

How do I contact my local councillor?

You will receive a copy of the Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) free to your home on a regular basis. Details of all the council members and the Clerk to the Council can be found inside the cover. Our contact details can also be found on the village web site and the village notice-boards.

PPP is full of updates from the parish council about all the latest initiatives. Please make time to read this publication and spare a moment to respond to our consultations.

Regular updates are posted to our website, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds, so like/follow us to receive regular information straight to your inbox.

We welcome and encourage your participation at our meetings, on one of our committees, by responding to our questionnaires, as a volunteer for one of our schemes, or just letting us know your opinion.

As councillors we are here to reflect the views of the local community and we would love to hear from you.

For further information:

The Clerk to the Parish Council
Pitstone Pavilion
Marsworth Road
Pitstone
Bedfordshire
LU7 9AP
Telephone: 01296 767261
Email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

This leaflet is for anyone wanting to know more about PPC, the role of local councillors and how you can contribute to local planning.

What do local councillors do?

Your parish councillors are all volunteers and receive no remuneration for their work. Councillors have three main areas of responsibility:

1. **Decision-making:** through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. **Monitoring:** councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. **Getting involved locally:** as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The day-to-day work of a councillor may include:

- going to meetings of local organisations such as tenants' associations
- going to meetings of bodies that affect the wider community such as the police, the Highways Authority or schools
- taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

If you would like us to attend a meeting at your community group, please let us know.



Join our Facebook groups: [Pitstone Parish Council](#) and [Pitstone Youth](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@pitstone_pc](#)

Web Site: www.pitstone.co.uk

Email us at: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Telephone us on: **01296 767261**

What are local councils?

Pitstone Parish Council (PPC) is one of over 8,700 parish, town, community and neighbourhood councils representing around 16 million people across England.

It forms the most local level of government and covers the parish of Pitstone, which reaches along Stocks Road towards Aldbury and right up into Ashridge – a population of approximately 3,500 people.

How are your local councillors elected?

Local councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as the parish and serve a 4 year term of office. They are elected by people who live in the area. Our last election took place in May 2021, when the number of seats increased from 10 to 11 to reflect the expanding population.

When a vacancy arises during the 4 year term, a replacement councillor is appointed to serve the remaining period. All councillors are then subject to re-election at the next election.

Where do we get our money from?

Each year a sum of money called a 'precept' is collected through your council tax. This money is invested back into PPC by Buckinghamshire Council to improve facilities and services for you and your neighbours. PPC can also apply for grants and loans and can receive money from rents or leases.

What services do we provide?

PPC has an overall responsibility for the well-being of your local neighbourhood.

Our work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

PPC provide and maintain the following services:

- allotments
- bus shelters
- car parks
- Pitstone Pavilion community building
- children's play areas on the Recreation Ground, Hever Close and Windsor Road
- emergency planning
- sport facilities at the pavilion and on the recreation ground
- litter & dog fouling
- providing grants to support local organisations
- seating
- street lighting
- youth café
- Community Car Scheme

We worked closely with the Steering Group on the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan, and liaise with relevant third parties towards realising its ambitions.

After April 2015 we took on devolved services from Bucks County Council (now Buckinghamshire Council), including verge grass cutting and footpath maintenance. The current contract expires at the end of 2021.

We also contribute to the Memorial Hall Charity, which is run by a voluntary committee and are sole trustees to the Pitstone Recreation Ground Charity and Parish Charity.

We work with Buckinghamshire Council (BC), Thames Valley Police (TVP) and other organisations such as Community Impact Bucks to ensure the effective delivery of services to the local community such as:

- Comment on planning applications
- Create and maintain foot and cycle paths
- Crime reduction measures
- Bring a range of youth facilities to the village such as Play around the Parishes
- Traffic calming and highway issues
- Licensing issues such as the redevelopment of Quarry 2.
- The Pitstone Development Area.

How do we make decisions?

PPC is made up of eleven councillors who meet monthly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council. As elected bodies local councils are responsible to the people they represent – you.

Throughout the month there may also be committee meetings for specific topics such as sports & leisure, planning or staffing.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our full council and committee meetings. Agendas are posted approximately one week in advance and draft minutes are published as soon as possible.

Sometimes we have working groups, who investigate matters on behalf of the council but whom have no powers to make decisions. These matters are brought back to full council for consideration.

The Pitstone Annual Assembly provides a summary of the activity during the year and outlines the major projects evolving over the forthcoming 12 months. This is a community, rather than parish council, meeting but must be Chaired by the Parish Council Chairman if he is present.