

# The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 12. Number 2

## PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

Source: Parish Council

The Parish Council has formally agreed a budget of £12,670 for the next financial year. This represents a small reduction in net expenditure of about 1% compared to 2012/13 (£12805) but allows for a balanced budget with no reliance on reserve funds.

However, because of changes to the way in which council tax benefit will be administered in the future, this lower level of budget nevertheless translates into a 2% increase in the parish council element of the council tax bill (equivalent to 80 pence per annum for a Band D property). And although Swindon Borough Council have received government grant to mitigate some of the effects of the changed benefit arrangements, a decision has been taken not to pass on any of this to the parishes.

A simple breakdown of expenditure for the coming year is as follows:

	£
Clerk's salary and admin costs	6135
Churchyard and pond maintenance	2935
Lengthman	2600
Village Hall Grants & Newsletter	1000

The Parish Council also holds a contingency reserve against potential future one-off liabilities in order to minimise any significant year on year fluctuations in council tax that might otherwise occur.

### Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly (AGM) is to take place on Monday 4 March 2013 at Hinton Parva Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm. The Parish Council welcomes attendance and feedback from parishioners at all its meetings.



#### PC RORY DRAPER

We have heard from PC Rory Draper that he is currently away from work after an operation, and should be back shortly. In the meanwhile, PCSO Kerry Vicat is monitoring all ongoing issues. Should anybody need anything from the local Policing Team, please contact 101 via telephone or email the general Team email on: [swindonsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:swindonsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

#### National Trust Working Party

February's event saw most of the scrub cleared from the South West end of the Coombe (by the motocross track). The fire roared whilst we tucked into tea and a delightful lemon drizzle cake as featured in the latest edition of the National Trust magazine. If you would like to come along and experience 2 hours of fun with a pair of loppers, then there is just one chance left, Saturday 2nd March is the final event for this season. After this the birds start nesting and the orchids start growing. 10am behind the village hall, free parking, free cake, and free loppers!

#### Waste Not Want Not

Waste Not Want Not (WNWN) is a furniture recycling project where the primary aim is to help those 'in need' to furnish their homes with good quality second-hand furniture, at low cost.

Sadly, due to some Charity Shops now selling second-hand furniture, WNWN is suffering from a lack of donated goods. This not only affects the disadvantaged (those on benefits or low income – and Senior Citizens, who are also able to avail themselves of this service), but it also means that the future of WNWN is questionable?

In order that the superb charitable work of Waste Not Want Not can carry on, it is important that more donations of furniture and household goods are received. So many people/families have been thankful for the Charity's help in furnishing their homes over the past decade, in fact Waste Not Want Not has an excellent showroom displaying quality furniture and household goods (for every room) at: 303, Hungerdown Lane, Chippenham.

So **please**, when disposing of your furniture think of WNWN, your contribution will be so greatly appreciated.

If you wish to donate goods, please call:  
01249 447140

Source: Community First

# Join in Swindon's Big Conversation

**Councils** across the country, including Swindon, are facing considerable challenges. For example, did you know more children are being taken into care, the number of people living in residential care homes is set to rise dramatically, and funding has also fallen?

We are inviting everyone to find out more about these pressures, so people can have a better understanding of the soaring demands on our services and the fewer resources we have to deliver them.

Called "The Big Conversation", Swindon Borough Council wants the information to reach as many people as possible, raising awareness and stimulating debate. You may have already seen an illustrated presentation on display at libraries, leisure centres and community centres which shows the facts and figures in a way that is easy to understand. The infographic is available online and so far more than 1,000 people have viewed it. We're also sharing real stories to bring the issues to life and spark discussion.

The impact of an ageing population, increasing demand across the board and reduced funding means things will have to be done differently. Improving awareness of what the Council does, how much it costs and the bigger picture will help people to understand why this is happening. There will be difficult decisions, as well as new opportunities to get involved.

We also need to get better at listening and understanding what really matters to people in the places they live. Better communication will help us to develop stronger relationships with people, so we can work together and support each other more effectively now and in future. Ultimately the ambition is for conversations to lead to positive choices and action in our communities.

