



ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020



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Chairman's Foreword

Dear Parishioners

It is both a pleasure and an honour to write this report as the recently appointed Chairman of Stoke Mandeville Parish Council.

I had originally intended the theme of this report to be 'preparing for change'. Never though have we been more overtaken by events, never in recent memory have parishioners been more tested and never have we seen better how a local community can come together in a spirit of mutual support. The parish council puts itself at the heart of those efforts.

I should immediately note how the parish council has helped a group of enthusiastic and altruistic local volunteers to establish the very effective Stoke Mandeville Community Group. We thank them for their efforts to date working on behalf of our vulnerable residents.

My predecessor as Chairman had the foresight to greatly enhance the parish council's IT provision. This has allowed us to work together without having to physically meet and has proved invaluable in the current circumstances. We can share and review documents, hold video conferences and keep in touch with our key suppliers and contacts. In short, we function properly and provide as normal a service as possible.

Parishioners will have been disappointed, though not surprised, that the HS2 rail scheme was given the green light (or should that be signal?) to proceed. The parish council, while reflecting the widespread concerns that the scheme brought no benefits locally and no financial value nationally, has always sought to engage with those tasked with delivering it. That will continue as work on the Old Church site, and construction work generally takes place. We will hold HS2 and its contractors to account, ensuring that they meet their promises to us.

I turn next to the seemingly relentless pace of housing development across the parish, whether already constructed, underway or simply proposed. Again, this will concern many residents. In the previous annual report, the then Chairman noted the limited powers available to parish councils in this regard. We will continue to scrutinise new applications, with particular regard to the extent to which developers reflect local concerns around supporting infrastructure but will engage constructively wherever possible. It is deeply ironic that there is an internationally renowned hospital just across our boundary, yet the parish which shares its name has no doctor's surgery, dental surgery or pharmacy. The pressure on local roads is also unrelenting. That said, we warmly welcome all new residents to the parish and hope that their lives here will be enjoyable and successful.

Members of the parish council, with external input, are working to complete the complex Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible. The requirement is to share this with parishioners once finalised and I strongly urge you to get involved at that time, as it requires your support to be implemented.

Later in this document you can find more detail on that work, together with a fuller description of the activities of the parish council's three committees – Planning, Communities and Finance & Governance. Each has its own responsibilities and plans, but all share the common goal of improving the lives of parishioners, whilst seeking best value for money and acting with diligence and foresight.

We continue to work with our local partners – the Stoke Mandeville Village Community Association and the Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity – with whom we have strong links. We will look to build strong links too with the newly formed Buckinghamshire Council, which has replaced Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council. We await details of any new responsibilities which may be passed down to us.

Your parish council is looking to the future. We want to develop a strategic plan for the parish, taking account of potential sums to be received from developers and determining how they can best be spent for the benefit of residents. We also wish to engage residents more fully in our work and have already started to be more active on social media and in the use of our website. The Bucks Herald, the Parish Magazine and noticeboards will continue to provide information to those preferring more traditional methods.

No parish council succeeds without effective and committed councillors. We warmly thank those who have left in the last year – Councillors Gillian Watts, Marcus Rogers and Keith Gomm - for their service. We welcomed Councillors Ken O’Sullivan and John Robinson to the fold. The parish council is always keen to hear from residents who may be able to contribute, whether joining as councillors or through providing expertise or support. Please contact the Clerk for details. The parish council elections which were planned for May 2020 (and which were themselves delayed from May 2019) have been further delayed until May 2021 because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Equally, no parish council succeeds without the support of their staff. We are very fortunate to have Tony Skeggs as Clerk and Ann-Marie Davies as Assistant Clerk. Both guide us all with their experience and wisdom, undertake the daily activities of the parish council, and their recent input has gone above and beyond the call of duty. I would personally sincerely thank them, and indeed my fellow councillors, for all the help they have given me during my short time with the parish council.

I hope that by the time the next of these reports is produced, the world will be a safer and more stable place, and the lives of parishioners will have returned to normal. Our work continues with that aim. In the meantime, I wish you and your families all the best.

Graham Stewart - Chairman - April 2020



Council Members

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council has a total of twelve Councillors, elected or co-opted to the Parish Council, although there is currently a vacancy in the Hawkslade ward. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Chairman or Clerk.

The Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month except August. Details of the meetings are on the notice boards within the Parish and can be obtained from the Clerk on request.

Name	Ward Represented	Committees
Laurence Prestage	Hawkslade	Neighbourhood Plan and Planning
Pat Wood	Hawkslade	Communities and Finance & Governance
Andrew Clark (Vice-Chairman)	Stoke Grange	Finance & Governance, Neighbourhood Plan and Planning
Santosh Kirve	Stoke Grange	Finance & Governance
John Robinson	Stoke Grange	Neighbourhood Plan
Ken O'Sullivan	Stoke Leys	Neighbourhood Plan
Stephen Pluckwell	Stoke Leys	Communities and Planning
Richard Butler	Stoke Mandeville Village	Finance & Governance and Communities
Barbara Ezra	Stoke Mandeville Village	Communities and Planning
Jenny Hunt	Stoke Mandeville Village	Communities, Finance & Governance and Planning
Graham Stewart (Chairman)	Stoke Mandeville Village	Finance & Governance

During the year the following councillors resigned from the parish council.

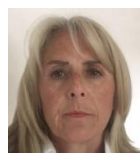
Gillian Watts, Marcus Rogers and Keith Gomm.

Clerk and RFO: Tony Skeggs



clerk@stokemandeville-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Clerk: Ann-Marie Davies



assistant.clerk@stoke-mandeville-pc.gov.uk

Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury HP22 5UJ

Office Telephone: 01296 613888

Attendance record at meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees

Councillor	Attendance		
	Possible	Actual	%
Cllr Richard Butler	15	10	66.67%
Cllr Andrew Clark (Vice Chair)	23	19	82.61%
Cllr Barbara Ezra	22	20	90.91%
Cllr Keith Gomm (Resigned January 2020)	22	20	90.91%
Cllr Jenny Hunt	26	21	80.77%
Cllr Santosh Kirve	13	10	76.92%
Cllr Ken O'Sullivan (Co-opted September 2019)	6	6	100.00%
Cllr Stephen Pluckwell	23	18	78.26%
Cllr Laurence Prestage (Co-opted May 2019)	15	15	100.00%
Cllr John Robinson (Co-opted September 2019)	6	4	66.67%
Cllr Marcus Rogers (Resigned July 2019)	11	10	90.91%
Cllr Graham Stewart (Co-opted September 2019) (Chair from February)	8	7	87.50%
Cllr Gillian Watts (Resigned June 2019)	7	3	42.86%
Cllr Pat Wood	18	15	83.33%
	215	178	82.79%

YOUR CURRENT SERVING COUNCILLORS

Jenny Hunt, Stephen Pluckwell, Richard Butler, Barbara Ezra, Pat Wood



Andrew Clark, Graham Stewart, John Robinson, Laurence Prestage, Santosh Kirve

Committee Reports

Environment Committee

Members

Pat Wood (Chair), Keith Gomm, Jenny Hunt, Stephen Pluckwell and Marcus Rogers.

During the year a decision was taken to merge the Environment and Leisure Committees into a new Communities Committee, so this report only covers the first eight months of the year but during that time the Committee saw several projects completed, these being:

After identifying the disused allotment land in Marsh Lane as a suitable site for a new burial ground progress has been slower than hoped. The council has requested its surveyors to prepare a detailed design for the new burial ground. This will enable us to complete the detailed planning application which has been requested by AVDC. In the meantime, we have managed to put most of the financing in place thanks to a grant from the New Homes Bonus fund. We are continuing to maintain the site in reasonable condition so that once we have the go ahead an immediate start will be possible.

As part of the devolved services agreement with Buckinghamshire Council, Aylesbury Town Council has continued to carry out grass cutting and maintenance services across most Parish wards this year on a contractual basis on behalf of the Council. Again, their work has been complimented by residents who praise its frequency and quality. We are pleased to have been informed that the subsidy towards the devolved services will be continued for at least the next year. This relieves some of the pressure on our finances for this forthcoming financial year.

The Parish Council owns and maintains the streetlights in Stoke Mandeville Village and Stoke Leys wards. During the year the Council completed its programme to upgrade all its streetlights to LED lamps. There were some lights that were not replaced, in Lower Road and Old Risborough Road. These were left as the Lower Road lights are to be replaced once the development opposite The Bell is completed. The lights in Old Risborough Road are due to disappear once HS2 construction starts.

