



Bishopstoke Parish Council

Newsletter

Spring 2023

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Bishopstoke Memorial Hall

The project to provide a new Community Building for Bishopstoke is moving forward! It is planned that the current Hall will be demolished this year and the site cleared. We are looking at several different possibilities for how a new building would serve the people of Bishopstoke and also fit in with the existing buildings and landscape. Once we have plans ready to show people there will be a public consultation to give us an idea of the preferred design for the building.



At the same time as the new building goes up the Parish Council is looking to revamp the rest of Glebe Meadow, in particular by replacing the skate park and making better use of the meadow itself to provide a picnic area in amongst new wildflower planting and trees.

The Borough Council has already promised over £1 million towards the new building, but we will need to get significant other funding to get the building Bishopstoke deserves, and how we go about that will be discussed by the Council in the coming months.

We are looking forward to getting started on Bishopstoke's new building!

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

You can find us on www.bishopstokepc.org. We're also on Facebook.
The Parish Office is now closed but appointments can be arranged if needed.

PARISH CLERK: David Wheal 07368 487464 clerk@bishopstokepc.org

ASSISTANT CLERK & RFO: Sophie Thorogood 07444 798083 finance@bishopstokepc.org

CEMETERIES ENQUIRIES: Alex Luck 07368 695648 cemeteries@bishopstokepc.org

PROJECTS OFFICER: Cheryl Taylor 07521 735539 projects@bishopstokepc.org

Allotments allotments@bishopstokepc.org

Carnival carnival@bishopstokepc.org

Assets assets@bishopstokepc.org

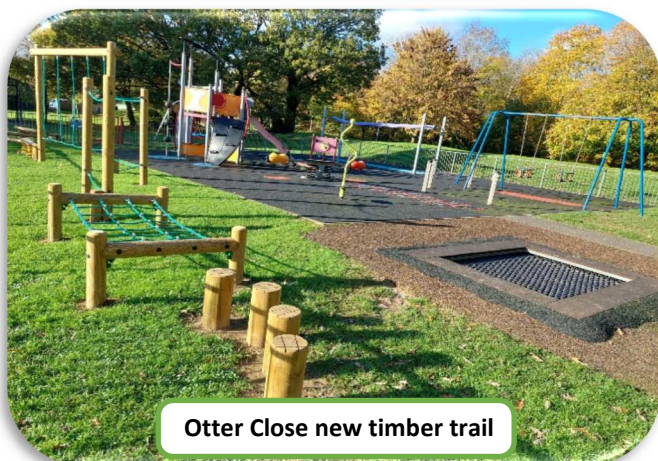
Council Funding 2023-24

Bishopstoke Council Tax rises by £1.31 per month for a Band D household.

The Parish Council has now agreed the budget for 2023-24. We have tried to keep costs as low as we can because we know how difficult things are at the moment. However, costs are also rising for the Council in providing the services we do, from play areas to burial grounds and everything in between.

The Council has lowered planned spending on newsletters, overtime, grants and allotments, and reduced the amount being set aside for Glebe Meadow this coming year, which has enabled us to keep our precept rise down to 20% - equivalent to an extra £1.31 per month for a Band D house, and a total of £94.06 for the year.

