

Annual Review 20/21

Stony Stratford Town Council

Fullers Slade · Galley Hill · Stony Stratford Town



Stony Stratford Town Council

Farewell from the Chair

It has been a great privilege to be a member of the Town Council since its creation in June 2001 and to have chaired it for nearly eighteen and a half years during that period. The last year has perhaps been the strangest of them all with council activities significantly reduced and meetings held virtually. I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the staff of the Council for ensuring that we continued to function even if it was not a case of "business as usual". This review is therefore very different from previous ones. Our reserves are higher than we expected and as a result we did not need to raise the precept. At the same time, we recognise that the coming year will be a challenging one for residents and the new Town Council will, I am sure, respond to the demands placed upon it.

*Rob Gifford,
Chair, Stony
Stratford Town
Council*



Chair's Report by Cllr Robert Gifford

Stony Stratford Town Council Precept 2021/22

Dear Resident,

Setting both the budget and precept is probably the most important decision taken by a town or parish council. The precept set by a town council is small compared to the level of Council Tax set by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) or the charge levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. It is nevertheless important that you hear about the precept and the thinking behind the figure that has been set. For the year 2021/22, I am pleased to report that, despite MKC reducing the Council Tax Base (the number of homes the precept is spread between), the Town Council has agreed not to raise the precept, recognising that the financial circumstances of many parishioners are precarious and that our level of reserves means that we can cover any additional

expenditure next year without an increase.

The figures for our income and expenditure are set out below.

Details	Amount
Precept	£219,869.00
LCTS Grant	£7,069.00
Bank Interest Received	£100.00
Dividend Received	£0.00
Floral Features	£385.00
Landscaping Grant	£55,246.00
Grants & Donations Received	£0.00
Farmers Market Income	£1,275.00
Allotment Rents - Wolverton Rd	£3,060.00
Allotment Rents - London Rd	£714.00
Allotment Rents - Boundary Cres	£918.00
Newsletter Sales	£0.00
Sponsorship - Stony in Bloom	£300.00
Big Lunch Income	£0.00
Apple Day Income	£300.00
Town Fayre	£0.00
5-7 Church St Income	£3,500.00
Miscellaneous Receipts: PWLB Loan if drawn down for project	£150,000.00
Total expected Income	£442,736.00

Details	Amount
Salaries	£70,115.00
Employers NI and Pens etc	£23,814.00
PAYE Admin	£450.00
Officer Travel and Subsistence	£332.00
Copy Licence	£510.00
Telephones	£506.00
Internet Service	£477.00
Room Hire	£255.00
Insurance	£810.00
Elections Costs (n/a as incl. in MKC election 2021)	£0.00
Domain Licence	£78.00
Internal audit	£295.00
External Audit	£816.00
Training	£1,500.00
Conferences - Council Run	£103.00
Conferences - External	£643.00
Publicity	£500.00
Office Equipment	£0.00
Finance Software	£388.00
Computer software & licenses	£3,060.00
Stationery & Postage	£357.00
Bank Charges	£0.00
Memberships	£1,632.00
Newsletter/Publishing	£7,446.00
Website	£122.00
Elected Members Allowances	£5,841.00

Civic Budget	£30.00
Toilets Maintenance	£18,400.00
Toilets Reserves	£0.00
Dog bins	£6,495.00
Litter Bins	£714.00
Landscape Contract	£55,246.00
Litter Picking	£1,632.00
Farmers Market	£800.00
Crafting for Change	£0.00
Annual Community Award	£100.00
5-7 Church St	£46,000.00
5-7 Church Street Improvements (if project goes ahead and PWLB loan drawn down)	£150,000.00
Junior Youth Club YH	£6,936.00
Senior Youth Club	£4,488.00
Big Lunch	£0.00
NHP Initiatives	£0.00
Floral Features	£7,000.00
SIB - Sponsorship Costs	£31.00
Apple Day	£1,500.00
Allotments - Wolverton Rd	£1,530.00
Allotments - Boundary Cres	£1,224.00
Capital Borrowing - BC Allots	£2,708.00
Play Sessions	£6,427.00
Mortimer Park	£0.00
Wolverton Rec Play Park Project	£0.00
Grants	£7,100.00
Civic Initiatives	£4,250.00
Town Fayre	£0.00
Public Art Project - Hayes Mews	£0.00
Total expected Expenditure	£442,661.00

Difference: Addition to General Reserve £75.00

The budget for the year and the level of precept for 2021/22 were agreed at the council meeting held on January 19. The papers for the meeting can be found at <https://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/town-council-meetings/full-council>.

When I wrote to you this time last year about the precept and budget for 2020/21, none of us could have predicted what was about to occur. During the year, all of the Council's activities have been affected by coronavirus, with staff largely working from home, our offices at 5-7 Church Street being closed and the activities funded by the Council such as the Big Lunch and Apple Day curtailed or cancelled. All of this has meant that our expenditure during the year has been reduced, our reserves slightly increased and the need to raise additional funding via the precept removed.

