



Bishopstoke Parish Council

Newsletter

Spring 2025

DEVOLUTION

HOW DOES IT AFFECT BISHOPSTOKE?

In December 2024, the Government issued a White Paper setting out plans for giving more power to Local Authorities.

At the time of this Newsletter going to print, the process is still in its very early stages. The current proposal is to have a Mayor of Hampshire and then Hampshire would be split up into 3 or 4 authorities. The next layer would be the Town and Parish Councils. Bishopstoke Parish Council would be taking on more responsibilities for certain areas within the village that currently come under Eastleigh Borough Council.

We will be posting information on the progress of this process on our website and on our Facebook page. You can also sign up for our Email updates by going to the website www.bishopstokepc.org.

Also in this edition:

- Bishopstoke Memorial Hall
- Bishopstoke Carnival 2025
- Bishopstoke Parish Council Budget 2025/26
- Parish updates including: War Memorial, Wheels Parks consultation, Allotments, Parish Grants
- Parish Council Events 2025

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

ALLOTMENTS OFFICER: Tim Mellor 07444 798083 allotments@bishopstokepc.org

CEMETERIES OFFICER: Tim Mellor cemeteries@bishopstokepc.org

ASSETS OFFICER: Alex Duthie assets@bishopstokepc.org

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER: Emma Earl admin@bishopstokepc.org
events@bishopstokepc.org

BISHOPSTOKE MEMORIAL HALL

By the time this newsletter is published, demolition of the Memorial Hall will be well underway. It has been a much longer process to get to this stage than any of us would have liked but we are now happy to be moving forward with this project. The Glebe Meadow Play Area will remain closed until all of the demolition work is complete.



The hedge that grew down the side of the Hall has been taken down and the trees will be taken down before the start of nesting season starts. There has also been a lot of preparatory work being done inside the hall.

The 2 silhouette figures that were situated at the front of the Memorial Hall have been removed and safely stored until a new place can be found for them.



The gates have been carefully removed by a local blacksmith and stored ready to be used again when the new building is completed.

We will post regular updates on the progress of the demolition on our Facebook page.

Public Consultation

Because of the time that has passed since the initial consultation, we will be doing another public consultation so that we can make sure that the new building will be able to be used by the whole community.

For up-to-date information on the Consultation process please see our Facebook page and website. If you have any questions or comments, please email us

admin@bishopstokepc.org



BISHOPSTOKE CARNIVAL 2025

Saturday 21st June

Carnival is back for 2025! After the huge success of last year's Carnival, the amazing group of volunteers, have already started planning this year's Carnival. A huge thank you to all the new volunteers who came forward to help with the planning. The Carnival group are always looking for new volunteers.

Could you:

- Help to plan the parade and fete?
- Help with social media and marketing?
- Donate raffle prizes, sponsor the event or put an advert in our brochure?
- Help to distribute the Carnival brochures to all the houses in Bishopstoke?
- Help to Marshal the parade?
- Have a stall at the fete?
- Help with setup and tidy up on the day?
- Help to run the Duck Races?

Any time you can give would be brilliant. If you have any questions or would like any more information, please get in touch via Facebook or email us on admin@bishopstokecarnival.org.

Travel Tokens

Are you a resident in Bishopstoke who doesn't have easy access to a car and has difficulty using the bus? You could apply for our Travel Tokens. For more information, please go to our website www.bishopstokepc.org/travel-tokens and click on the "apply online" link or email clerk@bishopstokepc.org for more information and an application form.



**BISHOPSTOKE
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3RD SAT OF MONTH 2:30 TO 4:00

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BUDGET UPDATE

Bishopstoke Parish Council's council tax will increase, on average, by 17p per week

As always, January is the time when local councils set their budgets for the coming year. Bishopstoke Parish Council takes this responsibility seriously as almost all its funding comes from the council tax. Your council tax funds not just the Parish Council, but also the Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, the police, Hampshire's crime commissioner and the Hants & Isle of Wight fire and rescue and services.

