



SHOTTESWELL
PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

🐣 2021 🐣





A Year in Review & News

On behalf of the Parish Council may I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of our new residents and we hope that you are settling well into village life. My thanks go to existing residents for their continued support in making Shotteswell a nice place to live. I am sure that this is valued more than ever after the past year.

At the time of writing my last report the Coronavirus pandemic had just hit the country. The Parish Council were quick off the mark to contact the County Council on the 13th March seeking advice on how to deal with the evolving emergency. On reflection, I do not believe that anyone could have quite envisaged the challenges that the country would face and the impact on everyone's day to day lives. In this unprecedented year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has stepped up to the plate and helped in whatever capacity during this crisis, we can only hope that by the summer a more normal way of life will resume.

Thankfully, no one in the Parish lost their life to this dreadful disease. We are aware that a number of our residents have been unlucky enough to catch the virus and some have been particularly unwell, we have tried our best to support these families with offers of help and will continue to do so wherever we can.



Library Dates for 2021

Owing to the continuation of special arrangements due to the Coronavirus lockdown the following information is available. Unfortunately, I am only able to provide you with dates up until June as hopefully, the mobile fleet will be back in action at some point during that month with the requisite timetable changes that will come with that process which haven't yet been created.

Are you aware that the library service is operating a select and collect system whereby they pre-select books for customers and provide a contactless service? This can be arranged via the office by telephoning 01926 851031.

Here are the next few dates for Shotteswell:

26th April

24th May

21st June

12.35 - 12.55 Call at the Bus Shelter. When the June timetable comes we will post it on the village noticeboard.

Council Tax- what is a precept?

Each year the Parish Council asks for a housekeeping budget, known as the precept. The precept is spent on such items as Grass Cutting, Insurance, Rent for the Playing Field, plants etc. Often people are left a little confused when they read their council tax demand and so hopefully, the explanation below will give more clarity on the precept calculation.

Whilst the Shotteswell total precept remained the same for 2021/22 as the previous year at £6,500 the amount that appears on the bill does depend on the taxbase figure.

The tax base is the number of properties in the parish worked back to a band D figure. The relationship between the bands is shown below and based on 1/9ths.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 6/9 | 7/9 | 8/9 | 9/9 | 11/9 | 13/9 | 15/9 | 18/9 |

It can be seen that a band H property pays twice that of a band D and a band A pays 6/9ths.

So for Shotteswell the tax base dropped between 2020/21 and 2021/22 from 124.31 to 120.35.

The tax base changes as a result of properties dropping out of rating, single person discounts, housing benefit, and new builds or revaluations.

The calculation for 2020/21 was $\text{£}6,500 / 124.31 = \text{£}52.29$ precept on a band D property bill and for 2021/22 the calculation is $\text{£}6,500 / 120.35 = \text{£}54.01$ precept on a band D property bill.

The precept figures are quoted as Band D being the 'average', another example would be a figure of £66.01 is for a band E property precept so the £54.01 is divided by 9 multiplied by 11 = £66.01.

In simple terms, the same bill is being divided by a smaller number of people so each pays a little more.

I hope this explains why the precept on the bill has increased despite the total parish precept request remaining the same, we have maintained this figure since 2019 and not raised the precept as many other villages have.

You may have missed the section in the council booklet that shows comparable villages precepts such as Warmington who precept for £10,233, Radway £11,824, Ratley £14,500, Farnborough £19,830, Oxhill £11,025 and Avon Dassett £15,610, as you may appreciate £6,500 makes us the lowest in the immediate area largely due to good husbandry.

By way of example
20/21

If you receive any form of discount or reduction on your bill, you must notify the Council immediately of any change in your circumstances that may affect it.

Council Tax is collected by Stratford-on-Avon District Council on behalf of the following:

| | | % Change |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Warwickshire County Council | £1,660.12 | 2.0 % |
| Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care | £159.61 | 2.0 % |
| The Police and Crime Commissioner | £290.85 | 4.4 % |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council | £176.15 | 3.6 % |
| Parish of Shotteswell | £63.91 | -0.3 % |
| Total Charge | £2,350.64 | 3.9 % |

The Council Tax attributable to Warwickshire County Council includes a precept to fund adult social care. For adult social care authorities, Council Tax bills show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept, and one for the part attributable to general expenditure. Details are shown in the District Council's Your Services, Your Money booklet.

