

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to the SPRING newsletter. A chance to let you know what we've been up to and what is coming up in the year ahead.

As I write this the Spring bulbs are through and giving us much awaited colour despite the snow. The village Planter in front of the Five Bells is also showing spring colour and I'm happy to say that Stanbridge and Tilsworth Garden Club have agreed to maintain this throughout the year, so many thanks to all those that volunteered to help.

November sadly saw the resignation of Cllr Martin Throsby. Martin had been on the Parish council for many years and had also previously been the Chairman. I would like to offer, on behalf of everyone, many thanks for all his work and time he gave during his years as a Councillor.

December saw the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. This year we had carols by candle light around the tree, led beautifully by the Dagnall Choir. The pub then supplied some nibbles and mulled wine, which was very welcome as it was a bitterly cold evening, despite this many of you still turned out to join in with the singing.

In January and February our main areas of concentration were to set the budget for the year ahead, meet with highways to discuss speed calming measures for Mill Road and submit suitable comments and objections for Central Bedfordshire's Local Plan. We also supported many in how to have their say. Some of this was done in conjunction with the Focus Group for which we thank them for their support. When we looked at the budget for the year ahead we decided we needed to **increase the precept**, that's the amount of your council tax that gets paid directly to the parish council for use in Stanbridge only. The reasoning behind this is because we would like to build a reserve of cash for

future projects, such as protecting the village green, further speed calming and a memorial board to commemorate the end of the First World War, 100 years ago this November. We also carried out a comparison to see what other parishes in the area were paying and we were paying less. **The Increase works out to £1.00 a month for a Band D household.** However, this will show on your bill as approx 21%. Please do not be put off by that. Band D was £57, add 21% and it equates to £69. Once we have some reserves we hope to do more in the village, so if you have an idea or think something needs attention then let us know so we can plan for it in the future.

In March we welcomed Brian Houston to the Parish Council. Brian has lived in the village for many years and will be a very welcome addition to the team.

March 24th saw another Litter Pick. This was postponed from the 3rd March due to the snow, it's hard to see the litter under the white stuff. We appreciate all those that gave up their time for this very worthwhile cause, for the wonderful catering and use of the church. If you would like to be included on the circulation list for other working parties then please let me know at elaine.sutton@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

In the past we have cleared grass from the pavement along the front of the green and cut back overgrown bushes and weeds. We would like to attempt other areas later in the year but need your help.

The Police have continued with rural operations in this area and the Operation Sentinel team have had much success to date as the figures below show (Total to date January 2018)

VEHICLE SEIZURES	97
TRAFFIC OFFENCE REPORTS	213
INTELLIGENCE SUBMISSIONS	235
STOP SEARCH	13
ARRESTS	16
NO WASTE CARRIERS LICENCE	7
STREET CAUTION FOR CANNABIS	7
VERBAL WARNINGS	51
SPEEDING OFFENCES	49
SPEED CHECKS CARRIED OUT	In excess of 5000

We urge residents to make contact with the Police (details below) if they see anything suspicious or are concerned. Police statistics are crucial for trying to secure more funding.

Emergencies on 999, Non-emergency on 101 and anonymously on Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

OpSentinel@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Finally, I would like to pass on my thanks to the volunteers that help get this letter distributed so quickly and to our local printers A1 Copying for printing and collating the newsletter.

Elaine Sutton
Chairwoman

KEEPING HEDGES CUT AND DITCHES CLEAR

Our thanks to all those that cut back hedges and clear the ditches, what a difference it makes. We would ask everyone to ensure that any hedges or trees that overhang the pavement are cut back so as not to cause obstruction, especially for the elderly, disabled or those with visual impairments. To reduce the risk of flooding in the village may we remind you about keeping the ditches cleared of rubbish and debris. **DID you know you could be liable to prosecution if an accident was directly caused by a ditch that overflowed?** Blocked storm drains near your property that overflow in wet weather can be reported on the CBC website.

SAFEGUARDING OUR VILLAGE GREEN

We have now received some quotes for putting up wooden posts around the green to protect it from unwanted vehicles and damage they may cause. These would be placed to leave the open nature of the green intact, which so many of you said you wanted to keep. We would also install some drop-down bollards either side of the tarmac lane. This would allow access by permission only, for use when the weather was suitable, such as when the village fete takes place.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

This winter, you may have noticed fewer Speedwatch sessions than usual, primarily because sessions can only take place in daylight, thereby restricting operating hours. Furthermore, cold and inclement weather limits the ability to hold safe yet effective watches. The good news is that in the seven sessions held in January, the numbers of drivers found exceeding the 30 mph speed limit by at least 5 mph has declined from 21% at the end of 2017 to 16% in March 2018. Still high but a positive outcome.

