

Annual Review 17/18

Stony Stratford Town Council

Fullers Slade . Galley Hill . Stony Stratford Town

Chair's Report by Cllr Joan Walker MBE

Dear Resident,

Stony Stratford Town Council Precept 2018/19

Changes occurring in government today affect services provided by Parish and Town Councils and setting a precept is a difficult decision for a Council to take lightly. Taking into account year on year reductions in grant from Milton Keynes Council, (According to the MKC Parish and Town Council Tax Base and provisional funding allocations document, this Council has in real terms had a 5.64% loss in income), rising inflation and continuing to provide services for the local community, loss of grants for provision of the Citizen's Advice Service, updating old IT equipment, additional compliance costs for the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) plus the major works to improve the Mill Lane Car Park, and, it is hoped, create additional car parking spaces, this Town Council has reluctantly agreed to increase the precept by 10% to £197,207. The total expenditure for the Council for the coming year will amount to £277,468 after taking into account grants received, income raised and use of reserves which means that a Band D property will increase this year to £78.82 (2017/18 - £71.75), an increase of £7.07 per annum per household. Below is a summary of some of the services we offer and planned improvements.

5 - 7 Church Street (the Library) is the main asset owned by the Town Council and expenditure includes the upkeep of the building for use by Town Council, Library and community groups such as the Citizens Advice Bureau (which continues successfully to offer assistance and advice to the community), and Crafting for Change (teaching craft skills for the young and not so young, which is going from strength to strength). In addition, this year for 2018, the Council has agreed to support a new well-being initiative to be held in the Library. The well-being meetings, led by an experienced therapist, aim to provide a FREE monthly wellbeing to anyone over 16. In addition, the extra opening times at the Library have been achieved by Friends of Stony Stratford Library (FOSSL).

The Town Crier is produced by the Town Council to keep you up to date with what we and other organisations are doing. We recognise the importance of distributing this newsletter in hard copy as well as using Social Media to communicate with residents. Our Information Officer, manages the Council noticeboards, updating them weekly with information together with updating the revised Town Council website www.stonystratford.gov.uk and Facebook. The revamped website has now been running for a few months and includes many new features with the intention of informing residents about meetings, events and community group activities. Please let us know what you think of our new community website.

Grants: For the coming year, we are setting aside £5,000 for grants to local organisations wishing to run events or activities to help the community. During 2017/18, we have supported, amongst others; Folk on the Green, Stony Live, Riverside Festival, a new Tennis Club initiative, Stony Stratford in Bloom, the Big Draw and Lantern Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On, Act Out Drama, Friends of Stony Stratford Library, Horsefair Green together with Residents Associations. These groups, assisted by their army of volunteers, benefit from grants provided by the Town Council. The Big Draw and Lantern Festival both held at York House, have a very large and ever growing following. Grant application forms can be accessed via our website and advice on completing the form can be provided by the Town Clerk

Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Milton Keynes Council and following the formal legal examination (which resulted in a number of changes), will go to referendum on Thursday 3rd May 2018 where residents will be able to vote on the Plan, to support it, and so ensure the vitality of the High Street and maintaining and improving essential green spaces. (Please see The Town Crier for the latest update).

The Town Council manages two **allotment sites**; the Wolverton Road Allotment and the Boundary Crescent site (which has undergone substantial improvements). The Town Council also owns the London Road site which is ably run by the Stony Stratford Allotment and Leisure Gardening Association. Allotment application forms are available on our website or contact the Deputy Town Clerk if you would like further information.

Landscape Maintenance: This is now the fourth year of our responsibility for landscape maintenance within the town - a task which we took over from Milton Keynes Council and for which we currently receive a grant to cover expenditure. The work is undertaken on our behalf by Marcus Young Landscaping. We continue to believe that this is a critical contract for us as it gives us control over one of our most important assets: the open space that is clearly valued by the community. Managing the contract has also allowed us to make a number of improvements around the town: replacing hedging, removing overgrown shrubs and improving the overall look of the town. It is still uncertain if we will continue to receive a grant from MKC after March 2020.

Stony Stratford Floral Features, these are supported by the Business Association, Town Council and Stony in Bloom. From season to season and year to year, the work of Stony in Bloom volunteers together with our contractors, provide and maintain the fantastic displays that add colour and a feel-good factor to the Town. Although we budget £14,000 annually for this, the actual cost to the Town Council, after

donations from the Business Association and fundraising by Stony in Bloom, is approximately half this cost.

Litter Picking in the Mill Field in which many volunteers are involved, **youth activities at York House**, the **Farmers Market** and **maintenance of public toilets, dog and litter bins** are other examples of some of the responsibilities of the Town Council.

MKPA summer play sessions for young people, **Big Lunch, August Bank Holiday Fair** and **Apple Day**, which have become annual events, are some of the services and activities currently supported by the Town Council. We understand that these well attended events are much appreciated by the community.

Projects: We are hoping to make substantial improvements to Mill Lane Car Park and increase the number of spaces. We are also investigating obtaining a grant from the Lottery Fund to provide more secure fencing for the Wolverton Road Allotments and working in partnership with Milton Keynes Council to obtain grants for replacement of the Wolverton Road Recreation Ground play equipment (*please note - this has now been secured*).

