



Draft 2014-15 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial Position

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£95,342	£241,686	£112,730	18%	-53%
Expenditure	£87,964	£317,728	£117,521	34%	-63%

At the close of the year the council holds £162,757. £88,208 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £74,548 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts. During the year, the council took advantage of legislative changes and moved to electronic banking with Unity Trust Bank.



Pitstone Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

In the absence of an adopted Local Plan at District Level many parishes have found themselves subject to speculative planning such as the Gladman application for 70 homes in Ivinghoe (5 of which fall within Pitstone). In August, the parish decided to take control of development within Pitstone for the next 15 year and produce an NDP which will have equal planning weight to the eventual AVDC policy.

So far our 'Neighbourhood' has been defined as everything within our parish boundary; a team of volunteers have stepped forward to help investigate options, engage with the community and meet with landowners; rCOH (planning consultants) have been employed to support our volunteers and write our NDP (£13,550 (staged payments)); statutory bodies have been consulted; the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment has been commissioned from rCOH (£2,750); a grant of £6,500 was successfully obtained from Locality to help fund the activity; the community has received updates, leaflet drops, 2 x community engagement days have taken place, and website and Facebook page has been set up. Net cost in this financial year was £4,741. Key issues for residents at the moment include a need for Bucks County Council & the local education establishments to address the current pre-school and primary school capacity issues, and a desire to see the Pitstone Development Area village centre and leisure facilities implemented. The Parish Council strongly supports both these outcomes. You will shortly receive a copy of the draft plan for you to consider and comment upon. All comments will be taken into consideration before producing a final plan, which will be subject to local referendum.

It is vital that you get involved and have your say about the future of the village.

Large Planning Applications

Over the 12 months a number of large planning applications for Pitstone & Ivinghoe have been received by AVDC:

- Outline planning has been granted for up to 40 residential dwellings in Rushendon Furlong
- An appeal will be heard by the Planning Inspectorate in the summer relating to the Gladman application for 70 houses at Ford End Farm in Ivinghoe, 5 of which sit on land behind Rushendon Furlong
- AVDC are yet to determine an application for 40 houses on The Park in Ivinghoe
- AVDC are yet to determine an application for outline planning for up to 68 houses off Vicarage Road
- In March the Parish Council was notified that Bucks County Council (BCC) had employed Carter Jonas to investigate options for both the BCC open space and AVDC owned allotments opposite The Crescent, with residential development as one of the options. The Parish Council is strongly opposed to loss of open space and will be continuing to negotiate with these bodies.

Please make sure you take part in the NDP consultations to ensure that future residential development in Pitstone is of an appropriate scale and in appropriate places.



New Village Centre delays Play Space and Skate Park

The 2005 Pitstone Development Area Comprehensive Plan set out the proposed development of the L shaped land around the recreation ground including houses, paths, small scale commercial such as a pub, private nursery and multi-use games area for ball sports.

This development has experienced further legal complications during the course of the year and is yet to come to fruition. Unfortunately the owner of the old allotments (shown as D & G) also owns the third of the 'recreation ground' with the play equipment and football pitch on, and the Charity Commission has advised that they are unable to sell the land to the Parish Council or permit the redevelopment of the play space and skate park until after the main Development Area site has been sold. This has been extremely frustrating. The parish council has planning permission for the play space, which is on just 8 weeks lead-time to install and AVDC are ready to procure the concrete skate park, as soon as we can re-secure permission to proceed.

Improved Health Services

The council supported the Community First Responder service with a dedicated kit, and liaised between the Village Health Centre in Yardley Avenue and the local sports clubs who jointly funded an external defibrillator mounted outside the surgery for use in an emergency. We've also organised training events so that everyone feels comfortable using the defibrillator. In addition, Windmill Pharmacy opened in Ivinghoe.