During the current year, we had hoped to begin work on the improvements to 5-7 Church Street which is owned by the Town Council and houses the library service provided by Milton Keynes Council. A specification for the project focussing on the creation of a new porch and entrance, the removal of the central staircase and its reinstatement to the side and the creation of new library space for both children and adults has been drawn up and put out to tender. Unfortunately, on both occasions, the tenders received were higher than the budget that we had agreed for the project. At its meeting in January, the Council agreed unanimously to go to tender for a third time with a specified budget figure published. In the event of an appropriate tender being received, it is likely that work will commence in late April with a view to completion in the autumn. The project is being undertaken jointly with Milton Keynes Library Service which has agreed to allocate funds towards the refurbishment.

Next year will also see a new contractor undertaking the landscape work of the Council which is funded through a grant from MKC. The Council published a revised specification for the landscape contract which runs from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023. The current provider was not successful in retaining the contract

and a new provider will take over on 1 April. Comments on their work – both favourable and critical – can be submitted to the Town Council via the e-mail: landscape@stonystratford.gov.uk.

During the current year, the Council has also replaced and upgraded the public toilets provided on Silver Street and managed by Healthmatic. The Council confirmed that the provision of public conveniences was important, especially for key workers during the initial lockdown when alternative provision through cafes or restaurants was not available. The new facility was opened in December 2020.

Another important part of the Council's funds is allocated to the provision of grants to local organisations. During 2020/21, the Council awarded grants to the residents' association of Fullers Slade and Galley Hill to provide much needed assistance to communities in need. The Council also made grants to Stony Radio to help the station establish itself as a key part of the local community's information network, MK YMCA to furnish a room, Age UK for emergency support services and Stony Stratford Town Football Club to repair their container roof.

Elections to the Council were due to be held in May 2020 but these were postponed. These are now due to be held in

May 2021. I would urge anyone interested in being a candidate to contact the Clerk, Lynne Compton, to have a chat about the role. Town councils are the first tier of local government and act as a voice for the communities that they represent. They do not tend to be dominated by party politics. Rather, they function by consensus, bringing communities together to solve a problem and to improve the lives of residents.

I am grateful to my fellow councillors for taking their responsibilities seriously over the last difficult year. Meetings held remotely are not the most satisfying. However, I think that we have managed to discuss matters on the agenda and take appropriate decisions rationally and constructively. I am also grateful to the five staff of the Council: Lynne Compton (Town Clerk), Karen Hiser (Deputy Town Clerk), Melanie Hyde (Information Officer), Ummara Qureshi (Environment and Planning Officer), and Alan Box (Caretaker) for their work to ensure that the Council achieves its aims. Working remotely has not been easy and I hope they have survived the challenges! If you have any questions about the work of the Council, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk:

office@stonystratford.gov.uk.

Best wishes, **Robert Gifford, Chair,**
Stony Stratford Town Council

Stony Stratford Town Councillors Meeting attendance & allowances 2020/21

Meetings & attendance	TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS	Full Council	Planning	Projects	F & HR	Property Development	Allowance Basic is
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.	Total 2020/21	6 and 2 Special	9	9	5	4	£531.00
Allowances Elected Town Councillors are entitled to claim an allowance set at £531 (£1,062 for the Chair) for 2020/21. It is an individual member's decision as to whether he or she claims the allowance.	Fullers Slade Ward						
	Bianca Bendig-Ceesay	7/8		7/9	5/5		£531.00
	Simon Cherrill	7/8	8/9			3/4	£531.00
	Galley Hill Ward						
	Roy Adams	8/8	9/9		5/5		£00.00
	Paul Bartlett	7/8	5/9	4/9			£531.00
	Stony Stratford South West Ward						
	Robert Gifford (Chair)	8/8			5/5	4/4	£1,062.00
	June Payne	8/8	9/9	9/9			£531.00
	Stony Stratford South East Ward						
	Keith Tilley (Vice Chair)	6/8		8/9	2/5		£531.00
	Tom Welch	5/5	6/7	7/8	1/4		£00.00
	Wajeaha Khan	0/1					£00.00
	Stony Stratford North Ward						
	Cliff Brett	8/8		9/9	5/5	4/4	£531.00
	Pete Thornburgh	7/8	9/9	8/9			£531.00

Town Councillors are also members of the following outside Bodies (2020/21):

Fullers Slade Residents Association:

Simon Cherrill

Galley Hill Residents Association:

Roy Adams

MK Association of Local Councils:

Robert Gifford

MK Bus Users Group (MKBUG):

Rob Gifford

MKC Parishes Forum:

Rob Gifford

Passenham Quarry Liaison Group:

Keith Tilley/Town Clerk

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

York House Centre:

Cliff Brett

Community Grants awarded by Stony Stratford Town Council in 2020/21

Age UK	£	Stony Radio	£
Emergency support service provision - (equipment/volunteer costs) to help deliver the service to residents during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period & beyond	500.00	Seed funding towards new equipment and marketing for new Stony Stratford community radio station	495.00
Fullers Slade Residents Association	250.00	Stony Stratford Business Association	495.00
Contribution towards food parcels in lieu of usual Christmas party due to Covid-19		Contribution towards the Christmas Lights 2020	
Galley Hill Residents Association	225.00	Stony Stratford Football Club	300.00
Contribution towards Easter gifts for children in lieu of usual Easter egg hunt		Contribution towards the repair of the roof of storage containers	
Milton Keynes YMCA	2500.00	Stony Stratford Lantern & Advent Windows Project	300.00
Contribution to furnish an additional room in the new Milton Keynes YMCA building		Contribution towards new Covid-19 safe 2020 event	

If you would like to find out more about applying for a grant please contact Stony Stratford Town Council via the contact details on the back page.