A new bus shelter was installed in Station Road, which has been widely welcomed. Also, during the year, the two bus shelters in Risborough Road underwent a refresh, panels were replaced, moss cleared, and a coat of preservative applied.

Two new water tanks were installed at the allotments as well as work to clear a number of plots that had become overgrown. As well as the allotments there was the normal day to day maintenance around the parish.

Grounds maintenance work around the village and playing fields continues to be provided by two contractors, R.Haines and Buckinghamshire Council (previously AVDC).

Communities Committee

Members

Pat Wood (Chair), Richard Butler, Barbara Ezra, Keith Gomm, Jenny Hunt, Stephen Pluckwell and Marcus Rogers.

One of the first projects completed by the new committee was the replacing of the grass car parking area at the allotments with a hard-standing area along with new posts and a foot scrape. The foot scrape was designed and installed by an allotment holder. Early feedback has been positive from the allotment holders.

Two new benches have been provided for the parish, one in Marsh Lane to replace the existing one that was broken and the other to replace one stolen on the affectionately known “dog walking path” on Hawkslade.



Work to provide extra car parking spaces at the Community Centre in Eskdale Road and to provide a much-needed new burial ground is still ongoing, although work has stalled due to the covid-19 pandemic.

My thanks go to all Committee members for their support and input throughout the last year.

Pat Wood
Chairman

Governance and Finance Committee

Members

Graham Stewart (Chairman), Andrew Clark, Richard Butler, Jenny Hunt, Santosh Kirve, Pat Wood.

Report on Activities in the Financial Year – 2019/2020

Governance

The committee met on only two occasions during the year – on 12th November 2019 and 11th February 2020 - but made several strategic recommendations which were subsequently approved by the full parish council.

In November, following a tendering process, we agreed expenditure on IT equipment for both staff and councillors from a leading supplier to parish councils. This was delivered in February, shortly before the coronavirus lockdown and has enabled us to operate remotely, both allowing meetings via videoconference and the sharing of documents.

We agreed a budget of £150,300 for the financial year 2020/21 and a precept of £166,000, which represents an increase of 5% on the 2019/2020 financial year. Councillors recognised that this increase was above the current level of inflation but noted the need for income to match our ambitious strategic plans and the support required from third parties to formulate and deliver those. We feel the current annual precept of £65.13, equivalent to £1.25 per week for a Band D household, continues to represent good value for money at less than the cost of two second class stamps.

In February our meeting noted that several of the parish council’s policies were due to be reviewed and updated. Some additional policies may also be required. This work will begin imminently. We will also be conducting a review of the current risk register – this seems a particularly appropriate time to do so. Once circumstances return to normal, we will look to engage external support in connection with our strategic plans.

Annual Audit

Each year the Parish Council is subject to an external audit of its finances and I am pleased to say that in the May 2019 audit, covering the 2018/19 financial year, the Parish Council was given a clean bill of health

with no issues being raised. We are fully prepared for the next audit without yet having confirmation of its timing.

All your councillors live in the parish and so are precept payers too. Financial matters are closely scrutinised by them through the lenses of 'best value for money' and 'good governance'. I thank them on your behalf for their input during the year and I thank all our precept payers, without whom the funding of our activities would not be possible.

Graham Stewart
Chairman

Leisure Committee

Members

Barbara Ezra (Chair), Richard Butler, Jenny Hunt and Pat Wood.

During the year a decision was taken to merge the Leisure and Environment Committees into a new Communities Committee, so this report only covers the first eight months of the year but during that time the Committee saw several projects completed, these being:

- Several panes of glass replaced in the Community Centre.
- The rear third of the roof was replaced in July / August 2019 and the remaining roof is scheduled for completion during the Summer Holiday 2020.
- CCTV was installed to the exterior of the Community Centre.
- Completion of a new parish council office for its staff.
- Repairs were made to two benches on the playing field.
- Various repairs were carried out to the play area equipment and fencing.
- The footpath railings were repaired.
- Two very successful "Play around the Parishes" sessions, one more focused on sports were held in the Summer School Holidays.



Following on from the success of "Play Around the Parishes" in previous years, two sessions have once again been booked for the summer, one of which is a sports session.

Stoke Mandeville FC 'Under 14s' football team continued to play their home games at Eskdale Road. In addition to the Under 14s, the Under 9s and Under 7s now train and play their matches on the playing field.

