



January 2026

The Parish Council adds a bit of Christmas sparkle to Bishopstoke

For Christmas 2025 the Parish Council decorated Shears Mill. As one of the historic sites at the start of the village it seemed like an ideal location. We had lots of positive comments from people in the village who said it cheered them up when they walked past. A local business also took advantage of the fund offered to shops and businesses in Bishopstoke to help add some sparkle for Christmas. We hope the decorations helped to put everyone in the Christmas spirit. If you have any ideas for Christmas 2026, please let us know by emailing admin@bishopstokepc.org.

2026 Events in Bishopstoke

After a successful first year of Events in 2025, Bishopstoke Parish Council will be organising more events for 2026. We will have the very popular Easter Hunt & Messy Play and the Summer Messy Play sessions but we also hope to introduce a River Dipping session in the Summer Holidays. We will be running Craft sessions for children in the half term holidays with different themes and we will be Rambling again in October for Children in Need. For Christmas we will hold our Christmas Craft and Gift Fayre and are hoping to hold an Open Air Carol Concert in the village. A full schedule of the events for 2026 is available on our website www.bishopstokepc.org/events.

We will be holding a Meet your Local Councillor session on Wednesday 4th February from 6.00-8.00pm at the Bishopstoke Community Centre (BCA) on Sydney Road. The main focus will be Events and we would love to hear what you think of the events we have planned and if you have any ideas for events you would like to see in the village. This would also be a good time to sign up to help us with any of our planned events – we can always use more volunteers! Parish Councillors and Officers will be available to talk to you about any current or future Parish Council projects. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Interim Audit – Praise from the Auditor

Bishopstoke Parish Council had it's annual Interim Audit at the end of last year and the Parish Council were told by the Auditor that they were "a model of best practice for Transparency". At the last Full Council meeting, all of the Councillors thanked David Wheal, Clerk and RFO for Bishopstoke Parish Council, for all of his hard work.

Precept Increase for 2026-27

After a lot of discussion over the last few months, the Parish Council are ready to submit their precept request for 2026-27. It will see a 9% rise on 2025-26 which would mean a Band D property will see an increase from the current £116.82 per year to £127.33 per year – an extra £10.51 across the whole year, or 88p per month. This increase allows the Council to maintain it's commitments to various projects, including Glebe Meadow, the Memorial Hall and the long-term play area strategy. It also includes necessary increases in staffing hours to facilitate the Council's projects and increased number of community events and will help to protect the Council from the need for much larger increases in future years.

Parish Council Address

Please address any post to:
Bishopstoke Parish Council
BPC, PO Box 716
Eastleigh
SO50 0RQ

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm and will take place in Bishopstoke Methodist Church. For further details or information about anything the Parish Council does, please visit our website.

*For further information, please contact the Admin and Events Officer, Emma Earl
by email: admin@bishopstokepc.org.
or visit the Parish website at: www.bishopstokepc.org*