Go green and view your account online. You can also choose to have your bills electronically. Please visit www.stratford.gov.uk/mydistrict/ and register for a My District account.

Reason for Bill: Annual Billing

000524

21/22

Fewer people
contributing hence
the perceived
increase

If you receive any form of discount or reduction on your bill, you must notify the Council immediately of any change in your circumstances that may affect it.

Council Tax is collected by Stratford-on-Avon District Council on behalf of the following:

| | | % Change |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| Warwickshire County Council | £1,696.49 | 2.0 % |
| Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care | £177.80 | 1.0 % |
| The Police and Crime Commissioner | £309.17 | 6.3 % |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council | £182.26 | 3.5 % |
| Parish of Shotteswell | £66.01 | 3.3 % |
| Total Charge | £2,431.73 | 3.4 % |

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Reason for Bill: Annual Billing

000817

Shotteswell Parish Council Accounts 2019/20

| Receipts | | Payments | |
|------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Interest | 2.24 | Donation | 50.00 |
| VAT Refund | 638.39 | Poppy Wreath | 50.00 |
| CIL | 1,161.00 | WALC | 104.00 |
| | | Hire of Village Hall | 50.00 |
| | | Verge Maintenance/Trees | 1,263.60 |
| | | Playing Field | 2,145.50 |
| | | Plants & Bulbs | 154.99 |
| | | Insurance | 676.20 |
| | | Printing & Stationery | 382.04 |
| | | Grass Mowing | 1,584.00 |
| | | RoSPA | 120.00 |
| | | Defib | 58.80 |
| | | Bench | 529.95 |
| | | Sundries | 574.60 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Total | 1,801.63 | Total | 7,743.68 |
| | | | |

| Reconciliation | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Balance B/F | 4,324.83 |
| Precept | 6,500.00 |
| Receipts | 1,801.63 |
| Total Receipts | 12,626.46 |
| Total Payments | 7,743.68 |
| To C/F 2019/20 | 4882.78 |

Elections

The election for a new County Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner will be held on Thursday 6th May. Polling cards currently being posted out with further details.

Horton Hospital

Owing to the Pandemic there has been little movement on the campaign. Although there appears to be a possibility that the local MP is fighting hard to get additional funding for the Horton. At this point, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking our local hospital for all that they have done during these difficult times and for all they continue to do each day.

The hospital is currently allowing some visits and planned appointments are returning to some normality, which is very reassuring.

A proposed partnership between Katharine House Hospice and Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) has been formally approved.

The partnership – plans for which were announced in November last year – will see the hospice's clinical services transfer to be under the management of OUH with effect from Thursday 1 April.

The boards of both organisations approved plans for the partnership following a period of due diligence and legal agreements have now been signed.

Katharine House Hospice, which celebrates its 30th anniversary later this year, hailed the approval as great news. Under the plans, people will continue to receive services in the same way as they do currently. It also means that the hospice will stay at Katharine House, which has been its home for almost 30 years, and the ten beds in the inpatient unit will also remain in place.

On the 5th of July, the NHS will celebrate its Seventy-Third birthday, although there is not a National Holiday for this day some events are proposed. These include raising a special NHS flag at 10am followed by an 11am two-minute silence. At 1 pm a national toast to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline workers.

Here is the tricky part at 1 pm people are encouraged to have Street parties or parties at home (as it is not a national holiday this might be a problem)

4 pm afternoon tea and finally at 8 pm clapping for the heroes and the ringing of church bells (73 in total).



I am sure residents will be about to enjoy the displays of daffodils in the village which have been planted over the years by Cllr Ingram's husband on behalf of the Parish Council. I would like to thank Cllrs Ingram and Burgess for the lovely tub displays dotted around the village.

Our planned VE day celebrations had to be cancelled last year due again to Covid. I am pleased to report that some individual, informal, socially distanced events took place at various spots around the village which were lovely to see and some houses were decorated for the event, for which we thank you.