My thanks go to all Committee members for their support and input throughout the last year.

Barbara Ezra
Chairman

Planning Committee

Current Members

Andrew Clark (Chairman), Jenny Hunt, Barbara Ezra, Stephen Pluckwell and Laurence Prestage.

Previous Committee Members who left during 2019-20

Keith Gomm, Marcus Rogers and Gillian Watts.

The Planning Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Community Centre at 7.30pm when members of the public are welcome to come along to listen to the discussions on applications and make comment. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for planning applications large and small and has a set period of time in which to undertake this function, sometimes a matter of days. It's important to emphasise that whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications and is realistic in its responses, ultimately the decision rests with the Local Planning Authority. Whilst developers have the right of appeal against those decisions, unfortunately Parish and Town Councils do not. If the comments of the Parish Council differ from those of the Planning Officers who have delegated powers to decide the outcome, the application is referred to the AVDC Development Control Committee for a decision. National guidance in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework is critical in this respect.

As part of the Government agenda for growth we have had no choice but to accept the recent and substantial housing development in our Parish. Please see table below for further detail:

Agreed Development		
East Lower Road	Abbey Homes	117 dwellings
Lower Road	Crest Nicholson	125 dwellings
West Lower Road	Bloor Homes	190 dwellings
Risborough Road	Kier Homes	74 dwellings
Eskdale Road (Outline approval only as at March 2020)	Ridgepoint Homes	73 dwellings

Prior to these sites for multiple dwellings being approved, the Planning Committee would always look to obtain changes through the planning process known as "Amendments". In addition, we frequently invite developers to our meetings to present their proposals either at pre application stage or after an application has been submitted. In the latter case we would make comments. We also always encourage potential developers to undertake public engagement to give local people an opportunity to express their views. We are also requested by the local planning authority to provide street names for new developments.

This year we are mindful that there are two further significant applications seeking approval. See table below:

Proposed Development		
West Lower Road	Lands Improvement	750 dwellings
Land at South West Aylesbury (Hawkslade)	Gleeson	1400 dwellings (500 in the Stoke Mandeville Parish)

The Parish Council has, on your behalf, lodged objections to both planning applications.

Our work also includes studying and commenting on changes to planning documents such as the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which at the time of writing is still not agreed. This will now transfer across to the new Unitary Authority, Buckinghamshire Council, to complete.

The Parish Council also has overarching responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan which has ultimately to be agreed by the Council and the local planning authority, Buckinghamshire Council, before a local Referendum can be undertaken and then submission to the Planning Inspectorate for final agreement.

The Planning Committee considered 62 planning applications from 1st April 2019 to the end of March 2020.

Andrew Clark,
Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It has been another busy year for the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Our focus has been working towards producing a physical document entitled "*The Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan*" that we can present to the Stoke Mandeville Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council planning department.

To this end we set up a small informal working group consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Administration assistant, to meet regularly to pull all the elements together.

But this was only the start of an immense amount of work in reading and editing each Evidence Paper and turning them into Neighbourhood Plan Policy Documents. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Andrew Clark, offered to be the editor of the Neighbourhood Plan and he has been engrossed in this huge task for the last 12 months. At the time of writing (April 2020) we seem to be close to producing a first draft of the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan document that we can present to the new Buckinghamshire Council for initial scrutiny.

This is not without its problems as the two Neighbourhood Plan officers at the former AVDC have left and not been replaced. We have a contact in the new Buckinghamshire Council Planning Dept who has agreed to help us introduce the Neighbourhood Plan into the Planning Department, but he has warned us that the emerging VALP is taking precedence over everything at this time.

We were not entirely happy with the consultant that we engaged in 2018 to support our efforts in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. What we really needed was someone experienced in supporting Neighbourhood Plan groups who would work alongside us very closely, monitoring everything that we do. We have been very fortunate to find another consultant, Bell Cornwell, who have worked alongside us from the outset, and attended every Steering Group meeting and other meetings that we have had with stakeholders. They have consistently offered very sound advice and kept us from deviating into areas that were not necessary to produce our Neighbourhood Plan. We anticipate that Bell Cornwell will provide exceptional support in our endeavours to reach the final conclusion of getting the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan made.