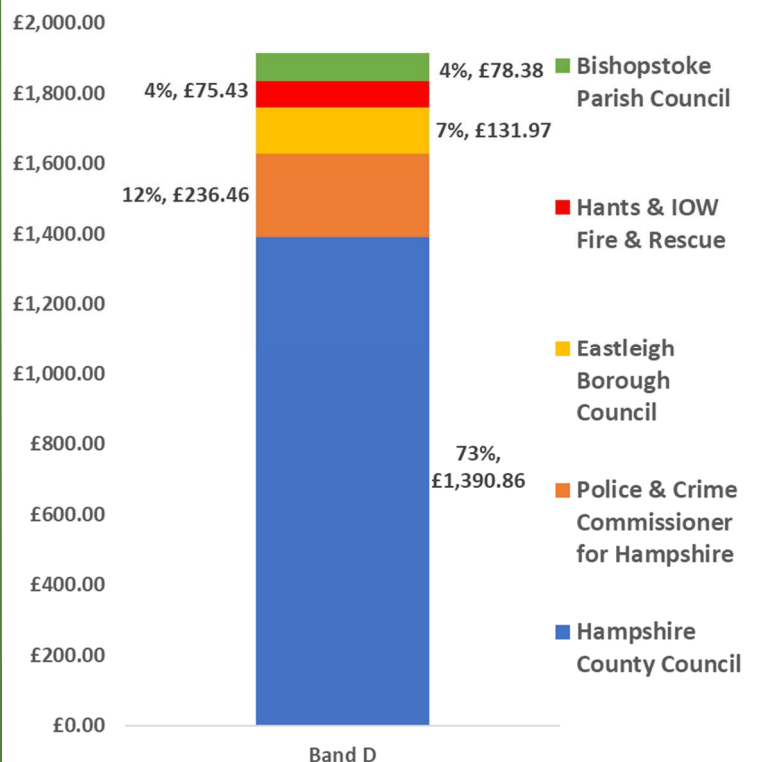
Two of this year's completed projects



Just over a third of the money that Bishopstoke Parish Council receives goes towards paying the staff who run the cemetery, the allotments, the play areas and the Council meetings. Another quarter covers the contract to keep our grass cut and hedges trimmed.

The rest (about £145,000 this coming year) pays for allotments and cemeteries, play areas and travel tokens, carnival and communications, as well as saving something for the new Memorial Hall.

Where did your 2022-23 Council Tax go?



Council Tax doesn't just fund Bishopstoke Parish Council. The chart above shows the breakdown of where your money went last year, with Hampshire County Council claiming nearly £1,400 for the year, compared to £78 taken by Bishopstoke.

Council Updates

Stoke Park Farm Consultation

The consultation on what to do with the land at Stoke Park Farm that was purchased by the Borough Council last year is still live. To take part in the consultation please go to the Eastleigh Borough Council website and type “Stoke Park Farm” into the search box on their main page. The consultation runs until 31st March 2023.



Reporting Problems

If you find a problem with any of our play areas, allotments or other sites, please go to our website where you can fill in a report for us to follow up on. Alternatively, please use the contact details on the front page.

Sewall Drive & Bow Lake Gardens

We continue to monitor the situation with the public spaces at Sewall Drive and Bow Lake Gardens but unfortunately neither are able to be offered to the Parish Council yet. This means both new allotment sites, the new cemetery, the open space at Sewall Drive, the community orchard at Bow Lake Gardens and the play area at Judges Gully are all still either owned by the developers or in the hands of the Borough Council.



We are aware of reports of anti-social behaviour at several of the sites. Please contact the police non-emergency number (101) to report such incidents unless you believe a serious offence has been committed, or there is immediate danger to either people or property – in which case call 999. The more incidents are reported, the more often the police will patrol the area.

This newsletter CAN be recycled.

We only print on FSC accredited paper from sustainable sources. These are monitored by the Forestry Stewardship Council to ensure sustainability. We don't print on recycled stock which can be harmful to the environment because harmful chemicals and bleaching agents can be used in the recycling process. We use vegetable-based ink instead of chemical ink

Coronation Big Lunch – 7th May 2023

Following the announcement of the coronation of King Charles III this coming May, Bishopstoke Carnival group have decided to switch plans for a Sports Day on June 3rd, and instead host a Big Lunch on 7th May along with the rest of the nation.

Bring your picnics and join us on Blackberry Drive from Noon on the 7th to enjoy an afternoon of fun as we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

War Memorial



Bishopstoke Jubilee War Memorial

As part of the Glebe Meadow project the War Memorial will be moved to a new location, hopefully at Old St Mary's – the old churchyard near the bottom of Church Road opposite Glebe Meadow.

Defibrillators

Defibrillators funded by the Parish Council are now in place at Bishopstoke Methodist Church, the Bishopstoke Community Centre and Stokewood Surgery, with two more planned for Underwood Road allotments, and near the Cemetery on Sewall Drive.



Events in 2023

Tuesday 9th May 2023 – Parish Assembly and Parish Council Annual Meeting

Sunday 7th May 2023 – The Coronation Big Lunch will take place on the open space at Blackberry Drive (this replaces the Sports Day planned for June 3rd).

Sunday 17th September 2023 – The return of Bishopstoke Carnival.

To volunteer to help with the Big Lunch or Carnival, please contact the Clerk. We particularly need people to be in the river on Carnival Day but all help is welcomed!

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are currently taking place at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church on Sedgwick Road. More details about the meetings can be found at www.bishopstokepc.org.

NEXT MEETINGS

Full Council: 14th March, 9th May

Assets: 28th March, 23rd May

People: 28th Feb

Finance: 14th Feb, 11th April

Planning: All dates above plus 25th April