If we use a Band D residence as an average, last year's total Council Tax bill in Bishopstoke was £2,123.44 with only £108 of that total going to Bishopstoke Parish Council. This year the Bishopstoke Parish Council portion of the council tax is going up by 8% to £116.82. This increase works out to be just under 17 pence per week. For a Band A residence that increase is under 12 pence per week whereas for Band H it is 33 pence per week.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY?



Bishopstoke Parish Council provides allotments at Jockey Lane and Underwood Road. The new allotments at Sewall Drive are also expected to open this year.



We have play areas at Blackberry Drive, Otter Close, Templecombe Road, Sayers Road, Glebe Meadow and the top of Church Road, as well a small bike track & a Multi-Use Games Area at Blackberry Drive.



The Parish Council runs the Cemetery and looks after St Mary's and Old St Mary's churchyards. We are also expecting the new Cemetery at Sewall Drive to open this year too.

BUDGET UPDATE



Travel Tokens. Bishopstoke Parish Council provide Travel Tokens to residents who do not have access to a car and cannot manage public transport to help with their travel costs.



Parish Grants. It also provides grants to local charities and community groups – in the past year a total of over £8,500 has been awarded to groups like Mencap; Friends of In Touch (support for families coping with autism); Life Education Wessex (Stoke Park Junior School); the Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust as well as the groups listed later on in the Newsletter.

PROJECTS FOR THIS YEAR

- A Boardwalk in Bishopstoke Cemetery
- New buildings at Underwood Road allotments
- New Wheels Park at Glebe Meadow
- Installing the War Memorial in its new home at Old St Mary's
- Memorial Hall demolition and consultation
- Tree and Bee Corridors. We are working with the Borough Council and Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council to create tree and bee corridors across the village to provide links between the various wooded areas around us and more spaces for birds, insects and other animals to live, eat and pollenate our local plants.

Devolution and local government reorganisation have been sprung upon us and Bishopstoke Parish Council, like others, is trying to work out exactly what the future looks like. The Council is working closely with other local councils to come up with the best way of moving forward.

The Councillors work hard to ensure that your money is used to help the people of Bishopstoke in the best way possible, but if you have any ideas for things you would like to see the Council doing then please do get in touch. The Council is always ready to consider ideas that could make life better for those that live here.

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are currently taking place at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church on Sedgwick Road. At the beginning of every Parish Council Meeting there is a Public Session where the residents of Bishopstoke can come along and ask any questions they may have. You are then more than welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or leave if you wish.

More details about the meetings can be found at www.bishopstokepc.org.

NEXT MEETINGS

PARISH ASSEMBLY: 22nd APRIL

Full Council: 11th Mar, 29th Apr, 13th May **Assets:** 25th Mar, 27th May

People: 24th Jun

Finance: 8th Apr, 10th Jun

Planning: All of the dates listed.



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

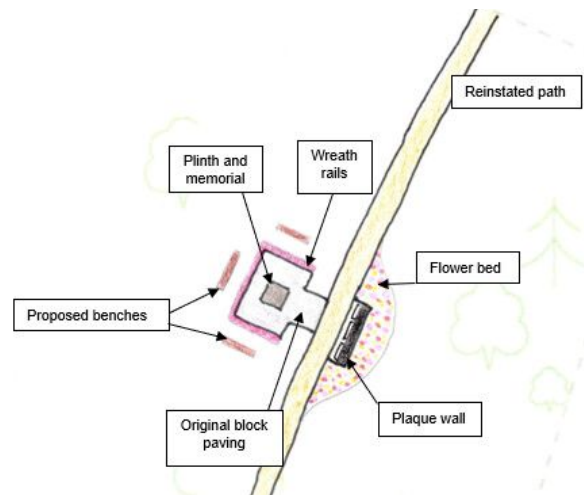
War Memorial

Work on the site for the new War Memorial is due to start this Spring. The new War Memorial will be situated next to the Old St Marys site on Church Road opposite Glebe Meadow. At last year's Armistice Service lots of people commented on how lovely and peaceful the new site was.



