



2018-19 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial position

	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£311,608	£148,601	£126,838	-59%	-15%
Expenditure	£326,739	£187,927	£147,157	-55%	-22%

The prior financial year saw significant capital expenditure with the installation of the footpath to Marsworth (£195,339) and the first stage of improvement works at the pavilion which included ball-stop netting, replacement fencing and boundary alignment (£21,702).

Council closed the year with a bank balance of £112,778 of which £77,765 is earmarked funds/grant holdings for specific projects (including grant funding towards the play space and skate park), leaving a retained balance of £35,013.

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

Grant support to the local community

The parish council has been happy to provide grants or donations to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity (£3,000), AVALC (£25), National Trust (£50), South Central Ambulance Service to support the Community 1st Responders (£150) and Royal British Legion (£150 in lieu of a fresh wreath and £250 for a silent soldier).

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

Local Green Space between Marsworth Road & The Crescent



The major purchase during the financial year was the purchase of the Local Green space between Marsworth Road and The Crescent from Bucks County Council in May 2018. This was supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council who released £12,356 of S106 funding towards the project. Since then, we've repaired fencing, installed two additional benches, installed a kissing gate to improve access and planted additional daffodils. Total expenditure during the year was £19,438.

[Redevelopment of the sports pavilion site](#)



Last years approved works to extend the larger pitch have been completed (expenditure of £5,405, part funded via a Football Foundation grant of £2,703 plus a donation from the P&I UFC of £550). We've also worked with Woods Hardwick architects to submit a planning application to Aylesbury Vale District Council for the enhanced building (subsequently approved in May 2019). The new premises will include a multi-use function room, improved changing facilities, a parish office/store, proper kitchen and ground-keepers store. We hope to offer a range of services and facilities from the site, meaning that more residents can benefit (currently just used for

football). Following professional advice the parish council has also opted to tax the building, which will also enable us to reclaim the VAT incurred during the construction of the new facilities. Total expenditure this financial year of £8,128 on this project, which is being supported by AVDC with a release of S106 funding.

[Ongoing aspirations for play space and skate park](#)

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. AVDC granted planning for the new village centre just before Christmas. We understand that the developer is in continued discussion with the landowners and the parcel has not yet transferred ownership.

We continue to talk to the charity regarding purchase of the land we need for the leisure facilities and already have planning in place for the play space. At the start of 2019/20 you will see some initial works to prepare the site and we

hope to follow this with installation of these long awaited facilities as soon as possible thereafter. We will keep residents updated with any progress.

[Other sport and leisure improvements](#)

- A new external defibrillator, kindly donated by P&I UFC, was installed at the pavilion site, supported by a grant of £1k from the Women's Institute.
- Two additional playground gates were installed at Hever Close and Windsor Road playgrounds, funded by S106 monies, to improve pedestrian safety and enabled the sole use of the double gates for maintenance equipment.
- Pitstone Allotment Association obtained a grant and have installed a number of raised beds for the less able, are creating wildlife areas and have installed a bench. They are now looking at improvements to the perimeter track to enable year-round access for tenants of the further away plots.
- Four new trees were installed on the recreation ground, to replace some lost to vandalism the prior year and eventually provide greater protection from cricket balls.

Multi-use ball court and other facilities in the new village centre



AVDC granted planning to Nicholas King Homes (NKH) for the new village centre in December 2018. The parish council continues to work with this developer on the provision of community facilities which will include a multi-use ball court (see illustration), additional open space, a replacement car park and extra parking by the memorial hall plus a foot/cycle path link to the Castlemead estate. Once the land is within their ownership, we hope to NKH will be able to provide an update on potential time-scales and we will keep residents up-to-date.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, the community imposed certain conditions on these parcels of land including areas for potential public house and day nursery. AVDC granted outline planning for these two commercial elements and it is anticipated that, once within their ownership, 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.

Other facilities arising from planning

The parish council adopted the new bus shelter installed at the end of Rushendon Furlong which had been funded by S106 contributions provided by Croudace. BCC will continue to maintain for real-time information panels provided at bus stops along Marsworth Road funded by contributions from both Croudace & Bellway.

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.

Other activity this year

- The young people at the youth café worked with the parish council to obtain a grant of £800 from AVDC's New Homes Bonus scheme and also raised money themselves by holding cake sales. These funds, along with some from the council, have been used to provide some more up-to-date games consoles, games, football goals, remote control cars and sports equipment. Over 725 youngsters have benefitted from the café since its inception in 2011.
- Our youth café took part in a LAF funded project to identify the youths view of their village. The results will be available later this year.
- The council has taken the Community Car Scheme under our umbrella to safeguard this very valuable service. Over 300 trips are undertaken each year. Please get in touch if you can volunteer to drive a neighbour to their medical appointment.
- We now fully comply with the requirements of GDPR.
- The grand opening of the path to Marsworth took place and Transport for Bucks completed the snagging issues.
- Properties at the far end of Cheddington Road now benefit from sewerage services for the first time.

[Devolved services from Bucks County Council](#)

We 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. £3,071 was expended delivering these services (78% on grass cutting, 17% on right of way maintenance, 3% on siding out/shrubbery clearance and 2% removing signage). Allowing for the prior year overspend of £182, the cost centre closed with £170 available. BCC have agreed to fund one further payment in April 2019 but the future position remains to be determined by the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire.

As part of the obligations devolved to us from BCC, the council issues advertising permits for local charitable events (12 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 and these have been resolved.

[Other ongoing projects](#)

- The installation of a foot /cycle path along Northfield Road (Herts County Council continues to scope 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.
- Working with West Midlands Trains regarding access options for Tring station.
- The Pitstone & Ivinghoe Safety Scheme (BCC due to deliver a Feasibility Report in August 2019. The council has agreed to fund £11,289 and the Local Area Forum is providing £7,536.)
- Working with Transport for Bucks/BCC to secure resurfacing for Glebe Close highway and Vicarage Road footpath (Tun Furlong to Church Road).

[Thinking of joining the council? Or want to keep up-to-date?](#)

During the year, three new councillors joined us—Anil Mitra, Jack Hawkins and Louise Stoddart. The parish elections were postponed by central government to May 2020 so that they could coincide with the elections for the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire so members are now serving an extra year on top of their normal 4 year term of office. In 2020 an extra seat will be added, reflecting our growing parish population. If you have the time and drive to volunteer as a member, please contact the parish clerk. We also have a new Editor for Pitstone Parish Post, Miss Stephanie Nicholls, and a new Parish Assistant, Mr Stephen Davies, who is co-ordinating the Community Car Scheme and maintaining notice-board content.

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.