We were not able to reach any agreement with the AVDC Planning Department to allow us to be involved collaboratively with the master planning process and we had resolved to "go it alone". However, we discovered through our contacts with one of the main land developers that a masterplan was being produced, apparently covertly. When we challenged AVDC about this, we found, at a subsequent meeting, that they now seemed to be willing to work with the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group more closely.

Another element in the mix is the Garden Town team in the former AVDC. They have been busy in the last 12 months claiming that they will produce a masterplan for AGT1 and AGT2 (the Aylesbury Garden Town

development areas in our Parish). We have attended several presentations and discussion meetings that they have staged for the benefit of stakeholders in what they call “Southern Aylesbury”. We have not been particularly impressed with their output – they seem to be struggling to put forward sound coherent masterplan proposals.

As part of the review of all the land in the Parish, we set about producing a “facts plan map”. Our administrative assistant researched all the plots of land in the Parish with the Land Registry and so we have been able to produce a “live” document detailing all the land ownership in the Parish which will be updated as we move forward.

In August 2019 we allocated production of the various evidence papers to members of the steering group. These documents, which would naturally lead to the final policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, are initially being scrutinised by the Vice-chairman prior to being passed to the Stoke Mandeville Parish Council to review, and then finally sent to the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Department.

In terms of the Steering Group’s interaction with Developers this year, the focus seems to have been very much with Land Improvements Ltd. who own a large plot of land between Lower Road and the railway. We had heard nothing about the land between the railway and Wendover Road. Our ongoing investigations into land ownership revealed that the plot on the northern edge showed Cala Homes as having options on the development of this land. We had a meeting with Cala Homes which then revealed that the remaining land to the south as far as the Village had overarching development options with Vanderbilt Strategic.

In a further recent development, we have been approached by a consortium of Developers which includes all the companies having an interest in building homes on AGT1 and AGT2. This consortium presented us with wide-ranging proposals for the land development in our Parish, some of which are contentious, but we have refrained from commenting until their proposals are more substantive.

In addition, we have continued discussions with Hambledon Land who are promoting an Extra Care facility on Risborough Road. As this proposal is outside of the current VALP development area, it needs to be closely associated with the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan.

One final development this year as far as land in the Parish is concerned, is that the proposed housing development on land south of Station Road & west of Wendover Road was rejected on appeal in the High Court. To maintain the status of this land we will need to designate this land as farmland in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Green spaces in the Parish have received a lot of attention because we are close to designating such spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan. All green spaces in the Parish have been identified and letters were sent to all the relevant landowners notifying them of the possibility of the land being designated as green spaces. We received some responses that had the potential to involve solicitors, so we are keeping this subject under review before making final decisions as to the inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Extensive modifications to the VALP were released by AVDC in November 2019 and these were discussed by the Steering Group. As many of the proposed modifications could affect the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, our Vice-Chairman put in an extraordinary amount of time to write up the comments that we wished to make, and this document was delivered to AVDC before the final submission date.

At the time of writing (April 2020) the UK is under complete lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This has of course suddenly curtailed a lot of the actions of the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in terms of meetings, but the writing aspects continue apace.

However, the one development that has a profound effect on the Neighbourhood Plan is that the Government has decreed that all future public referendums on Neighbourhood Plans can now not take place until May 2021. Whilst initially this news would seem to have a very dramatic effect on our plans, we are

assured by our consultant that this date of May 2021 will likely be changed to an earlier date once the lockdown restrictions are lifted. In addition, on a positive note, the Government have decreed that emerging Neighbourhood Plans will be given considerable weight in the determination of planning applications.

Laurence Prestage, Chairman.

17th April 2020

Membership of external bodies

The Parish Council enjoys membership of a number of external bodies to which nominated Councillors attend as elected representatives in order to represent the views of their communities as follows:

Local Area Forums [LAFs] 2019/2020

No parish is an island and to combat this and encourage joint working Bucks County Council established nineteen Local Authority Forums as a way for people to engage with those providing services and enabling them to have their say on how services should be delivered and also raise any concerns they may have with the providers. Each Forum is delegated a local priorities budget by the County Council and decides on their local priorities as to how this is spent. Task Groups have been established to look at specific issues such as car parking, speeding on local roads and youth services as well as strategic planning Stoke Mandeville Parish Council covers two Forum areas. The Forums met for the last time in March 2020.

