

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Position

	Income	Expenditure
2019-20 Actual	£230,338	£263,850
2020-21 Actual	£1,176,635	£1,134,862
Variance to Last Year	+410%	+430%
2020-21 Budget	£1,248,417	£1,291,435
Variance to Budget	-6%	-12%

Pandemic aside, this was a year of substantial investment in sports and leisure as several key projects came to fruition after years of planning. The parish council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

Extension and Refurbishment of the Pavilion



The old changing rooms have been completely transformed into a superb community facility with community room, kitchen, toilets and changing village as well as a parish council office. The whole site is disability compliant, and is fitted with wi-fi, wide screen TV, alarms & CCTV plus external lighting to help you return to your vehicle. We

hold both premises and music licences.

The community room is lovely and bright with tall picture windows overlooking the grounds. Now covid guidelines have eased slightly, the facilities are being used by Zest Yoga, Pitstone Youth Café and the Parish Council as well as the both the junior and senior football clubs. There is a family fun day coming up in August and fundraising match screenings booked into the diary. We look forward to welcoming more hirers and holding more events as the year progresses and pandemic restrictions ease further.

This £1m project attracted a substantial level of grants and S106 release support, so the cost to residents has been less than £10k of accrued funding. Works and fit out have been funded from: Buckinghamshire Council release £562,667 of S106 sports & leisure funding; a £370,000 grant from Aylesbury

Vale District Council's New Homes



Bonus grant scheme; a £35,120 Football Stadia Improvement Grant; £10,000 grant from the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust Thriving Communities scheme; £4,000 from Pitstone & Ivinghoe United Football Club; £1.5k from Pitstone & Ivinghoe Junior Football Club. Two invoices related to this project fall due for payment during 2021-22 so the final payment & S106 receipt will fall within the next financial year, although the accrual is showing in this years' expenditure.

Replacement of the Recreation Ground Play Equipment



After a slight delay caused by the first covid lockdown, all the old play equipment on the recreation ground was removed and an exciting & challenging Huck Teck rope play space was installed. The site provides a range of facilities for toddlers right through to teens with the Cheops high pyramid reaching up to the tree canopy. There are many DDA features too such as the wheelchair friendly sunken trampoline and wide slide enabling a carer to slide down with the child. The new play space has proved very popular and seen heavy use.

This project (total cost £123,868) was funded by an S106 release from Buckinghamshire Council of £110k, a Community Leader Grant of £1,275 plus £11,951 of funding accrued by the parish council.

New Swings for Windsor Road Play Space



The flat seat swings in Windsor Road suffered a frame failure, and as this unit had been installed at the same time as the cradle seat unit, the parish council resolved to replace them both at the same time.

Creative Play were the selected supplier and both sets of wooden swings were installed (cost £14k) and have since been well used.

Other Grants Received

As both the football pitches and the new community building had long periods of enforced closure due to government restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, the parish council received just over £11k in covid grant funding from Buckinghamshire Council.

Grants and Donations given by the Parish Council



During the financial year, the parish council was delighted to provide the following grants and donations to other groups:

- £150 to Windmill Pre-School for resource packs during lockdown
- £1,486 to Windmill Pre-School to fund outdoor play equipment for the newly expanded site (having taken on a lease for the old Children's Centre adjoining building)
- £6,000 to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity for roof repairs
- £2,000 to South Centre Ambulance to provide additional equipment for the Community First Responder
- £168.25 to Royal British Legion poppy appeal to fund an artificial wreath and donation in lieu of fresh floral tribute

Other Leisure Updates

Nicholas King Homes are installing a multi-use games area, as part of their residential development, on land owned by the Parish Council at the bottom of the Memorial Hall car park, and providing replacement car parking adjacent to this.

The Parish Council has commenced the tendering process for a concrete skate park which will sit on the recreation ground between the new multi-use games area and the new play space. This will be funded by a contribution from the parish council, grant funding and S106 release from Buckinghamshire Council. We hope that it will be installed during 2021/22 completing the upgrade of the leisure facilities at the recreation ground to a place where the whole family can play.

Devolved Services

We received £3,552.28 from Buckinghamshire County Council to undertake grass verge cutting within the 30mph limit (including some areas of grass previously maintained by Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust), siding out of footpaths and certain right-of-way maintenance. £3,660 was expended during the financial year. Under our Devolved Service obligations, we also issued 3 event advertising permits, removed unauthorised advertising, issued 4 hedge cutting notices and resolved 2 complaints.

The Buckinghamshire Council contract runs for a further 12 months and as yet we have no visibility on whether this will be extended further.

Ongoing Projects by Other Bodies/Tiers of Government

- Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with the Canal & River Trust to identify if any cycle route improvements are possible towards Tring station.
- Buckinghamshire Council continues to work with developers (Taylor Wimpey, Croudace, Nicholas King Homes and Bellway) to fulfil their highway and leisure obligations including the resolution of the speed limit change issues on Westfield Road.
- Buckinghamshire Council continues to work with both Pitstone and Ivinghoe Parishes re the Safety Scheme and Freight Strategy proposals.

Parish Council Election

Parish Councillors normally serve a 4-year term of office. The election was postponed by the government in 2019 to accommodate the move to Unitary status by Buckinghamshire Council, and then again by a further year in 2020 due to the pandemic. The election subsequently took place in May of 2021. We thank those members that have left us for their voluntary commitment to the parish during the term in office and extend a warm welcome to all the new parish councillors. As the election was unopposed, we will not be billed an election fee by Buckinghamshire Council during 2021/22.