



2017-18 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial position

| | 2016-17 Actual | 2017-18 Budget | 2018-19 Actual | Variance to last year | Variance to budget |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Receipts | £127,165 | £104,366 | £325,688 | +256% | +312% |
| Payments | £123,593 | £188,876 | £381,463 | +308% | +202% |

Two capital projects were able to be delivered during the financial year, both of which were supported by major grant funding, which is reflected in both the receipts and payments figures above.

- £195,339 was incurred on the footpath between Pitstone & Marsworth (see below for further details). £188,848 was funded from an AVDC New Homes Bonus grant and £1,150 from a Community Leaders grant.
- £21,702 was expended on the first phase of improvement to the sports pavilion site with the installation of two sections of ball stop netting and the replacement/relocation of the western boundary wooden fence. £8,616 was funded via a release of Section 106 sports & leisure funding from AVDC, £11,373 funded via a grant from the Football Foundation Stadia Improvement Fund plus contributions from the senior and junior football clubs.

Council closed the year with a bank balance of £90,914 of which £69,104 is earmarked funds/grant holdings for specific projects, leaving a retained balance of just £21,810. However, the financial position will improve in April following the reimbursement of £44k VAT from HMRC.

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

New path between Pitstone & Marsworth



The path was installed during March and was available for use in April, with a celebration walk held on 12 May 2018. As well as providing a safe walking route to Marsworth and the facilities available there, the route can also be used to safely access College Lake and beyond.

The footpath is the result of many years of work in a joint project between both parish councils and Bucks County Council. It has been made possible via a large grant from the Aylesbury Vale District Council New Homes Bonus, a grant from the County Councillor Community Leader Fund, grants from the Bucks County Council Local Area Forum and funding from

both parish councils. It is a delight to see so many residents making use of this new footway.

[Redevelopment of the sports pavilion site](#)

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



During the financial year planning permission and funding was obtained to install two sections of ball stop netting to improve safety at the site, and to replace & relocate the western boundary fence to provide much needed extra internal site space. During April, the senior pitch will be extended to the required length stipulated by the league (for which grant funding has been secured).

The council is also currently working with architects to consider ways that the existing building can be redeveloped to meet both the needs of the user groups and offer facilities to the wider community. We will keep you updated on progress.

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

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



Grant of the planning permission for the new village centre is still outstanding with AVDC. Please see the box 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 which will sit next to the play area/skate park, and provides enough distance from the current recreation ground boundary to the residential homes to

facilitate the new play area and 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 keep residents advised of any progress.

[Other sport and leisure improvements](#)

- The council would like to thank the Women's Institute for the donation of the wooden picnic table in the recreation ground play area.
- An additional section of wooden boundary fence was replaced following storm damage.
- A playground gate was replaced at the Windsor Road park.
- New parish maps have been erected to assist walkers and tourists.

[Multi-use ball court and other facilities in the new village centre](#)



You will recall that last year Nicholas King held a public information event and subsequently submitted planning applications to AVDC in April 2017. The parish council worked with the developer during this financial year on the provision of community facilities which will include a multi-use ball court, additional open space, a replacement car park and extra parking by the memorial hall plus a foot/cycle path link to the Castlemead estate.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, the community imposed certain conditions on these parcels of land including areas for a potential public house and a potential day nursery. AVDC granted outline planning for these two commercial elements and it is anticipated that, once the residential application is approved, the developer will market these commercial areas to try and identify potential operators.

The development will also provide further private and affordable housing, financial contributions towards education, public transport and further sport/leisure in the village.

We understand that AVDC are minded to grant planning permission for the residential/community elements and are working with the developer on the associated agreements. The council will keep you updated as the year progresses.

[Other facilities arising from planning](#)

Croudace have almost completed construction of the site off Rushendon Furlong. Bellway Homes have commenced construction of their residential site off Vicarage Road. The parish council will eventually be passed responsibility for street lighting and play equipment within these developments. Both developments also provide some additional open space and footpath improvements, along with the required education, public transport and sport & leisure financial contributions defined by AVDC.

Aylesbury Vale District Council continue to work on their own Local Plan, the last version of which did not have significant impact on Pitstone.

[Grant support to the local community](#)



The parish council has been happy to provide grants to Pitstone & Ivinghoe Entertainments, 1st I&P Brownies, 1st I&P Rainbows, our Community First Responder, the defibrillator at Pitstone Memorial Hall and the Royal British Legion 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.

Devolved services from Bucks County Council

At the end of the previous financial year, the parish council received £3,423 from Bucks County Council (BCC) to carry out devolved services such as the cutting of grass verges within the 30 mph limits, siding out footpaths and right-of-way maintenance. £5,227 was expended delivering these services utilising some funding carried forward from the previous year and additional funding from the parish council (73% on grass cutting, 5% on right of way maintenance and 22% on siding out and shrubbery clearance).

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. We anticipate further information from BCC as the year progresses.

As part of the obligations devolved to us from BCC, the council issues advertising permits for local charitable events (9 granted during the year), removes non-compliant signs plus issues hedge cutting notices (5 issued during the year) where overgrowth from private homes impedes use of a footpath or highway.

Two minor complaints were received regarding cutting of flowers that residents had planted within the county council verge and new procedures have been put in place.

Ongoing Major Projects

- The purchase of the Local Green Space between Marsworth Road and The Crescent from BCC (due to complete in April 2018, funded by S106 grant).
- The installation of a foot & cycle path along Northfield Road (Herts County Council continues to consider options)
- Castlemead issues including the handover the highways to BCC and the handover of the open space to AVDC.
- Working with Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity to help identify and achieve future ambitions to make the hall the centre of the village.
- Exploring the viability of a Community Transport Scheme and helping to relaunch the Community Car Scheme.
- The Pitstone & Ivinghoe Safety Scheme (BCC investigating options)
- Delivering public transport infrastructure improvements including bus shelters and real-time information panels, funded from Bellway and Croudace.

Time to join the council? Or want to keep up-to-date?

In March 2018, Councillors Annie Stack and Colin Starling sadly departed the council. No election was called and the parish council co-opted two new members in May 2018. If you have the time and drive to volunteer as a member, please contact the parish clerk.

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published 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 page for immediate updates to your Facebook feed
- Follow us on Twitter @pitstone_pc
- Regularly check www.pitstone.co.uk and watch the notice-boards.