



2016-17 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial position

	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£114,122	£260,439	£119,283	+5%	-54%
Expenditure	£132,086	£256,524	£113,985	-14%	-56%

The variance to budget reflects the delay of the play space / skate park project into a subsequent financial year. At the close of the year the council holds £146,689. £77,621 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £69,068 of retained reserve.

The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

It has been a year of financial change. Following the advice from the internal auditor last year, and in anticipation of the capital expenditure program on sports and leisure development, the council has moved from receipts and payments, to income and expenditure reporting (reflected above). It has also moved from cash to standard VAT accounting, and transferred to Sage One accounting software. Our auto-enrolment pension staging date was reached on 1/2/17 and the council enrolled eligible employees in the NEST pension scheme, and transferred from HMRC Basic PAYE tools to Sage One payroll to

Devolved services from Bucks County Council

The parish council received £3,422.87 from Bucks County Council (BCC) to carry out devolved services during the year such as the cutting of grass verges within the 30 mph limits, siding out footpaths and right-of-way maintenance. £3,595.11 was expended delivering these services (66% on grass cutting, 21% on right of way maintenance, 11% on siding out/clearing alleyways 2% on other matters), the surplus funded from £1,794.75 carried forward from last year.

The remaining balance will be added to the £3,422.87 received for the current financial year to be spent on works during 2017/18. BCC have agreed to fund one further payment in April 2018 but beyond that the parish council may need to meet these costs via the precept.

The council received no complaints relating to work carried out under devolved services during the financial year.

[Hope for play space, skate park and ball court](#)

If you will recall, last year we advised that the Charity Commission couldn't permit the redevelopment of the play space and skate park until planning permission had been granted for the new village centre that will surround the recreation ground.

See information on the opposite page for an update on the development of the residential parcel of land, which includes planning permission for the open-access multi-use ball court, and provides enough distance from the current recreation ground boundary to the residential homes to facilitate the new play area and comply with skate park noise distance requirements.



The parish council hopes that matters will proceed as quickly as possible so that work can commence on the procurement of the long awaited leisure facilities, and will obviously keep residents advised of any progress.

[Redevelopment of the pavilion site](#)

Works continues to scope opportunities for the redevelopment and enhancement of the sports pavilion site.



Planning permission has been granted for 2 sections of ball stop netting and the football clubs/parish council have applied for grant funding towards this project and an extension to one football pitch. Quotations have also obtained for a length of replacement wooden fence and for the provision of architectural services, for which the parish council is waiting to hear the result of an S106 grant application.

As with all projects that require grant funding, planning permission and land acquisition the works will not be instantaneous, but we will be progressing as rapidly as possible and will keep residents up-to-date.

[Other sport and leisure improvements](#)

- A full sized open-access football goal has been installed on the kicking area by Hever Close, and an associated litter bin.
- Our thanks to PRS for the donation of 4 x black steel benches for location at the sports pavilion.
- 6 floodlights have been purchased for the youth café, and the youths (through the café manager) successfully obtained a grant for a set of netball hoops. Our thanks to Brookmead School to allowing them to be located in the playground.
- Unfortunately, the rolling barrel had to be removed from the recreation ground for safety reasons.

New Village Centre

Residents will be aware that during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the community imposed certain conditions on the parcels of land that surround the recreation ground. The landowners appointed a developer, who have been working with Aylesbury Vale District Council (as planning authority) and subsequently held a public consultation event to gain feedback on their proposals.

They are obliged, via the Neighbourhood Plan, to include areas for a potential public house and a potential nursery, and show how these facilities would be accessed. The developer will then place these areas of land on the open market to determine if the facilities would be viable and if a purchaser can be secured. If operators are not identified the developer can re-approach AVDC to discuss alternative uses / more residential properties.

The development will also provide foot/cycle links to the Castlemead estate, hopefully enable the long awaited leisure facilities (see previous page), and provide further private and affordable housing. Any development of this size also gives rise to financial contributions towards education, public transport and further sport/leisure in the village.

As with all other applications, once Aylesbury Vale District Council has published the planning application materials, the parish council will advise residents and everyone will be able to provide their feedback at both the parish council planning committee meeting and direct to AVDC.

Other Planning

Croudace have commenced construction of the site off Rushendon Furlong.

The Vicarage Road site was granted outline permission by AVDC and Bellway Homes are working with the district council on detailed plans for the application site and discharge of reserved matters. At the time of writing this report, the latest version of the submission had been published by AVDC in April 2017.

Aylesbury Vale District Council continue to work on their own Local Plan which may/ may not have any impact on Pitstone.

We will continue to keep residents up-to-date with all related issues via the website etc (see details overleaf).

Grants

The parish council has been happy to provide grants to the Pitstone Community Cinema, Pitstone & Ivinghoe Entertainments and Pitstone Recreation Ground Charities during the financial year.

If your local group would benefit from a grant, please contact the clerk or see the grant information available on our website.

[A new path to Marsworth and other highway matters](#)

A footpath along the B489 between Pitstone and Marsworth is now looking viable following a successful grant application by Pitstone & Marsworth Parish Councils for up to £200,000 from Aylesbury Vale District Council's New Homes Bonus Scheme and £1,150 from County Councillor Avril Davies's Community Leader Grant fund, to add to the funds ring-fenced by both parish councils.

Both Pitstone Parish Council and Marsworth Parish Council have been working on proposals for this scheme for a number of years in conjunction with Bucks County Council Local Area Forum. The first stage Road Safety Audit has been undertaken, and the subsequent Feasibility Study and Biodiversity Assessments. Now that sufficient funding has been secured, the full Engineering Report has been commissioned and then Transport for Bucks will enter into a tender procurement phase for the works. We hope that actual construction will be completed before the spring of 2018. Our sincere thanks to all those bodies involved with bringing this project to fruition.

If you would like more information about the grants available under Aylesbury Vale District Council's New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme, please call the Grants Officer, Jan Roffe, on 01296 585186 or email jroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk.

The Road Safety Audit has been completed in relation to the proposed highway safety scheme for Pitstone and Ivinghoe. Both parishes are now working with Bucks County Council and Transport for Bucks to define the requirements of a Feasibility Audit.

Bucks County Council has commenced work to investigate a Freight Strategy for the county.



[New parish council member](#)

Councillor Joanne Groom sadly departed the council during the financial year and we were pleased to welcome Councillor Dr Dave Frearson in her place.

[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' and 'follow' our Facebook page on [@pitstoneparishcouncil](#) and/or like the Pitstone Youth pages for immediate updates to your home page
- Follow us on Twitter [@pitstone_pc](#)
- Regularly check www.pitstone.co.uk and watch the notice-boards.