Green Bins

The parish council tried their very best to fight this extra charge, but sadly the council voted it thorough. However, we did try by circulating a letter to every household to enable you to take advantage of the Early Bird discount of £5 per bin. We would caution about having your green bin collected too soon in case you change your mind. The council will charge to return it and you will still pay the collection fees on top.

Anyone who does not have a green bin but uses sacks can apply to Stratford and purchase these special sacks there will additionally be the annual collection fee on top sadly. Food caddies can be ordered directly from Stratford.

The dust carts now have cameras installed to check the bar codes! Also, be aware that inspection of black bins is likely to ensure garden waste is not being hidden in there. Please remember to continue to wash your hands thoroughly after taking your bins back in to avoid the spread of potential infection, bin men can move up to 2,000 bins a day.

For details of recycling please look at the web site www.shotteswellvillage.co.uk There is a wealth of information on the web site about the history of the village and all you need to know about living in a Conservation Area.

Fly-tipping

Disappointingly, we appear to have had a spate of fly-tipping these past few weeks, please report these promptly to the parish council and we will arrange to have this collected.

Poppy Wreath

Again the National Remembrance Service and collection was interrupted due to Covid restrictions. I am happy to report that the wreath was laid at the correct time and the silence observed. There was not a door to door collection last year, but all being well it is hoped this can resume this year.

The Playing field

Some repairs had to be made to the benches which included replacement seats and to the Tree House. The Parish Council intends to source replacement thatching for the parasols with a view to getting this done before the hot weather and the fete. The field is inspected annually by RoSPA. We have recently had complaints about dogs being taken into the playing field and as a consequence, there have been some unpleasant confrontations and incidences of dog fouling. Dog excrement can be extremely harmful to children in particular and is antisocial for everyone, we respectfully ask for your co-operation in not taking dogs into the field, we are aware that a number of these confrontations have been with people from outside the village. Our aim is for a safe happy, clean environment for everyone to enjoy.



Water Bowser, many might have noticed that the verges were getting carved up and a lot of water running down the road following a visit from the road sweeper, which was cleaning the road in Banbury. It took quite a lot of dissuading to stop them from coming into the village for this purpose but we got there in the end.

Parking does continue to be an issue. We thank residents for not parking on the verges, aside from spoiling the daffodils it does break down the verge and brings mud onto the road. We would remind residents that parking at junctions impedes vision for oncoming traffic and ask for your co-operation to park considerately. It is okay to park at the bus stop at weekends but please ensure that your car is moved ready to receive the buses on a Monday morning during term time.

Footpaths

The Parish Council have at last managed to get the kissing gates installed on the path by the M40. This is to enable easier passage for some of our less able residents in particular and it does look more aesthetically pleasing and is safer. We appreciate that many use the path and it is good to see people getting exercise and promoting their well-being. In the main, most owners are clearing up after their pets which is encouraging, but we do have concerns that not letting dogs stray from the footpath on to the field which has wildlife margins for nesting birds etc is not always being observed, again we think this may be from people

visiting from outside the area. Please, challenge anyone you see doing this as we run the risk of losing the permissive path if the directions are not adhered to and the loss of this asset would be significant for the village. Thank you to the footpath volunteers, the paths have been well used this year.

New Road

As you may recall the parish council took the initiative to contact Orbit to try to avoid the very high maintenance charges imposed on some of our residents in New Road annual charges were in excess of £1,000 for each of those affected households.

We have successfully negotiated for the green area in between the houses and splays and hope to have this permanently secured by late summer.

The finer details of the maintenance of this area can then be decided. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Ingram for all of her hard work in bringing this about.



Winter & Roads Although we had a few days of snow it didn't present a problem with adequate stocks of grit. It appeared that many people enjoyed the snow and there was quite a flurry of snow pictures in evidence.



A new sign was erected in Bury Court Lane to alleviate the problems with traffic.

Problems with blocked land drains have been followed up with highways and as a result, the lorry has been around attempting to clear these. Although some have been cleared there are still a few issues. We are continuing to press for the other highways issues flagged last year. A new/old

drain was discovered and cleared by the Clerk before the council's arrival on Back Hill, which should help take some of the water flow.

However, we do appreciate with Covid it has been very difficult to do some of these works with staff diverted to help with more pressing issues and to cover staff shortages.