As a result of the establishment of a single Authority for Buckinghamshire, the LAFs are to be replaced by sixteen Community Boards led by Councillors from the new Buckinghamshire Council. Parish and Town Councils and businesses will be invited to attend. Due to the "lock down" of Covid19 the new Boards have yet to meet. However, the boundaries of these new groupings which were subject to considerable consultation, have been changed from those of the previous LAFs and Stoke Mandeville Parish is now within the Wendover Community Board with Aston Clinton, Buckland, Bierton, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Halton and Wendover and therefore no longer links with Aylesbury town .

- **Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils [BMKALC]**

BMKALC is the County member organisation providing support, information and training for member Parish and Town Councils. It links into the National Association for Local Councils [NALC] which acts on behalf of parish and town councils with Government. Membership to these organisations is not obligatory. BMKALC is led by an Executive Committee comprising thirty- four Councillors elected by their peers. A quarterly Parishes Liaison Forum is organised by BMKALC when two Councillors from member Councils are invited to attend. These meetings are well subscribed by both Parishes and Officers of the county authority and there is an opportunity for Parish and Town Councils to raise issues for discussion through the agenda. In future business of the four previous District Councils will be included.

- **Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity**

Barbara Ezra is nominated by the Parish Council to serve on the Board of the Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity and is also the elected Chairman. The Board of Trustees are nominated by the Parish Councils of Stoke Mandeville, Prestwood and Great Hampden, which are partners within the Charity.

- **ARLA Liaison Group**

Pat Wood is the Parish Council's representative on the liaison group, which serves to benefit local communities.

Council Finances

Unaudited summary of the Council’s financial performance

Opening balance as at 01/04/2019 -	£165,266
Total Income	£233,839
Total Expenditure	£258,567
Closing Balance as at 31/03/2020 -	£140,538

Total receipts for the year were £233,839 which included:

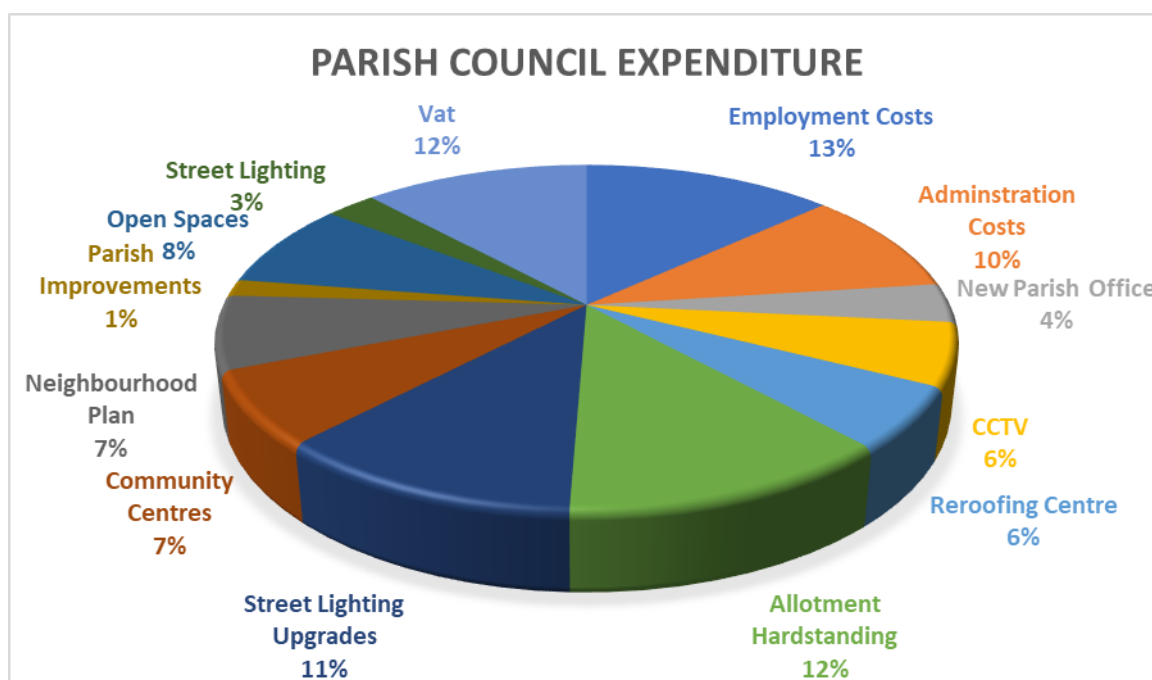
- Precept - £146,500
- Charity grant - £15,500
- Allotment Rents - £1,065
- Section 106 funds - £55,730
- Reclaimed VAT - £13,477

