STILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Monthly Newsletter

In this issue ... Remembrance Day services, Parish Council finances, the new Pavilion garden, start of the Neighbourhood Plan and more



Remembrance Day Services

There will be a Service and placing of wreaths, at 11am on 11 November 2021 at the War Memorial, conducted by Richard Gibb.

On Sunday 14 November 2021, the 11am Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial will be conducted by Mark Pybus. The Last Post will be sounded before the Service by the War Memorial at around 10.45am.

Future Finances

At its October meeting, the Parish Council continued discussions on its finances for the next financial year, 2022-23. We are all aware of the delicate balance that many organisations have in managing their finances after the pressures of COVID-19, and the Parish Council is no exception.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that any such pressures are not passed on to residents. For users of the Pavilion, the Council has agreed that booking fees will remain unchanged for the coming financial year. Some simplifications will be put in place to ensure those making bookings understand what is provided, but charges will not increase.

The Council is also determined to avoid increasing the village precept, the part of the council rates paid to the Parish for the upkeep of the village. Councillors will do their utmost to ensure they continue to serve the village in 2022-23 within the current 2021-22 budget. But please remember that any changes to the number of properties in the village may increase or decrease the individual charge to a household.



New Pavilion garden

Those visiting the Pavilion or playing field will have noticed the new fencing around the area to the south of the Pavilion. Thanks to a successful bid to Huntingdonshire District Council for CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds, we have been able to start a long-awaited project to create an enclosed garden space for the Pavilion.

The fencing is now complete and the non-paved area has received fresh topsoil and is grass seeded. When the grass is established, it is planned to plant trees and shrubs to create an attractive garden space both as a private area for users of the Pavilion and, when the gates to the playing field are opened, a public link area to the Pavilion for major events on the playing field and in the Pavilion –perhaps even a village fete!





Neighbourhood Plan

For some months the Council has discussed preparing a strategic development plan for the future of our village. One option for this is what is called a "Neighbourhood Plan". This legally-recognised document provides direction for any future development of the village by drawing together much information on the current state of the village.

Such a plan is not undertaken lightly as it requires a considerable amount of work. However, we could benefit from the efforts of other villages that have already completed, or are currently working on, their Plans. Neighbourhood Plans should be community-led and that means researched, written and voted on by the people who live in the village; the Parish Council must therefore involve Stilton residents in drawing up the Stilton Plan. Contributions would be especially welcomed from those with knowledge of, or enthusiasm for, various important aspects of the plan, e.g. history, nature conservation, but input from all residents will be sought.

The Parish Council decided at its October meeting to proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Stilton and initial work will set out the issues that must be addressed.

Please watch future editions of SCAN, Facebook and the Parish Council website (www.stiltonparishcouncil.org) to see how you can become involved in this exciting project.

Parish Council meetings

In order to continue with appropriate social distancing and provide adequate space for members of the public to attend meetings, the Parish Council decided to continue to hold its meetings for the coming year in the Church Meeting Room.

These will take place at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Committee meetings will also convene on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend all these meetings and there is an item on every agenda for them to raise issues they'd like the Council to consider. Agendas and details of meetings will be found on the village notice boards and on the Parish Council website **(www.stiltonparishcouncil.org)**.