The old path that used to cross the site, that can just be seen in front of the bench, will be reinstated and the Plaque wall will be positioned where the bench currently is. There will also be a flower bed on the bank surrounding the Plaque wall as shown in the diagram below.

The plinth and memorial will be positioned on the other side of the path on the original block paving from the original site. The wreath rails will be placed around the paved area with benches on 3 sides for people to sit with their own thoughts in beautiful, peaceful surroundings.



Wheels Park at Glebe Meadow

We have started the consultation process for the new Wheels Park at Glebe Meadow. A Wheels Park can be used by skateboards, scooters, wheelchairs, BMX's etc and it will be suitable for all ages and abilities. After the first successful and productive meeting, our next Public Consultation will be held as part of the next Meet your Parish Councillors session on Wednesday 12th March at Bishopstoke Community Centre (BCA), Church Road from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. If you have any knowledge and/or experience you can share, have any questions or would like more information, please come along.



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Allotments

Underwood Road

There are currently some allotments available at the Underwood Road site. If you are interested in having an allotment and would like more information, please go to our website www.bishopstokepc.org/allotments.



Sewall Drive

The allotment site at Sewall Drive was finally handed over to Eastleigh Borough Council by the developers at the beginning of this year. We are currently hoping that the Borough Council will be able to transfer the site to us in the Spring. When that happens, we will be allowed to put the finishing touches to the site and contact all those currently on the waiting list. The first year will be rent free, and the Parish Council will also provide free soil improver during the first year.

For more information about anything to do with allotments, please contact the Allotments Officer by emailing allotments@bishopstokepc.org.

Parish Council Grants

Since the last Newsletter in Autumn, the Parish has awarded grants to:

- **Citizens Advice, Eastleigh.** £500 towards replacing their office intercom.
- **MHA Communities Hampshire West.** £980 – to help fund volunteer expenses and transport for Bishopstoke members and to cover the costs of producing and distributing our quarterly newsletter.
- **Disability Challengers.** £1,344 to fund a day of inclusive play and fun for six disabled children from Bishopstoke at Challengers' Eastleigh Playscheme.
- **Slice Hair Academy.** £2,000 to help fund the training of a local student.
- **Street Pastors.** £700 to help fund their work in the Community.

If you are running a local charity or community group and have a project that needs funding, please do get in touch.

To apply for a grant please contact the Clerk (clerk@bishopstokepc.org) or download a form from the website.



PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS 2025

PARISH ASSEMBLY

This year's Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 22nd April at 7pm at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church, Sedgewick Road.

The Parish Assembly is called every year by the Chair of the Parish Council and is where residents of the Parish have a chance to hear the Chair's Address and Annual Report. We also have some of the recipients of Parish Council Grants come and give a short presentation of the work they do and how the money has been spent. It is an opportunity for the residents of Bishopstoke to learn about the new projects the Parish Council will be working on over the next 12 months and to ask any questions they may have. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Please see below some information about the exciting events organised by the Parish Council for this year. More details will be put on the Parish Facebook page and website nearer the time.

Event	When?	Place	Details
Easter Word/Picture Hunt with Messy Play	Easter holidays	Sayers Road Play Area	Look for the letters to make a word or find all of the pictures on the sheet and win a small prize.
Messy Play sessions	Summer holidays	A different Play Area each week.	A chance to discover (or rediscover) all of the play areas in the Parish as well as getting a bit messy!
Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need	October	Stoke Park Woods	A great excuse for a walk in our beautiful woods and raise some money for a great charity.
Halloween Crafts	October half-term	Bishopstoke Community Centre	Come along and make some spooky decorations.
Christmas Craft and Shopping Fayre	November	TBC	A chance to get a head start on your Christmas shopping while supporting local small businesses and charities.

Meet your Parish Councillors

Thank you to everyone who has come along to the first two sessions. The next session will be on Wednesday 12th March at Bishopstoke Community Centre (BCA), Church Road from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.