee in Parliament it was stated that the bypass will be constructed and brought into operation early in the construction phase of HS2.

Details of Community engagement were noted and it has since been planned that a “drop in” for the public to obtain details and further information, will be available each month at the Community Centre with HS2 staff present. Final details on dates and times have yet to be finalised

Lower Road

Serious problems have been experienced throughout the winter months due to the use of traffic lights on front of the new development in Lower Road exacerbated by mud being carried on to the highway and to adjoining residential roads. Once planning permission has been agreed there is little which can be done but to curtail the situation. Both District and County Councillors have been working with the Parish Council in order to bring some resolution. The Parish Council has also been in direct contact with the developer Bloor Homes. Particularly hard hit has been the primary school with children arriving late for

school and parents being caught in lengthy traffic queues as well as businesses along Lower Road being seriously affected. Sadly, the next stage of development along Lower Road is due to start soon by Crest Nicholson for 125 dwellings on land adjacent to the ambulance station. We recognize that more homes are needed but new development to provide these homes must be done in an overall planned and considered way taking into account the surroundings and infrastructure limitations.

Finance

At the Council's Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman of the Finance and Governance Committee, David Starr, reported on the financial position for the past year. He said that the aim of the Council was to prove good value for the Precept raised from the Community Charge. The Unaudited Accounts for 2017/2018 had shown an increase in balances of £58,649 and the Unaudited Balance at 31 March 2018 as £139,301 which contributes towards the cost of providing the new Parish burial ground. The precept for the current year 2018 – 2019 has been increased to just 7p a week for a band 'D' property. This will be the last year that the Council will receive the devolved services subsidy from Bucks County Council in respect of cutting the roadside grass verges, which will in future need to be covered within the Precept. Notice of the availability of the final audited accounts for the public will be displayed on the Council's website and Parish Notice Boards during June-July.

Awareness of Dementia Stoke Mandeville

At our February meeting we invited a Senior Occupational Therapist specialising locally in Dementia to address the meeting in order to raise awareness of the condition. We were told that seven out of ten people were with dementia, no two cases were the same and symptoms varied. Loneliness is an issue and the involvement and value of volunteers was emphasised. If you could spare a few hours to work with those who suffer from dementia and their carers please contact our Clerk on 01296 61388 who will be able to refer you further.

Grass Cutting

We are receiving complaints about the cutting of roadside verges. Our contract for grass cutting begins at the end of March but due to the wet and warm weather has unfortunately fallen behind.

Unitary Authorities Buckinghamshire

Parish Councils have been included in the debate about Unitary Authorities in Buckinghamshire and whether there should be a county wide Authority [Buckinghamshire] or one each for north [Aylesbury Vale] and another for the south [Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks]. A decision is expected from the Secretary of State in July. The Parish Council has not come out in favour of either option on which there was no public consultation but whatever is chosen by the Minister the current system and Councils will be dispersed with new new authority[ies] being established in 2020.

Resignation of Councillor

At the end of March we said Goodbye to Councillor Stephen Atkinsons who represented Stoke Grange Ward. Steve had made his mark on the Parish in taking on the Chairmanship of the newly established Stoke Mandeville Action Group against HS2 [SMAG] from 2010 – 2015. He joined the Council on his retirement also taking on the Chairmanship of the Neighbourhood Plan. Steve was a committed and hardworking Councillor who will missed by his colleagues. We wish him and his wife Jean a happy retirement in their new life in Suffolk. A vacancy now exists for a Parish Councillor for Stoke Grange Ward which is open to any resident or person living within a three miles radius of the Parish but it would be useful to have a resident of Stoke Grange but this does not preclude residents from elsewhere applying. The appointment is for an initial period of twelve months because elections for Parish Councillors takes place in May 2019 when existing Parish Councillors can also stand for election. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

In Brief

- We are moving into the electronic age and now have an electronic banking system which until recently was not allowable for Parish Councils.
- A new basket ball hoop, net and backboard is to be provided to the existing equipment on the playing field.
- The Chairman attended the official Flame Lighting Ceremony for the Paralympic Games at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium on 2nd March. The Vice Chairman attended the public celebrations organised by BUDS at the Clare Foundation at Saunderton.
- Lead was removed from the roof of the Community Centre during April. The Police have been involved. New CTV security is to be installed.
- During the year of April 2017 – end of March 2018, the Planning Committee of the Council considered fifty five planning applications. Twenty- three of these were for extensions to dwellings and seven for sites of multiple dwellings. In total the village will extend by 589 dwellings by already agreed permissions and a further 375 homes are in the pipeline, resulting in doubling the size of the population of the village.
- The Council is to convert the former bar at the community centre into a PC office and activity room.
- HS2 Ltd has now taken pre- possession of the old church site to undertake earthworks to make the site ready to take HS2 rail. The site is therefore no longer available for people to visit. If this should present any problem to you , your family or anybody known to you, please contact the PC Clerk.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is within the auspice of the Parish Council which has overarching responsibility for the work of the Steering Group. Interested residents willing to become members of the Steering Group are desperately needed. The work is interesting and worthwhile and is about the future and planning of the structure for Stoke Mandeville. It would involve one meeting a month alternating between daytime and evenings. If you are interested please contact the Chairman of the Steering Group direct at chairman@smnp.org.uk.
- The Parish Council has once again entered the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition in respect of which judging takes place on an unannounced date during June. Our awarded points have increased year on year but we need your help in keeping the village clean and tidy with no litter or roadside posters and as many colourful and attractive blooms as possible. We may not reach the heights of winning as we did during the nineteen nineties but it would be a credit to us all to receive an accreditation.

Decisions on Planning Applications

- Single Storey & rear extension, 14 Patrick Way – Approved
- Two storey side & rear extension, 28 Ligo Avenue – Approved
- Two storey annexe, 44 Batt Furlong - Approved
- To determine whether planning permission is required for the use of office building to 89 flats, Unit 1 Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road. – Approved
- Erection of rear conservatory, 4 Lott Meadow – Approved
- Materials to be used, 10 windows and doors, landscaping in respect of application 69 Lower Road
- Details relating to slab levels, landscaping and trees – 29 Wendover Road
- Erection of two dwellings and sheds – rear of 60 Station Road – Refused
- Alteration to roof space to existing office building and installation of dormer windows – Unit 1 Triangle Business Park
- Single storey rear extension Stoke Grove Farmhouse, Risborough Road – Approved
- Lawful Development of a Single storey rear extension 13 Evans Close – Certificate Issued

Jenny Hunt

Chairman Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

1 May 2018