YOUR CURRENT TOWN COUNCILLORS

Town councillors can be contacted via the Town Council Office (please see back page), or via their email addresses as listed.

Stony Stratford North

Left

Hannah O'Neill

Charlie Wilson-Marklew



hannah.o'neill@stonystratford.gov.uk
charlie.wilson-marklew@stonystratford.gov.uk

Stony Stratford South West

Left

Paul Bartlett

Right

Tom Welch



paul.bartlett@stonystratford.gov.uk
tom.welch@stonystratford.gov.uk

Stony Stratford South East

Left

Keith Tilley, Chair

There is a vacancy for South East Ward



keith.tilley@stonystratford.gov.uk

Fullers Slade

Left

Bianca Bendig-Ceesay

Right

Simon Cherrill



bianca.bendig-cesay@stonystratford.gov.uk
simon.cherrill@stonystratford.gov.uk

Galley Hill

Left

Roy Adams, Vice-Chair

Right

Paul Randall



roy.adams@stonystratford.gov.uk
paul.randall@stonystratford.gov.uk

Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31 March 2021

2019/20 £		2020/21 £
	Income Summary	
209,360	Precept	223,374
209,360	Sub Total	223,374
	Operating Income	
750	Amenities	2
363	Recreation	0
58,889	Environment & Highways	56,246
10,335	Council Operations	18,555
250	Publicity/Training/Subs	250
1,050	Farmers Market	1,255
4,772	Allotments	5,084
43,997	5-7 Church Street	33,502
2,762	Public Art Projects	0
332,527	Total Income	338,268
	Running Costs	
30,169	Amenities	24,539
42,383	Recreation	11,722
79,230	Environment & Highways	70,846
90,708	Council Operations	118,461
12,864	Publicity/Training/Subs	10,385
209	Farmers Market	350
6,416	Allotments	6,330
75,405	5-7 Church Street	40,882
248	Public Art Projects	0
337,630	Total Expenditure	283,514
	General Fund Analysis	
73,358	Opening Balance	74,382
332,527	Plus : Income for Year	338,268
405,885		412,650
337,630	Less : Expenditure for Year	283,514
68,255		129,135
6,910	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	(6,127)
61,345	Closing Balance	135,262

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

2019/20 £		2020/21 £
	Current Assets	
1,264	Debtors	13,357
11,392	VAT Control	5,461
5,672	Prepayments	856
0	Current a/c	12,680
130,092	Business Instant Access	71,196
9	Petty Cash	229
20,000	12 Month Fixed Term Account	0
301	Swan Credit Union Ltd	5,301
0	HTB Instant Access Dep	84,356
126	Receipts in advance	0
168,854		193,435
168,854	Total Assets	193,435
	Current Liabilities	
25,934	Current a/c	0
4,248	Creditors	3,151
17,295	Accruals	13,803
1,865	Allotment Key Deposits	1,940
1,110	Allotment Rent Deposits	1,380
0	Receipts in advance	4
50,452		20,279
118,402	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities Represented By	173,156
74,382	General Reserve	124,715
1,000	Public Conveniences Fund	0
669	SID Fund	669
608	Allotments Fund	608
417	Youth Projects Fund	0
7,770	Mortimer Park	7,770
1,262	Litter Bin Fund	1,153
3,250	Floral Features	3,250
120	SS Futures Group Fund	120
3,357	Neighbourhood Plan	3,357
11,709	5-7 Church St fund	21,709
902	HFG Memorial Garden	418
12,555	Landscaping	7,986
400	Ward Cllr Donations	400
0	Community Resilience	1,000
118,402		173,156

CONTACT US

Stony Stratford Town Council, 5 - 7 Church Street, Stony Stratford, MK11 1BD

Opening hours: Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm

Tel: 01908 566726, Email: office@stonystratford.gov.uk

Website: www.stonystratford.gov.uk

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

Variances to previous year:

Income: Increase due to Business Grants received

Expenditure: Council Operations: Increase due to additional member of staff, employer pension contribution rate increase, additional hours for Town Clerk. Other payments: Reduced due to cancellation of events, temporary closure of toilets due to refurbishment.

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2021 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed: *Chairman, Robert Gifford*

Date: 18th May 2021

Signed: *Responsible Financial Officer, Lynne Compton*

Date: 18th May 2021