Other good news is we now cover Tilsworth and two other new sites and have 3 new volunteers - more always welcome. No training is necessary though this can be acquired through Bedfordshire police. We will continue to identify new locations to monitor traffic and reinforce the message that speeding is NOT welcome.

TRAFFIC CALMING ON MILL ROAD

Mill road is now under review for some traffic calming measures and money has been put aside in the Highways budget for 2018/2019. **Highways will put forward their proposed plans at a PUBLIC MEETING ON THURSDAY 26TH APRIL at the COMMUNITY HALL, Stanbridge Road, LU7 9PN at 7.30 PM.** To date they are suggesting a range of

measures including cycle lanes, parking bays, speed humps, narrowing of the entrance to slow cars down as they round the bend from Tilsworth Road and repainting the lines in the centre of Tilsworth Road at the bottom of Mill Road.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Please be advised that Central Bedfordshire Council are cracking down on this and will issue fines to those that park on pavements. This is due to the damage being caused which is having a severe and detrimental impact. Pavements are not built to take the weight of vehicles. Please do not create a danger by making people walk in the road, give consideration to others who may be walking with push chairs, mobility scooters or with very small children.

FOCUS GROUP

The Villages Focus Group continues to work on fair planning for all on behalf of our local community with the support of this Parish Council. They now have a very strong alliance with the Bedfordshire Police, who in turn continue to use their rural police resources, in our area, to great effect. In the last 18 months they have made very positive headway with Operation Sentinel (see Page 2).

DOG WASTE

We have had numerous complaints that this is still an issue in the village and I cannot stress firmly enough...**PLEASE PICK IT, BAG IT AND BIN IT. DO NOT LEAVE IT TO COLLECT LATER!!** Dog waste is **harmful, particularly to children, that alone should concern every one of us.** It is also harmful to livestock, especially sheep. We cannot stress enough the importance of picking up after your dog and placing it in the bins provided. However, do not dispose of dog waste from home in these bins as they are not emptied often enough. Place waste from your dog at home in

your own general household waste bin and NOT the garden recycle bin - see www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/waste/litter/dog-bins.aspx.

CHANGES TO BIN COLLECTIONS

Central Bedfordshire Council are looking at a number of options to change the way it offers waste and recycling services. Options include changes to future arrangements for recycling, food waste, domestic waste (black bins) and garden waste.

More information is available at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/bin-changes

or you can pick up a paper copy from your local library or Household Waste Recycling Centre (tidy tip).

POOR MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

South West Bedfordshire MP Andrew Selous is asking constituents to contact him directly to let him know if they have no or poor mobile phone signal coverage where they live or work in South West Bedfordshire.

Andrew says "I'm aware of certain parts of my constituency which have no mobile phone coverage and I am talking to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Ofcom and the mobile phone companies to try to get these 'not-spots' covered by a mobile phone signal as soon as possible.

If you suffer from poor mobile phone coverage, please email details to MP Andrew Selous direct on andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk.

BATTLES OVER 11th NOVEMBER 2018

This event is to commemorate the end of World War One and will be held at the Community Hall. It will include lighting of a Beacon, the Last Post, Church Bells ringing out, entertainment and refreshments. Can you help with any memorabilia from that era, such as photos of the village back in 1914 – 1918 or items

you'd be happy to have on display to bring this period back to life? We hope this will be an evening of Commemoration and also Celebration. Stanbridge was lucky not to lose anyone who departed from the Village during that time and for that we are thankful. We would very much like to install a form of commemoration in the village to mark the fact we are a 'Thankful Village' with pictures and words so if you can help with information or pictures please contact the Parish Council on contact@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk.

POTENTIAL PHISHING SITE

If anyone has recently received a letter regarding Nextdoor.co.uk please be aware that reviews for this site state it to be untrustworthy and a phishing site. We also do not know if this has actually come from the stated sender, therefore we have sent a copy to the police for investigation. As with any social media site, always be aware of what you post and who has access to that information. Remember anyone could be reading your posts and innocent remarks may be building information that you would rather people didn't know.

STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL

Cllr Micky Waters and Head Teacher Rosemary Godwin met again recently and had a very successful meeting. In January the current Villager of the Year, Paul Weir, was invited to visit the school to talk to the children, who asked questions about some of the many ways in which he has supported the village for the last few

years. Paul was then invited back in February as the children were really keen to find out more about his basket making skills. The school is still looking for volunteers to help out within the school and grounds, for example: listening to children read and helping in the Community garden. If you would like to know more, please contact the school directly on 01525 210328. The school are holding their 'Art in the Community' event on the 21st May. Inspired by pieces of art work, the school would really like to take small groups of children round to local gardens (easy walking distance from the school) to sketch flowers etc in situ. The children would be accompanied and would be in groups of no more than 12 and would take about an hour. Rosemary said it would be great if several villagers offered, so as many children as possible could have this lovely opportunity. Please contact Rosemary on the number above.

POTHoles

Following recent freezing weather, there has been an increase in potholes. Please report these direct to Central Bedfordshire Council Highways department so they can take action.

Tel 0300 300 8302,
email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or report online via <http://www.cb-report-it.co.uk>

The above links also deal with any complaints regarding general highways issues such as overgrown hedges, damaged footpaths, street lighting and tree issues.

Community Hall Bookings The community hall is the perfect venue for parties, weddings, club celebrations or meetings. Residents of Stanbridge receive a discount on hall bookings. For information or to make a booking please contact Paul & Di Weir on 07988 827601.

Meeting Point Magazine. A very useful magazine, especially if you are new to the village. It has local news, trades people and information about events and who to contact, plus recipes and quizzes. Annual Subscription is £5.00 for 10 issues. Published 1st day of month except January and August. For your copy please contact Bobby Francis Magazine co-ordinator bobbyafrancis@hotmail.com or 01525 222351.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month, Community Hall meeting room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always welcome and are provided a chance at the start of each meeting to raise any issues they may wish the council to consider. Copies of the agenda can be found on our website, the parish notice board (between the church and old post office) or obtained from the Clerk. If you wish to receive a copy of the agenda electronically prior to each meeting, please contact the Clerk to be added to the mailing list. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17th April** at the Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall and we hope to welcome an even bigger number of residents (if only for the free drinks and nibbles)!

Other Useful Contacts:

Ward Councillor Mark Versallion - Cllr. Mark Versallion is our elected Central Bedfordshire Councillor. Besides speaking on our behalf at planning committee and other meetings, he continues to work on issues brought to him at his regular ward surgeries or when contacted through his office. Mark can be contacted on 01525 234000 or at mark.versallion@centralbeds.gov.uk.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC): www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk you can report through the online system problems such as potholes, street lights not working, grass verge cutting, drainage and flooding, planning issues and much more.

CBC Customer Services: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel 0300 300 8301 to report full rubbish bins around the village, fly tipping, information about Tidy Tips and other general enquiries.

Police: www.bedfordshirepolice.uk - you can sign up for BEDS ALERT to get messages directly from the police although we keep the most topical and relevant alerts on our website. Also sign up to Street Watch, Speed Watch and Neighbourhood watch.

Police Contact details: No offenders present: call 101 (Note: a new appointment system is being deployed)

Offenders are present: call 999

For Intelligence and evidence email OpSentinelCentral@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

These add to rural statistics that will help our community compete for police budget and ongoing active police support.

Motorbikes have Special Operations called 'Operations Meteor': Call 101 or email opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk with pictures and/or footage. Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Beds Police Rural and Farming Liaison Officer: Can be reached on rural.liaison@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Stanbridge Parish Events Diary

Tuesday 17th April - Annual Parish Meeting

At the Community Hall from 19:30. All are welcome.

Thursday 26th April – Public meeting regarding traffic calming in Mill Road

At the Community Hall. 19:30 start, all welcome.

Saturday 12th May - Plant Sale at the Church

Look out for details at the Church.

Saturday 19th May – ABF Soldier Charity Quiz Night

At the Community Hall. 19:00 start. In aid of the ABF Soldier Charity. Contact Jacqui on 07941 107699 or 211498.

Monday 21st May - Stanbridge Lower School Art in the Community Event

See Page 4, Stanbridge Lower School

Saturday 14th July - St John's Church Summer Fete

On the Village Green at 12:00.

Sunday 11th November - “Battle's over” 100 years since the end of WWI

At the Community Hall, starting at 18:30. Look out for details later in the year on the parish council website and notice boards.

COUNCIL MEMBERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Telephone	Email
Maxine Whiting (Clerk)	01525 888017	maxine.whiting@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Elaine Sutton (Chair)	01525 210792	elaine.sutton@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Richard Deville (Vice)	01525 210105	richard.deville@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Gill Chamberlain	01525 210468	gill.chamberlain@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Pete Lidford	01525 211797	pete.lidford@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Micky Waters	01525 211666	micky.waters@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Martin Walker	01525 210238	martin.walker@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Brian Houston	01525 210122	bh@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

General emails to ALL PC Councillors: contact@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk