



2013-14 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial Position

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£128,732	£206,974	£95,342	-26%	-53%
Expenditure	£99,627	£255,510	£87,964	-12%	-66%

At the close of the year the council holds £167,547. £97,578 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £69,969 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

Changes to the Localised Council Tax Support system are affecting the funding stream for parish councils and will impact on the Council Tax values for the coming years.

Frustrating Year

There have been a number of issues relating to key projects which has resulted in implementation delays (and therefore postponed expenditure). Including:

- A delay to the leisure development project (The parish council is waiting for the discharge of planning conditions from Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) relating to the play space; we are beholden to the landowner to resolve a land issue before the skate park procurement can commence and the MUGA can't be progressed until alternative car parking is available for the Memorial Hall as part of the Pitstone Development Area (PDA) plan).
- Taylor Wimpey declined permission for the parish council to install bus shelters and mVAS points along Westfield Road until they have completed transfer of the highways to Bucks County Council (BCC). BCC has issued a list of remedial works required to be undertaken, likely to cost over £0.5m.
- The redevelopment of the PDA will hopefully create a new heart for the village. Negotiations continue between the joint landowners but no plan has yet been submitted to AVDC.
- Even the weather conspired to keep the construction traffic out of the allotment site to remove the mounds of soil. However, we are pleased to report that in April 2014 the ground dried sufficiently for the diggers to negotiate and four new allotment plots have now been created.

Progress in Other Areas

However, there have been a number of achievements during the year in other areas:

- At the pavilion - a sub-meter was installed to reduce water costs, enhancements were made to the emergency exits to improve safety, net supports were purchased, a memorial bench for Ben Wesley was installed and wheels were ordered for the free standing goals (now installed).
- The mVAS equipment has been deployed throughout the year, reducing traffic speeds along Vicarage Road, Marsworth Road and Cheddington Road. An additional location point has been approved opposite Ridgeway View and the parish council is waiting for the installation of the ground-screw.
- At the allotments, an extra water trough has been installed and the four new allotment plots have recently been created.
- Pitstone Hill car park has been resurfaced.
- The bi-annual Pitstone Guide was published and residents can now obtain up-to-date information from the new Pitstone & parish council web site.
- The parish council has continued to publish Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) into its centenary year, in the absence of anyone stepping forward to help, in order to keep our residents informed. Our thanks to councillors Blunt and Ginda for all the voluntary time contributed as Editor and Advertising Manager.
- Raised mounds have been created either side of the lay-by opposite Masons to help prevent damage to the verges. Signs reminded drivers during the spring that the daffodils were growing and discouraged parking on the grass.
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) installed additional parking at the end of Glebe Close in April 2013.
- BCC surface dressed Glebe Close, installed new signage for the Pitstone Green Business Park to help divert traffic away from the high street area and resurfaced the footpath along Cheddington Road. All these issues had been outstanding for a number of years.

Grants 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:

- £3,000 to Pitstone Memorial Hall towards building enhancements
- £2,250 to Beacon Village Community Library
- £1,000 to Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club
- £765 to Pitstone Recreation Ground Charity
- £600 to A J Groom & Son towards work on the football pitch
- £550 to 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts
- £396 to St Marys Church, Pitstone
- £355 to Pitstone Parish Charity
- £100 to the Royal British Legion

Success in the Best Kept Village Competition 2013

The parish council was delighted that the excellent work of the litter pickers, notice board manager, hall committee and church committee had been recognised when the village was awarded a Certificate of Commendation in the Best Kept Village competition. Judging for this years award takes place in June.

All the usual activity of the parish council continued with bus shelters maintained (disappointing to note that 5 separate glass panels had been vandalised this year), notice-boards treated to prolong their life, street lights kept operational, our open space and play equipment regularly inspected and maintained, litter picked up and removed, dog fouling bins provided and emptied, Pitstone Parish Post produced every quarter, the youth café offered every week during term time and a range of activities for the younger generation with visits from the portable skate park and play around the parishes.

Ongoing Projects

In addition to the projects that were delayed during the course of the last 12 months and therefore will continue to be development this year, we are also working on a number of initiatives, many with other bodies, which have not yet come to fruition but will continue to be an area of focus during the next 12 months:

- The provision of a footpath to Marsworth (we are working with Marsworth Parish Council and the Local Area Forum)
- The installation of a foot & cycle path along Northfield Road (we are working with BCC and Herts County Council)
- The enhancement and development of the pavilion site (plans currently being investigated following an update from the I&P Junior Football Club and I&P United Cricket Club that they were no longer pursuing plans to obtain extra land from the Pitstone Towns Land Charity to extend the site.)
- Updating and replacing the parish maps to reflect all the development off Westfield Road
- Replacement of the lighting equipment on the Marsworth Road roundabout and options to enhance this feature at the entrance to our village
- Castlemead issues including the handover the highways to BCC and the handover of the open space to AVDC (currently working on Phase III).
- BCC issues including the installation of a dropped curb by the Cheddington Road railway bridge and footpath works to part of Vicarage Road.
- Working with VAHT to develop and install a solution at the junction of Yardley Avenue and Cheddington Road to prevent vehicles parking on the grass verge and obstructing the exit
- Working with Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity to help identify and achieve future ambitions to make the hall the centre of the village.
- Working with AVDC as they produce a new Vale of Aylesbury Plan which will affect the future housing and planning provision for the parish.

Other Local Issues

- The NHS Litigation Authority granted an application by J T Health to operate a pharmacy from premises in the High Street, Ivinghoe. No planning application has yet been submitted. The impact on dispensing provision at the existing two surgeries remains to be confirmed.
- Anglian Water announced their intention to supply first time sewerage to a number of properties at the far end of Cheddington Road, by the railway bridge. An exact date has yet to be confirmed.
- The Computer Club at Pitstone Memorial Hall, which was supplied with a start up grant by the Parish Council, continues to operate. If you would like a helping hand accessing the internet, working a computer or keeping in touch with your family, do pop along.
- The Pitstone Community Film Club, which was also supplied with a start up grant by the Parish Council last year, launched on 15 November. Monthly screenings have been offered throughout the winter and the number of attendees has continued to climb. If you have not yet visited the big screen at the hall, do look out for the date of the next showing.

Thank You

We would like to thank all our employees and volunteers who ensure that the village is kept clean and tidy and that the youth café can run each week.

We are blessed in the parish that so many people are willing to give up their time to help our community. The Parish Council runs an annual Volunteer of the Year competition so residents can nominate the person they feel has gone the extra mile and deserves public recognition for their efforts. In April 2013 our winner was Mr Joe Marling, probably better known to everyone as the soldier selling poppies outside Masons every winter. Our April 2014 winner is Mrs Mary Saintey for many years service to the Pitstone Town Lands Charity and Williamson Trust. Previous winners have included David Hawkins, Michelle Lee, Elaine Thorogood and John Groom. Please submit any nominations for the forthcoming year to the parish clerk.

Keep up-to-date

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published quarterly and a lot can happen in 3 months. 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
- Watch the notice-boards

Thank you.