

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.

We welcome and encourage your participation at our meetings, with our project groups, on one of our committees, by responding to our questionnaires 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
9 Warwick Road
Pitstone
Bedfordshire
LU7 9FE
Telephone: 01296 660791
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 660791**

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 3,000 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 next election is coming up on 7 May 2015.

If you are interested in joining the council, application packs will be available from AVDC from 9 March 2015. Completed forms must be submitted between 23/3-9/4/15. If there are more candidates than seats available (10) AVDC will enforce a local parish election, at the cost of the local council tax charge, which will be advertised locally.

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 AVDC 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
- Children's play areas on the Recreation Ground, Hever Close and Windsor Road
- dog bins
- emergency planning
- leisure facilities at the sports pavilion and on the recreation ground
- litter bins and litter picking
- providing grants to support local organisations
- seating
- street lighting
- tourism activities
- Youth cafe

We are currently producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, in conjunction with the Steering Group of village representatives and volunteers. This work will continue throughout 2015.

From April 2015 we will also be taking on devolved services from Bucks County Council, including verge grass cutting.

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 Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), 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:

- Community car scheme
- 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 and skate park
- 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 ten 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.

Attending a council meeting is the best way to find out what we do. Give the parish clerk a call and find out when its next public meeting is scheduled to take place.

Try and attend the Pitstone Annual Assembly which provides a summary of the activity during the year and outlines the major projects evolving over the forthcoming 12 months. This is another opportunity for you to get involved and have your say about the future direction of Pitstone. This year it is being held on 21 April 2015.

You can also keep in touch via our web site, join our Facebook groups or follow the parish council on Twitter. The details for all these are on the front cover of this leaflet.