



Bishopstoke Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2022

The Newsletter from Bishopstoke Parish Council for Bishopstoke residents with news of the Parish Council, local voluntary organisations and residents

In This Edition

In this edition we cover Bishopstoke Parish Council's budget for 2022-23 and what that means for your Council Tax. There are updates on Council grants and what the Parish Council is doing around Bishopstoke at the moment. We also have another survey for you, this time on our plans for Stoke Common Cemetery. Please let us know if you have any ideas for information or improvements we could include next time.

Council Grants

So far this financial year the Council has given £202.66 to Bishopstoke WI for new tables; £150 to Victim Support for security items to be provided to victims and their families and £2,000 to Bishopstoke Guides for a replacement fire door and other fire safety equipment.

As we do every year, we have also provided £750 for the local Street Pastors, to help them with the wonderful work they do in the community.

To apply for a grant, please contact the Clerk or the RFO using the details below. There is still time to apply this year, and the Council has increased the grant fund for the Jubilee year so more groups can be helped.

What's On

SAVE THE DATE

**Friday June 3rd - Blackberry Drive
Jubilee Picnic & Party**



Bishopstoke WI meets at 7:15pm on the 1st Monday every month (except bank holidays) at Bishopstoke Evangelical Church. The next meetings are March 7th and April 4th.

Call 02380 617262 or email

bishopstokepres@hampshirewi.org.uk for details.

To be included in the next newsletter, or on the website, please contact the Clerk.

www.bishopstokepc.org/whatson

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

You can call us on 023 80643428 or find us on www.bishopstokepc.org . We're also on Facebook.

The Parish Office is currently 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 OFFICER: Jen Wilkie 07555 658621 cemeteries@bishopstokepc.org

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

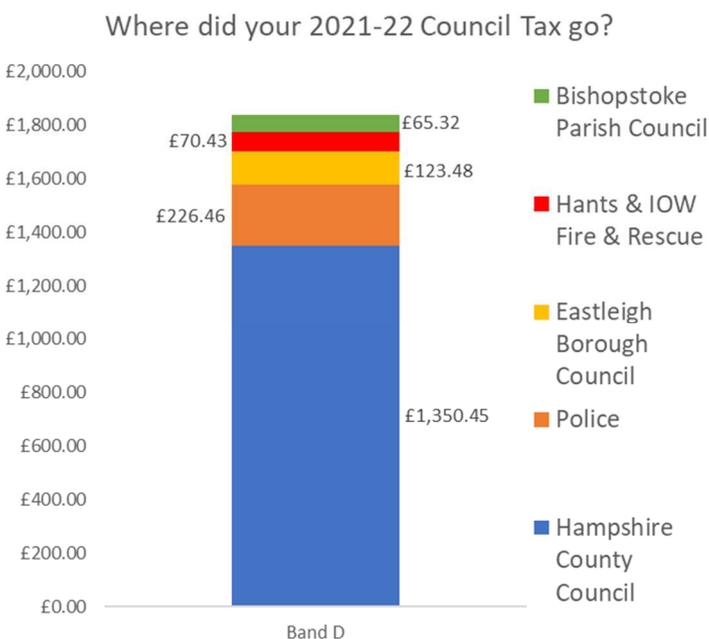
Allotments allotments@bishopstokepc.org

Carnival carnival@bishopstokepc.org

Council Funding 2022-23

Each January Bishopstoke Parish Council decides what its budget will be for the coming year. The Councillors discuss all the projects they would like to continue or introduce, along with the likely costs. These are added to the Council's ongoing costs for things like looking after trees, maintaining play areas and running the allotments and Cemetery.

This gives an idea of how much money the Council will need for the year if it wishes to go ahead with everything the Councillors have prioritised. The majority of the funding comes from the Borough Council and is collected from every house in Bishopstoke as part of the Council Tax.

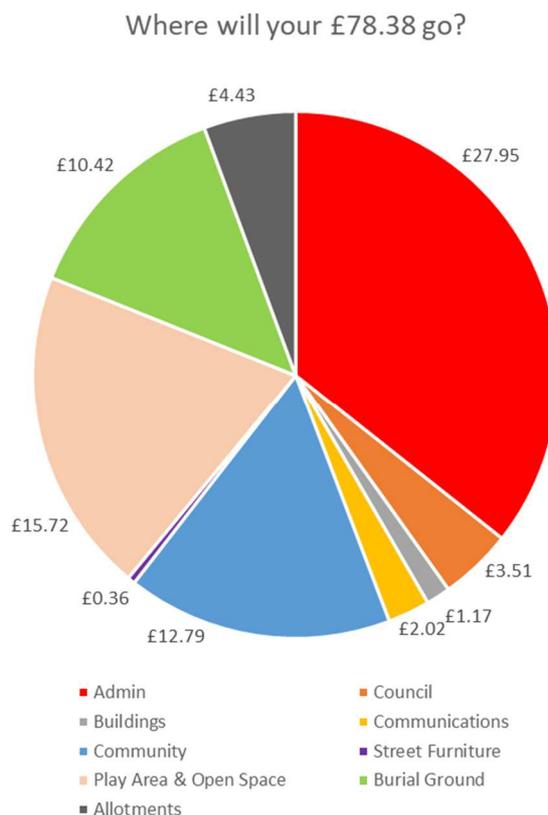


As you can see from the chart, Hampshire County Council takes most of the Council Tax.