Other Sport and Leisure Improvements

- Options for redeveloping and expanding the pavilion site are being investigated which may include provision for senior football, junior football, tennis, basketball and 5-a-side football. Please get involved in the NDP process to let us know what sports you want to see in the village. The facility has generated extra revenue this year through the hire of the car park to Safran and PRS. Additional costs have been incurred to commission a full topography report, necessary to draw up accurate plans for the site.
- The mounds were removed from the allotments in April so 4 new plots could be created, trees donated by National Trust were planted along the boundary and 2 new water troughs have been installed.
- The play equipment in the Windsor Road park has been painted and new gates have been ordered for the Recreation Ground park.
- We are delighted that Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club has decided to retain the Recreation Ground as their home site and the Parish Council will be working with them regarding future aspirations for improvement and development.
- Consideration is also being given to whether Pitstone can accommodate a new and relocated Scout hut as the existing one in Ivinghoe has structural issues.



Over £20,000 of Financial Support given to our Local Community

During the year, the parish council provided financial assistance to a number of local bodies so that they can continue to enhance the lives of residents. This included:

- The Parish Council commissioned the removal of asbestos from the Memorial Hall Charity loft void, for which it had insufficient funds, at a cost of £15,820
- £2,565 to South Beds Ambulance to fund a dedicated kit for our Community First Responders
- £1,000 to Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club (on behalf of Recreation Ground Charity)
- £600 to A J Groom & Son towards work on the football pitch (on behalf of Recreation Ground Charity)
- £640 to 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts for camping equipment
- £93.95 to Guides for a new flag
- £150 to the Royal British Legion in lieu of a fresh wreath



In addition a £15 donation was made to Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils and £175 made available to the Recreation Ground Charity to clear the ditch. Please contact the parish clerk if you think your community group would benefit from a grant.

New Parish Council

Brian Brooks joined the parish council in May 2014, bringing the compliment back up to the full ten. The term of office for all existing councillors ends in May with the Parish Council elections on 7th. Councillors Ginda and Richardson will unfortunately not be standing for re-election. We thank all existing councillors for their hard work over the last 4 years. This year, 12 candidates are standing for 10 seats.

Other local issues the Parish Council has been involved with

- Royal Mail has finally agreed to install a letter box in Windsor Road.
- Investigative work continues into pedestrian/cycle paths to Tring Station and Marsworth by Herts County Council and the Local Area Forum respectively.
- The Parish Council continues to investigate the considerable issues surrounding the BCC offer to devolve grass cutting and other services to the parishes.
- The landowner has agreed with Rights of Way to replace the broken stile with a gate at the end of footpath 6 where it joins Vicarage Road.
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust has installed bollards around the grass verges at the junction of Yardley Avenue and Cheddington Road to improve safety.
- Transport for Bucks has resurfaced parts of Cheddington Road and Glebe Close, sided out the footpath along Vicarage Road and the lay-by opposite Masons, replaced the damaged village sign along Vicarage Road, and cleared/flushed the drains to reduce flooding at the foot of Westfield Road and along Marsworth Road. Still to come is a bus box in the highway by the Haldi and replacement fittings on the Marsworth Road roundabout.
- Luton Airport secured planning permission to expand facilities (not an additional runway).
- The council funded and arranged for Christmas lights on the Recreation Ground, replacement bin for Marsworth Road and replacement dog bin for The Crescent.



Pitstone Needs You!

We would like to thank all our employees and volunteers who ensure that the village is kept clean and tidy, the pavilion runs smoothly, that the youth café can open its doors each week and to our new army of volunteers immersing themselves in the NDP.

Whilst there are lots of community groups trying to provide excellent facilities and services there is a definite volunteer shortage in the parish. The council has publicised vacancies, appealed for volunteers and hosted a volunteer fair at this year's annual assembly to try & help groups address the issue. The Parish Council also runs an annual Volunteer of the Year competition. Our April 2015 winner is Pastor Dave Clifford for his involvement in the Silver Surfers Club, Community Car Scheme and Community Cinema. Unfortunately, Dave leaves us this summer, and we wish him well in his new ventures. Please submit your nominations for the next Volunteer of the Year to the parish clerk.

Keep up-to-date

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published 3 or 4 times per annum and a lot can happen in the interim. So to keep up-to-date throughout the year, please:

- 'Like' the Pitstone Parish Council and/or Pitstone Youth pages on Facebook for immediate updates to your home page
- Follow us on Twitter @pitstone_pc
- Regularly check www.pitstone.co.uk and watch the notice-boards.