The Town Council/Councillors have excellent support from the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Information Officer and I thank them and also fellow Councillors for their support to me as Chair. We have some very difficult years ahead.

*Joan Walker MBE
Chair, Stony Stratford Town Council*



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Council is in compliance with the new GDPR and you can see our privacy policy at <http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/about-us/general-data-protection-regulation>. Please contact the Town Clerk if you have any queries.



Stony Stratford Town Council

Stony Stratford Town Councillors

Meeting attendance & allowances 2017/18

Meetings & attendance

All the Councillors are elected volunteers. They each take part in different meetings throughout the year. Their attendance is based on all the meetings they are appointed to take part in.

Allowances

Town Councillors are entitled to claim an allowance set at £531 (£1,062 for the Chair) for 2017/18. It is an individual member's decision as to whether he or she claims the allowance.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS	Full Council	Planning	Projects	F & GP	Property Development	Allowance Basic is
Total 2017/18	6 and 2 Special	10	7	5	4 and 1 Special	£531.00
Fullers Slade Ward						
Simon Cherrill	7/8	10/10		1/1	5/5	£531.00
Anne Cryer-Whitehead	8/8	4/6	7/7	5/5		£531.00
Galley Hill Ward						
Mick Allsopp (resigned April 2018)	8/8	8/9		3/4	3/5	£442.50
Paul Bartlett	5/8	6/10	3/7			£531.00
Stony Stratford South West Ward						
Robert Gifford	7/8			3/5	5/5	£531.00
June Payne	8/8	8/10	4/4			£531.00
Stony Stratford South East Ward						
Keith Tilley	8/8		5/7	5/5		£531.00
Joan Walker MBE (Chair)	8/8	9/10	7/7	5/5	4/5	£1,062.00
Stony Stratford North						
Cliff Brett (Vice Chair)	8/8		7/7	5/5	5/5	£531.00
Pete Thornburgh	7/8	10/10	5/7			£531.00

Town Councillors are also members of the following outside Bodies (2017/18):

Fullers Slade Residents Association

Simon Cherrill

MK Association of Local Councils

Robert Gifford

Passenham Quarry Liaison Group

Chairman of the Council

Stony Stratford Fairtrade Group

June Payne

Stony Stratford Futures Group

Chairman of the Council

Swan Credit Union

Cliff Brett

WEA Stakeholder Group

Chairman of the Council or Chair of Planning Committee

Your Current Town Councillors

Stony Stratford North

Left

Cliff Brett, Vice Chair

Right

Pete Thornburgh



Stony Stratford South West

Left

Robert Gifford

Right

June Payne



Galley Hill

Left

Roy Adams

Right

Paul Bartlett



Stony Stratford South East

Left

Keith Tilley

Right

Joan Walker MBE, Chair



Fullers Slade

Left

Simon Cherrill

Right

Anne Cryer-Whitehead



Town councillors can be contacted via the Town Council Office (please see contact details on the next page).

If you would like to contact Cllr Bartlett please contact him directly as follows - mobile: 07920 065451, email: barty.stony@hotmail.co.uk.

Community grants awarded by Stony Stratford Town Council in 2017/18



Act Out/Act Up Drama Group	£	Stony Stratford Friday Club	£
Contribution towards the running of the groups	300.00	Contribution towards speakers and entertainment	500.00
Folk on the Green	515.00	Stony Stratford In Bloom	
Grant for street cleaning		Contribution towards Town Walk leaflet	185.00
Friends of Stony Stratford Library	176.00	Stony Stratford Lantern Project	440.00
Christmas Wreath Making Event for Children		Contribution towards 2017 project	
Stony Stratford Big Draw	250.00	Stony Stratford Lions Club	320.00
Contribution towards 2017 project		Contribution towards Remembrance Sunday Parade band	
Stony Stratford Business Association	495.00	Stony Live!	200.00
Contribution towards the Christmas Lights 2017		Contribution to 2017 events	
Stony Stratford Football Club	3,988.00	Stony Stratford Tennis Club	630.76
Contribution to Football Club equipment and building		Community Tennis Initiative	

If you would like to find out more about applying for a grant please contact us at:
Stony Stratford Town Council, 5 - 7 Church Street, Stony Stratford, MK11 1BD.

