STILTON PARISH COUNCIL



March



Chairman's letter

Dear Residents

Many of you have probably opened your Council Tax bills and are now asking the question, what is the Parish Council actually doing with our money.

So, I am writing on behalf of the Parish Council to explain why the Parish precept will be increasing in 2026/27 from £123,194 to £147,143 (or just under £24,000), which equates to approximately a 48p per week increase for the average Band D property.

We understand that these are challenging financial times, and this decision has not been taken lightly. Over the past year, our Parish Council team has been working to tackle long-standing issues across the village but to make real progress, we need additional staff capacity so from 1 April 2026, our budget will include:

*Increasing the Clerk's hours from 24 to 28 per week
*Increasing one Amenity Caretaker role from 10 to 20 hours per week
*Paying overtime for Pavilion cleaning at weekends.

These changes have added costs, including covering the Government's increase in Employer's National Insurance along with Employer's Pension contributions. The extra capacity is essential though to move from simply managing issues to actively resolving them.

We know there are many important projects waiting to be done and we ask for your patience as we focus on the priorities that matter most, including:

***A new play area at Barn Close for children under six**
***Skate Park renovation**
***Pavilion parking improvements**
***Addressing traffic, parking, and speeding issues**
***Reviewing the need for a safe road crossing**
***Progressing the Parish Room into a Heritage Centre**
***Expanding and improving burial areas**
***Completing the Neighbourhood Plan to maximise CIL income**
***Undertaking tree and memorial surveys.**

Even with five part-time staff and nine councillors, the workload is substantial. Having the full complement of eleven councillors would make a real difference - please consider standing for election in May and contact us for more detail.

We are continuing to take steps to manage costs efficiently. Bringing bus shelter and window cleaning in-house, streamlining village grass cutting and installing solar battery storage are all expected to create ongoing savings.

.... continued on the next page

Chairman's letter continued ...

I would also like to remind you that your Parish Councillors take nothing from the Precept, we all volunteer our time for free, helping to make Stilton a wonderful place to live.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We remain committed to delivering improvements that benefit the whole community.

Sue Ayres
Chairman
Stilton Parish Council

SCAN HERE

Scan for more details on the Parish Council precept and budgets

Year:	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	**26/27**
Band D charge:	£148.86	£150.41	£149.63	£147.81	£143.81	£149.82	**£174.98**
Properties:	776	768	772	797	819	822.3	**840.9**

The increase in precept for Stilton from £123,194 to £147,143, for the Parish Council element on your Council Tax, equates to an anticipated £25.16 per year for a Band D property.

Decisions made at our February meeting:

* To provide the Cheese Rolling team with complimentary use of the Community Field for their upcoming event on Sunday May 24 2026. Although we have had to charge for use of the Pavilion this year, this is needed to cover costs of use.
* Accept a Watercourse grant from Cambridgeshire County Council for £2,675 to make improvements at the Apreece Way grill which should enable improved water flow.
* Purchase more cutlery and crockery for the Pavilion to enable us to increase income through this revenue stream, as well as replace the current 15 large tables that are end of life.
* Use CIL funds to buy a new oak noticeboard for Parish Council and community use at the North end of the village for £3,202.80.

Full meeting minutes can be found on our website, **www.stiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Parish Council Elections - your chance to get involved

🗓️ **How Parish Council Elections Work -** Parish council elections are how residents choose the people who make decisions about local services and community priorities in your area — from grass cutting to running community halls to neighbourhood planning and local events.

📍 **What's a Parish Council? -** Parish councils are the most local level of government in England and are made up of local people who volunteer their time. They represent your community's voice and help shape everyday local life.

📅 **When Are Elections Held? -** Parish council elections usually take place every four years, often on the same day as other local elections (e.g., district council elections). This year's election is on Thursday 7 May. If a seat becomes vacant between elections, co-option can be used to fill it.

👥 **Who Can Stand? -** Anyone aged 18 or over, who lives or works in the parish (or within a short distance), can stand for election.

📝 **How to Nominate Yourself -** Prospective candidates must submit a nomination paper supported by local electors by the deadline set by the local authority.

✅ **Voting -** Residents who are registered electors in the parish can vote. If there are more candidates than seats, voting takes place by ballot; otherwise, candidates may be elected unopposed.

💡 **Why It Matters -** Parish councils influence everyday aspects of local life — from community facilities to environmental projects. Being a councillor is a great way to improve your neighbourhood and represent your community's views.

Contact the Clerk for more details or nomination papers

What is Local Government Reorganisation?



•In 2024, the Government announced plans for local government reorganisation (LGR) and devolution in England.

•From April 2028, all local services - such as road maintenance, bin collections, education, planning, social housing, social care, and benefits support - will be delivered by a single unitary council.

•Councils in existing two-tier areas have submitted proposals to Government for what these new unitaries could look like.
Option A, B and D sees Huntingshire wholly or partly join with Peterborough.
Option E creates a separate Huntingdonshire Unitary Council.

The consultation is open until March 26th - scan below or go to huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings-and-decision-making/local-government-reorganisation

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE AND TAKE PART IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONSULTATIONS FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

IMPORTANT

This is **your** chance to have a say in our future!