Sadly, the winter took its toll on many of the garden walls around the village, the most significant one being on the Back Hill, which led to a road closure for a couple of weeks to allow for repairs. The council organised with Stratford to get the bins emptied, unfortunately, Snuff Lane had theirs missed the first week and the Clerk organised for the bin men to return.

Electricity

For some time the Parish Council has been working closely with Western Power. We have successfully negotiated the removal of overhead wires in various parts of the village. The last of which was on First Turn/New Road.

Again the dreaded virus impeded the programme of works but we have been in contact and are again pressing for the works to be undertaken in Middle Lane and Snuff Lane as promised.

During discussions with Western Power, we will also be seeing the removal of some of the wires in Chapel Lane in the Church area and Redlands Court.

Trees interfering with wiring in this area were cut back in the meantime, whilst waiting for the works to progress.

A recent power cut was thought to be due to a fault with a fuse that took out most of Middle Lane, Snuff Lane and some of Bakehouse lane. We believe this may be due to trees again rubbing the wires and have identified those that might be causing an issue, these are being reported to Western Power for attention.

One of the things that did come to light in our discussion is power charging points for electric cars. It is imperative that before attempting an installation of a charging point that you consult with Western Power so that you do not overload the system. Much of our eclectic supplies are not geared up for the extra power that will be required to facilitate this additional loading. Sadly some of these applications have been refused as the charger has not been compatible and the cars returned to the supplier, so please double-check before purchase otherwise we may experience outages.



A new £50 polymer banknote is being released on the 23rd June 2021, no recall date has been given for the old type, however, at least six months notice will be given before being withdrawn from circulation.

Scams

There appear to be several scams circulating some originate from emails but others are by telephone calls.

Shortage of postage, email scam, this involves asking for around £1.99 in unpaid postage. Royal Mail will only contact you by putting a card through your door if there is a shortfall in unpaid postage and they will not ask for odd pence.

Census forms, again email stating that you have incorrectly filled in the form and failure to comply will result in a fine.

Amazon prime stating that your amazon account is about to expire generally by telephone call.

Telephone calls claiming that your internet has been compromised or that it is going to be closed.

Bells are always very special and I am sure most will have missed them being rung as Church Services were suspended due to the Covid outbreak.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Alan for tolling the bell one hundred times for the sad passing of Captain Tom.

Although it was a sad occasion it was lovely to hear the bells again and to pay tribute to this remarkable man.



Refuse Collections for 2021/2022

| Month | Green/Blue Recycle/Garden | Grey Household |
|-----------|------------------------------|----------------|
| May | 12th/26th | 5th/19th |
| June | 9th/23rd | 2nd/16th/30th |
| July | 7th/21st | 14th /28th |
| August | 4th/18th | 11th/25th |
| September | 1st/15th/29th | 8th/22nd |
| October | 13th/27th | 6th/20th |
| November | 10th/24th | 3rd/17th |
| December | 8th/22nd | 1st/15th/29th |
| January | 5th/19th | 12th/26th |
| February | 2nd/16th | 9th/23rd |
| March | 2nd/16th/30th | 9th/23rd |

We are given to understand that even if you do not pay for a green bin collection, Christmas Trees will still be collected from anyone who leaves them out on the correct day.

We thank residents for being considerate and not having bonfires this was very much appreciated by the community. Compost bins are available from Stratford District Council. The classic style is on offer for £10 and the deluxe model for £35 (hot compost bin).

We are very minded that many of our residents do not have access to smartphones and the internet. This has led to considerable distress for many highlighted again recently with the online census forms. We do not want to add to this distress and so we have not met as many times as we would have liked to but we have continued to work on your behalf and have been contactable at all times. With us moving forward we look forward to meeting you again in person shortly. I thank my fellow councillors for their continued support

Your Parish Councillors are: Les Faulkner, Chairman (01295 730576) Val Ingram, Clerk (01295 730203) Michael Pearson, Vice Chairman, Jan Burgess & Ben Zammett.

At the time of going to press we have heard of the sad passing of Prince Philip, on behalf of the community, we extend our deepest condolences to the Queen and her family on their loss.