To view the infographic and find out more see:

**[www.swindon.gov.uk/bigconversation](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/bigconversation)**

Getting feedback is vital, so please share your views by talking to your Ward Councillors or emailing [Bigconversation@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:Bigconversation@swindon.gov.uk) .

You can also tweet about it, using the hashtag [#Bigconversation](https://twitter.com/Bigconversation), and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/swindonbigconversation](http://www.facebook.com/swindonbigconversation)

*Source: SBC*

# SMALL PRINT

## Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character

and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

## Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on

the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

## Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is

clearly signed on the wall of the hall. Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated. The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

## Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history. Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law\*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area. Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

\*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

*Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.*

## Outside Lights

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said:

*'Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people.'*

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary.

Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage.

So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

# USEFUL INFORMATION

**Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111  
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

**Domestic Violence** 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

**FRANK:** 0800 77 66 00  
(drug related)

**Anti Social Behaviour:** 01793 445500

**Noise Nuisance:** 01793 445500

**NHS Direct:** 0845 4647

**Swindon Community Safety Partnership:** 01793 466506

**Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust** 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

### Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

**0800 456 1213**

(Packs are subject to availability).

### Police search website.

<http://www.police.uk/>

## Meetings for the year

### 2012/13 Meeting Dates

4 March 2013 HP  
1 April 2013 B  
13 May 2013 HP (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bank Holiday).

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)  
2 Downs Close  
Eastbury  
Hungerford  
RG17 7JW

Phone: 01488 71828  
Fax: None

Email: lesley@tynash.com  
website: <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org>

**Mr Julian Cooke**

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

**Mr Nigel Crisp**

Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790035.

**Mr Andrew Greenhalgh**

Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PX. 791469.

**Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)**

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

**Dr Stuart McGuigan**

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

**Mr Doug Stevens**

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

**Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)**

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

**Mr Ian Thomas**

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

**Mr Ian Thompson**

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

**Useful Information**

**101 new non Emergency Police Number**

**Police Headquarters**  
0845 408 7000  
24hrs, 7 days a week

**SBC Reception Premier House**

01793 465055/465056

**Civic Offices**

01793 463668

**Wat Tyler House**

01793 463725

**Borough Councillor**

**Andrew Bennett** 01793 790563

**Fly Tipping and other similar problems**

**Swindon Commercial Services**  
01793 463463

**Keeping Swindon Safe**

SBC 01793 445500  
Police 0845 408 7000

**Refurbiz - the Domestic Appliance Re-cycling Charity.**

Refurbished appliances at affordable prices with warranty

Replacing your washing machine, dryer, fridge or electric cooker? Please donate your old machines to us so we can refurbish them for families in need. Wiltshire-wide collection and delivery service. Call us on (01380) 720200. Or visit our showroom at Hopton Park, Devizes [www.refurbiz.org](http://www.refurbiz.org). Registered Charity Number 1107150.

Committee	Representative (Hinton Parva)	Representative (Bishopstone)
Finance (sub committee)	Ian Thompson (Chair) Julian Cooke	Karolyn Tapper Simon Jenkins
Footpaths & Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas
Pond & Island Management Committee		Doug Stevens Andrew Greenhalgh
Hinton Village Hall	Ian Thompson	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Karolyn Tapper
Police & Media	Nigel Crisp (Media)	Simon Jenkins (Police)
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper Lesley Drewett Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Tree Warden	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison	Andrew Greenhalgh	
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett

**Planning Update**

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting: [www.swindon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/planning).

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councilors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall.

Members of the public are always welcome.

**Foxhill Motocross 2013 Calendar**

No dates available at time of printing.

**Planning:**

**APPLICATIONS**

**PLANNING**

**S/12/1494/HECO** - Erection of 1 no dwelling - Land off Short Drove, Hinton Parva - Miss Helen Cooper - 466297 Before 15/2/13

**S/13/0064SASM** - Erection of extension to garage - Batts Farm House, Church Row, Hinton Parva - Sarah Smith 01793 466292 Before 4/3/13

**GRANTED**

**S/12/1782/SASM** – Erection of a single storey rear extension – The Coombs, Little Hinton Parva

**REFUSED**

None.

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website.