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm.

tel: 01908 566726 fax: 01908 566726 or 562562

website: www.stonystratford.gov.uk/Town_Council

email: office@stonystratford.gov.uk

Facebook: [StonyStratfordTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/StonyStratfordTownCouncil)

Grants received by the local community include:

York House Centre:

Stony Stratford Town Council: £250.00 - Big Draw 2017; £440.00 - Lantern Project 2017; £300.00 - Act Out & Act Up - 2017/18 Academic Year; £4712.17 - Junior Youth Club - Staff Costs (Youth Network MK), Room Hire, Storage, Admin Contribution; £3,554.01 - Senior Youth Club - Staff Costs (Youth Network MK) and Admin Contribution

Milton Keynes Community Foundation: £655.00 - Lantern Project 2017; £1,280.00 - Act Out & Act Up - 2016/17 Academic Year Grant

Stony Stratford Business Association: £150.00 - Lantern Project 2017

Ancell Trust: £100.00 - Act Out & Act Up - 2017/18 Academic Year

Councillor Liz Gifford: £300.00 - Act Out & Act Up - 2017/18 Academic Year

Santander: £250.00 - Community Days Volunteering Project

Fundraising & Donations: £196.06 - Big Draw 2017 - Volunteer Cafe Profit; £199.02 - Big Draw 2017 - Face Painting, T-Shirt Design & Biscuit Decorating Activities; £106.40 - Big Draw 2017 - Bucket Collection Donations; £223.09 - Lantern Project 2017 - Switch-On Day Refreshments; £341.35 - Spring Coffee Morning in aid of the York House Community Gardens; £290.93 - Open Day - July 2017 - Profit; £584.20 - General Donations to York House Centre; £1,000.00 - Tisski - Corporate Charitable Donation; £855.20 - Mercedes Insurance - Corporate Charitable Donation; £1,738.98 - DSZ International - Corporate Charitable Donation; £4,639.41 - York House Fundraising Events - Profit; £2,857.24 - LocalGiving.Com Website Donations + Matched Funding (these donations are used to support our community projects to reduce the burden on external funders and to purchase equipment for the benefit of all our users)

York House Centre is the Youth, Community and Arts Centre for Stony Stratford and the surrounding area. We are a registered charity which receives no revenue funding - the day to day running costs of the centre are funded by hiring out our rooms including the Main Hall, the Beechey Room, various meeting rooms and The Space (a soundproofed rehearsal studio). We seek some external funding for major building projects/improvements and to support our popular community projects. The Trustees & Staff would like to extend their grateful thanks to all the grant providers and individuals who have supported us throughout 2017/18.

Volunteers are vital to York House Centre - our willing band of 150 loyal and hard-working volunteers host a varied schedule of fundraising events throughout the year (Music & Arts Events, Comedy Events, Coffee Mornings etc.) as well as running our community projects such as the Big Draw (now York House Arts for All) and the Stony Stratford Lantern Project. York House Centre is wholly owned by its Members. Membership is free and open to anyone aged 18 yrs+ with an MK11 postcode or who has a strong association with the town. Have a look at our website www.york-house.org.uk for more details. Join us on Facebook - York House Centre (Stony Stratford).

Photos courtesy of Kate Davies, Cllr Pete Thornburgh & York House Centre

Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2018

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018

2016/17 £		2017/18 £
	Operating Income	
500	Amenities	0
4,945	Recreation	1,797
88,874	Environment & Highways	91,891
177,606	Council Operations	190,283
1,385	Farmers Market	1,240
2,808	Allotments	4,659
9,343	5-7 Church Street	8,497
285,460	Total Income	298,368
	Running Costs	
33,784	Amenities	27,998
25,029	Recreation	27,369
86,931	Environment & Highways	76,423
84,254	Council Operations	86,030
846	Development Control	0
14,765	Publicity/Training/Subs	10,505
30	Section 137	0
99	Farmers Market	339
5,010	Allotments	10,468
32,916	5-7 Church Street	33,470
3,500	Public Art Projects	0
287,165	Total Expenditure	272,602
	General Fund Analysis	
34,752	Opening Balance	41,986
285,460	Plus : Income for Year	298,368
320,213		340,354
287,165	Less : Expenditure for Year	272,602
33,047		67,751
(8,939)	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	(3,126)
41,986	Closing Balance	70,877

2016/17 £	Current Assets	2017/18 £
0	Debtors	1,124
10,676	VAT Control	9,567
76	Prepayments	358
12,083	Current a/c	18,285
69,889	Business Instant Access	95,927
475	Petty Cash	187
100	Swan Credit Union Ltd	100
0	Receipts in Advance	377
93,300		125,926
	Total Assets	125,926
	Current Liabilities	
2,808	Creditors	9,077
1,114	Accruals	539
745	Allotment Key Deposits	1,715
240	Allotment Rent Deposits	480
43	Receipts in Advance	0
4,949		11,811
	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	114,116
88,350	Represented By	
41,986	General Reserve	70,877
1,000	Public Conveniences Fund	1,000
669	SID Fund	669
2,813	Allotments Fund	1,836
517	Youth Projects Fund	417
9,260	Mortimer Park	12,797
1,807	Litter Bin Fund	2,448
3,824	Floral Features	3,824
3,608	Boundary Crescent Regeneration Fund	121
120	SS Futures Group Fund	120
1,774	s106 Hayes Mews Public Art	1,774
3,497	Neighbourhood Plan	3,497
14,636	5-7 Church St fund	12,247
1,837	Cllr Brunning Ward Budget	1,286
1,000	Calverton End Play Area	1,000
0	HFG Memorial Garden	200
88,350		114,116

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2018 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year

Signed :

Chairman

Joan Walker MBE Date: 15 May 2018

Signed :

Responsible Financial Officer

Lynne Compton

Date: 15 May 2018



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