For 2021-22, Bishopstoke Parish Council only received £65.32 out of £1,836.14 from a house that was in Band D.

The money that Bishopstoke Parish Council requests from Eastleigh Borough Council is called the "precept". How much each household pays depends on which Council Tax band they are in.

This year Bishopstoke is asking for £78.38 from a band D house (a band A house will pay £52.25, and band H will pay £156.78). This means that a band D house will pay an extra £1.09 per month (on average, at the moment a loaf of bread costs £1.07).



The Council spends most of its money on the employees needed to carry out all the things it does. The next largest chunk is taken by the grounds contract, which covers grass cutting, hedge trimming, weed killing and various other things.

Council Spending 2022-23

Over the past two years the Parish Council has seen increases to both its staff and its responsibilities, and as a result costs have increased too. The grounds contract, having been held at a low rate for almost a decade, has finally had to be increased to ensure that the excellent service Bishopstoke residents have come to expect can continue. Congratulations to Green Smile on winning the contract for another three years.

As the coming year includes the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Council has decided to increase the grant fund for the year to £15,000. Local charities, community groups and individuals are encouraged to apply for funding for projects aimed at helping those in Bishopstoke.

New Village Hall & Glebe Meadow

One of our main priorities is the replacement of Bishopstoke Memorial Hall. As we announced in the last issue, the project now includes updating and improving the whole of Glebe Meadow. There is significant funding coming from Eastleigh Borough Council, but Bishopstoke will need to play its part in funding the projects too. To this end, we are putting £25,000 into the Glebe Meadow fund this year and expect to add at least that amount each year going forward. We will also be looking for grants and other funding to help offset the cost to Bishopstoke residents.

Village Trails

We are updating the "Bishopstoke Heritage Trail" map. A group of Councillors is putting together a series of routes that will be good for walking, running or cycling. These will be available online, on leaflets and hopefully on boards at the start of each route.



Map Boards

The map boards around Bishopstoke are aging now and the Council is planning to update and replace them over the next 18 months. The new boards

will reflect the recent developments around Bishopstoke.

Defibrillators

We are hoping to install up to four defibrillators at locations around Bishopstoke.



YZone

We have supported the YZone for 10 years now so that teenagers in Bishopstoke have the support services they need and a place to go to make new friends and socialise.

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 on our website, www.bishopstokepc.org.

Council Updates

Play Areas

Along with the Glebe Meadow plans, the Council is anticipating taking over the play area at Judges Gully Close. Additionally, we are planning to replace the fencing and gate to Church Road play area as well as update the equipment at the Blackberry Drive play area.

We have also entered into a maintenance contract with VitaPlay which means any problems with the play areas should be identified and fixed more quickly.

Allotments

We continue to await the transfer of allotments at both Sewall Drive and Bow Lake Gardens. As soon as we hear any news we will be in touch with all those who have waited so patiently on the waiting list.

We are having some tree work carried out at Underwood Road to clear the route by the woods and remove some dangerous trees. We are also clearing some abandoned allotments ready for new hirers. Meanwhile, you can now apply to join the waiting list for an allotment on the Parish Council website at www.bishopstokepc.org/allotments.

Travel Tokens

We are about to send out the renewal invitations for travel tokens. Please make sure you return yours promptly. If you would like to apply for tokens, or know someone who might benefit, please get in touch. You can now apply online by going to www.bishopstokepc.org/travel-tokens.

Parish Office

The Parish Office is only open for post at the moment. If you need to contact us directly please use the phone numbers or email address provided on the front of the newsletter. We are hoping to set up a temporary office at Sewall Drive when the allotments are transferred to us, and then eventually move into the new Memorial Hall.

Communications Survey

Last newsletter we included a communications survey. Thank you to all those who returned it to the Parish Office. If you didn't get a chance and would like to reply, you can complete it online by going to the Parish website and following the links. All responses will be entered into a prize draw.

Cemeteries

We are also waiting for Stoke Common Cemetery to be transferred. There is a survey with this newsletter which we would be grateful if you could fill in and return to the Parish Office. You can also visit our website to complete it online.

Memorial inspections will take place in April this year.

Next Meetings

Full Council: Mar 8th, May 10th, July 12th
Assets: Mar 22nd, May 24th, July 26th
Finance: Apr 12th, June 14th, Aug 9th
Human Resources: June 28th
Planning: All dates above