STILTON PARISH COUNCIL: NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023





As this is our last newsletter before the festive season, the Parish Council would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and hope everyone has a wonderful break.

Meeting round-up

At our November meeting we decided to ...

* Co-opt a new councillor. We welcome Anne who has recently moved to Stilton from Buckden and completes our team of 11 councillors. We still have spaces on our Working Groups though so if you'd like to get involved in community matters, find more details below.

* Grants – we awarded SCAN £200 in grant funds to help continue the great service they provide to Stilton residents.

* Keep Pavilion costs the same for the next financial year (2024-2025). Stilton residents are entitled to a 25% discount on Pavilion hire – just ask our Pavilion Administrator, Mary-Ann for more details (contact numbers at the bottom) or visit the Pavilion page on our website for more information and to fill out an enquiry form.

* Keep burial fees at the same levels but increase the cost of purchasing the Exclusive Rights of Burial and Interment fees for cremated remains from £120 to £150 each from 01/04/24 in the Garden of Remembrance. Fees for non-residents are triple these rates.

Please contact the Clerk if you would like to know more about burials in Stilton.

* Maintain the precept at the current rate for the next financial year at £117,782.00. The Parish Council is facing higher staff costs, energy prices (as we exit a very economical 3 year fixed rate for our electricity and gas) and will go live soon with our fully monitored CCTV service. This will cover the Pavilion, Community field, Play Park and Skate park and is a service provided by Huntingdonshire District Council.

However, Pavilion income is increasing and higher interest rates are providing income on Parish Council reserves, which enable us to keep the precept at the same level. We'll let you know what a band D property will pay next year for the Parish Council's element on your council tax in January's SCAN.

Full meeting minutes can be found on our website, www.stiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk or scan the QR code for a quick link.

Does Stilton's history interest you?

The Parish Council is working toward transforming the Parish Room into a useable Heritage Centre for the village where Stilton's Heritage Books will hopefully find a home. Yvonne Warner has been collecting village information for years and is just about to complete book number 12 but is ready to pass the baton to a new Book Keeper. This could be the role for you if you are interested in

Giving time to explore village events

Talking to people

Taking photographs

Presenting findings

Yvonne is happy for anyone who is interested to call in at the Old School to have a chat and look at current books or you could pass your details to the Parish Clerk who can forward them on.

Bin collections over Christmas

Stilton bin collections will vary over the festive season. For more information, visit our website or download a collection calendar from www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins

Working Groups

The Parish Council has several Working Groups that might be of interest and are open to you joining. To become a member you don't need to be a Parish Councillor, just have an interest and be available to attend informal meetings. It's a great way to get involved in the community.

Current Working Groups include ...

* Traffic and Parking – explore opportunities to improve traffic and parking issues in the village, putting forward ideas for projects to help find solutions.

* Green Spaces – looking at how to enhance green spaces in and around Stilton for the benefit of residents and the natural environment, with a particular focus on biodiversity.

* Neighbourhood Plan – this is a large and important document that reflects a vision for Stilton put forward by residents. All viewpoints are welcome to shape this document.

For membership to any of the above Working Groups, just contact the Parish Clerk who will provide you will further information.

Village Caretaker



The Parish Council was extremely sad to hear our Village Caretaker, Ian Croll, had passed away following a short illness. Ian gave 28 years services to the village ... diligently, quietly and consistently attending to his duties. We will miss seeing Ian around the village, chasingleaves and using his trusted dustpan and brush to keep our streets, play areas and Community field tidy.

Sincerest sympathy to Ian's family, especially his mum, Mary.

Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11 December in the Church Meeting Room at 7.30pm. You can find the agenda on the village notice boards and our website the week before the meeting and are always welcome to attend. Let us know your feelings on any item addressed on that agenda or inform us of anything you'd like the Parish Council to look at in the future by joining us at the meeting or emailing the Parish Clerk with your concerns.

CONTACT US

The Clerk - clerk@stiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 01733 639106

For all Pavilion enquiries - pavillion@stiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07484 746894 (Pavilion line open daily 10am until midday)

Website - www.stiltonparishcouncil.gov.uk