Total Expenditure for the year was £258,567, the highest expenditure items were:

- Employment of clerk and assistant clerk - £36,249
- Development of the Neighbourhood Plan - £17,960
- Conversion of the remaining streetlights to LEDs - £28,800
- Installation of CCTV on the outside of the Eskdale Road community centre - £14,700
- Provision of a hard-standing parking area for the allotments - £30,950
- Partial reroofing of the Eskdale Road community centre - £14,450
- Grounds maintenance around the parish and mowing of the playing field - £12,299
- Grants towards the running costs of the two community centres - £11,302

How Stoke Mandeville Parish Council spent your Council Tax

The work of Parish Councils is funded by the precept which is collected by district councils through the Council Tax levy. For 2019-20 Stoke Mandeville Parish Council’s precept represented a charge to an average Band D household of £62.05 per annum.



2020-21 Precept

For the next financial year starting on 1 April 2020, the precept of the Parish Council will increase by just 0.6p 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:

- completion of a Neighbourhood Plan to manage the future growth and development of our Parish
- reroofing the remainder of the Community Centre roof
- continued delivery of services devolved from Bucks CC with reducing subsidy
- development of a future burial ground for the Parish
- extension of the community centre car park
- provision of a pathway around the playing field

Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity Grant

The Charity continued to support individuals, clubs and organisations in the Parishes of Stoke Mandeville, Great Missenden and The Hampdens throughout 2019. However, towards the end of the year the uncertainty over "Brexit" had an impact on the financial markets. We were advised to rein in our spending during 2020. Since then the "Coronavirus pandemic" has had an even greater detrimental effect on the global economy. Consequently, the Charity will be limiting our regular grants for the foreseeable future.

Barbara Ezra
Chairperson
23rd April 2020

Looking Ahead

The following table is an extract from the Council's Development Plan and demonstrates the work the Council will be focusing on in 2020-21.

QE Playing Field	Create a pathway/track around the playing field to allow for disabled access, leisure and general exercise.
Burial Ground	Develop the site in Marsh Lane, now that the archaeological trenching has been completed, in conjunction with other agencies. e.g. Thames Valley Water Authority, AVDC Planning Authority and Environment Agency.
Resilience Planning	Produce a resilience plan for Stoke Mandeville.
Neighbourhood Plan	The completion and publication of the Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Mandeville Parish.
Website	Develop a new informative, user friendly website.

Meetings of Stoke Mandeville Parish Council 2020

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2020 are as follows:

As a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, a decision was made to cancel all parish council meetings for April, May and June. If it proves possible to reinstate any of these meetings, we will publicise them.

Month	Date	Time	Meeting
April	21 st	7.00 pm	Annual Parish Meeting – Cancelled - Covid-19
	21 st	8.00 pm	Parish Council – Cancelled - Covid-19
	23 rd	7.30 pm	Planning Committee - Cancelled - Covid-19
May	19 th	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting – Remotely
	26 th	7.30 pm	Communities Committee – To be confirmed
	28 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee - To be confirmed
June	9 th	7.30 pm	Finance and Governance Committee - TBC
	16 th	7.30 pm	Parish Council - To be confirmed
	25 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee – To be confirmed
July	14 th	7.30 pm	Communities Committee
	21 st	7.30 pm	Parish Council
	23 rd	7.30 pm	Planning Committee
August	27 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee (provisional)
September	8 th	7.30 pm	Communities Committee (Budget)
	15 th	7.30 pm	Parish Council
	24 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee
October	13 th	7.30 pm	Finance and Governance Committee (Budget)
	20 th	7.30 pm	Parish Council
	22 nd	7.30 pm	Planning Committee
November	10 th	7.30 pm	Communities Committee
	17 th	7.30 pm	Parish Council
	26 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee
December	8 th	7.30 pm	Finance and Governance Committee (Precept)
	15 th	7.30 pm	Parish Council
	17 th	7.30 pm	Planning Committee (provisional)

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury HP22 5UJ

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Assistant.clerk@stokemandeville-pc.gov.uk