

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 11. Number 1

Parish Council BUDGET

The Parish Council has formally agreed a budget of £12,805 for the next financial year. This represents a further year on year reduction of 5% and this will in turn be reflected in the composite council tax bills to be sent out by Swindon Borough Council during March. (For 2011/12, the reduction in budget was 5% whilst the reduction for 2010/11 was 10%).

The effect of this further reduction will be to bring income and expenditure broadly into balance, although there may be some requirement for a contribution from general reserve funds to meet unexpected items (see below).

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

Clerk's salary and admin costs	£6,885
Churchyard and pond maintenance	£2,820
Lengthman	£2,550
Village Hall grants	£550

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

MPV FOR HIRE

Local communities' charity **Community First** is helping wheelchair users in Wiltshire to get out and about through the hire of a wheelchair accessible multi purpose vehicle (M.P.V.).

Based at Community First's offices in Devizes, the M.P.V. can be driven using an ordinary car licence and it can carry up to four passengers plus one wheelchair which can be wheeled straight into the vehicle.

The vehicle is ideal for families who want to take a loved one out for the day but who could not do so ordinarily because the family car cannot accommodate a wheelchair user.

The vehicle is also available on a self-drive hire basis to not-for-profit community organisations with or without wheelchair accessible transport needs (such as sports clubs, church groups, schools and groups for older people). The vehicle costs 15p per mile plus £4.70 per hour* to hire (*hourly charge only applicable when passengers are being carried). A charge for fuel used is also applicable.

For more information, please contact Sheila Martin at Community First on (01380) 732817 or e-mail transport@communityfirst.org.uk



Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 18th May 2012 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

PARISH PLAN

The Parish Council has been considering whether to seek to put a Parish Plan in place; we received a presentation in October from Community First in Devizes; they act as coordinators and facilitators of Parish Plans for all parish councils in Wiltshire.

What is a Parish Plan?

Think of it as a Parish Strategy or Business Plan; it shows:

- Information about the parish
- How and why the plan was drawn up
- Local problems and opportunities
- How the parish wishes to develop over the next 5 to 10 years

What issues are covered by a Parish Plan?

All those of concern to people in the parish; it could include items such as:

- built environment
- people
- community information
- sport/recreation
- crime
- landscape
- education
- public transport
- employment
- tourism
- health / care
- community buildings
- heritage
- wildlife habitats
- housing
- young / old
- retail services
- traffic
- recycling
- climate change issues

What could a parish plan do for our parish?

- Help influence and develop the future of the community
- Provide evidence for funding bids
- Demonstrate what we might want or need over the next 5 – 10 years, and what we do NOT want or need

- Manage change
- Provide the evidence to back this up
- Influence housing and development issues
- Determine budget and spending priorities
- Improve community spirit and communications

Who should be involved?

It is prepared by the community and Parish Council - working together

- It is led by a *Steering Group* of parishioners, plus 1 or 2 from the Parish Council; it is likely to need around 10 members
- It can include representatives of specific groups, e.g. young people, the elderly
- Everyone who lives in the parish should have an opportunity to give their views
- It involves outside agencies providing services in the parish – local authority etc

Who else is producing a parish plan?

Locally, both Wanborough and Liddington have the drafting of a parish plan under way; you may have seen signs in Wanborough. Many other parishes in Wiltshire have completed a parish plan.

Some completed examples can be viewed at

<http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/index.php/community-development/case-studies>

The Parish Council has decided that it is worth taking this project forward to the point of testing whether parishioners are sufficiently interested to support the project, including whether there are enough to form a Steering Group to lead the project. This will therefore be on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in February 2012, as follows:

- 7.30 pm Monday 13 February 2012, at Bishopstone Village Hall

If you are interested to find out more about Parish Plans and may wish to become involved, please come to the February meeting.

If you would like to get involved but are not able to attend, please contact one of the members of the Parish Council and let them have your views.

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/>

Parish Website:

parish.bishopstone.net (no www in front)

Meetings for the year

13th February 2012 Bishopstone Village Hall
12th March 2012 Bishopstone Village Hall
(Parish Assembly) **7:00 pm start**
9th April 2012 Hinton Parva Village Hall
14th May 2012 Bishopstone Village Hall (AGM)

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://parish.bishopstone.net

Mr Julian Cooke

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

Mr Simon Jenkins

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

Mr Stuart McGuigan

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

Mrs Sarah Paye

Senama, Russley Park, Baydon, SN8 2JY. 01672 541600.

Mr Rob Selbourne

Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PT. 790485.

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

Foxhill Motocross 2012 Calendar

The Parish Council have received no notification of any events this year. We will post dates here as soon as we hear anything.

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
Registered Charity Number 1107150

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting:
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 councillors 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.

Planning:

APPLICATIONS

NONE.

Conservation Area – Section 211 Notices:

NONE

GRANTED

S/11/1507/SASM - Erection of a single storey side extension & conservatory to rear - The White House, High Street, Bishopstone

REFUSED

NONE

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

INFORMATION	INTEGRITY	PERSPECTIVE	ISSUES	INFORMATION
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