

Church Stretton Town Council



BUDGET FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

Mission Statement:

“Church Stretton Town Council seeks to provide excellent services at best value

- to meet the needs and improve the well-being of all the residents of the town*
- to conserve and enhance the amenity and environment of the town in respect of its buildings and landscape*
- to ensure a sustainable and vibrant community for the continuing benefit of residents, visitors and businesses.”*

Foreword

The new financial year represents a particular challenge for the Town Council as negotiations about the future of key services and assets in the town reach their conclusion. The Town Council has created a new budget cost centre for the funding of ‘At Risk Services’ and this includes £25k revenue in 2017/18, and an additional pot of £41k for one off or capital investment in these services created from operating reserves.

The future destination of the library service in Church Stretton will be determined through a lengthy procurement process undertaken by Shropshire Council, which is likely to take until early 2018. The Town Council is committed to supporting a sustainable library service in the town, and this will have financial consequences whoever is the preferred provider. Similarly, Shropshire Council’s Facilities Strategy will indicate the level of financial support (if any) we can expect for the swimming pool and leisure centre in the future. There will inevitably be a considerable funding gap, which the Town Council alone could not hope to fill, and an innovative and multi agency partnership will be required if community use of the leisure centre is to be secured.

A new post of Amenities and Services Officer was created and filled in September 2016 as a replacement for the former post of Outdoor Team Leader. This post had a neutral cost effect on the budget, but will play a key role in pursuing value for money and cost efficiency in the way we provide all of our key services. This will include new measures to appraise the performance of contractors, increasing the use of volunteers to support us in our aims, and ensuring that we have a fully costed (and budgeted) cyclical maintenance regime for our growing property portfolio.

Staff costs have also increased due to the effect of the ‘Living Wage’, and auto enrolment, with our due date for implementation being February 2017. These increases are counterbalanced by a reduction of one full time equivalent post in the Outdoor Team following the retirement of a long standing staff member.

The Town Council has therefore agreed a Precept requirement for 2017/2018 of £362,705, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £170.74 which is an increase of £10.56 for the year (20 pence per week).

Town Council Responsibilities

Outdoor Amenity Areas:

The Town Council owns and maintains Rectory Wood & Field; Russells Meadow, Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve; the Railway Plot, A49 plot, Hazler Road triangle and War Memorial Mound.

Cemeteries:

The Town Council owns and is responsible for maintaining the Cunnery Road and Greenhills Cemeteries.

Allotments:

The Council provides land for allotments (next to the Greenhill cemetery). There are currently over 60 plots occupied, with a waiting list.

Properties:

The Council owns 60 High Street, which it purchased in 1999 and which houses the Council Office. It also owns the Lutwyche Road Car Park and toilets and the Easthope Road toilets

Markets:

There is a traditional Thursday Charter market which has been franchised in order to obtain the maximum benefit for the town.

Street Lighting and Furniture:

The Town Council provides most of the street lighting in the town (except for the main through routes). It has converted the majority of its lights to part-night-lighting in order to achieve carbon savings and reduce its energy costs. The Town Council also provides benches (mostly through donations as memorial benches) and maintains other items of street furniture.

Planters:

Since 1993 the Town Council has provided summer and winter planters for the Town. The Council is extremely grateful to businesses, organisations and individuals who contribute towards the cost of these planters to enable the displays to be kept to a high standard.

Charities:

The Town Council is Corporate Trustee to three charities which it runs for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town:

Sandford Avenue Recreation Park : this is the Town's main park which includes tennis courts, bowling green, croquet lawn, BMX track, crazy golf etc.

Brooksbury Recreation Ground: (Richard Robinson playing field) forming part of the main playing fields in the heart of the town used for sports, general recreation and community events.

Silvester Horne Institute and Cottage: This is one of the main community halls in the town and is used for the meetings of many of our local clubs and societies as well as housing the Council Chamber. The cottage is rented out and provides income to help offset the running costs of the SHI. A programme of musical events is promoted at the Institute by the Town Council in order to generate profits to offset costs and to introduce new users to the facilities.

Planning:

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning matters in the parish and makes representations on individual planning applications and changes in planning policy to Shropshire Council and at a national policy level.

Town Plan and Priorities:

The Town Council is currently working on priorities set out in the Town Plan 2015-2020. These priorities were identified primarily through the community survey conducted in 2014, and formally agreed in December 2014. Performance against priorities is reported at quarterly intervals to the Town Council to ensure that the Council's resources are focussed on the issues that are most important to local people. Progress to date has been good and as a consequence a full review of the Town Plan will be undertaken in 2017. This will enable the Town Council to re-position their priorities and target their financial and staffing resources to the greatest effect.

Representing Church Stretton's Views:

Representatives from the Town Council are appointed to a wide range of local bodies.

The Town Council also responds to numerous consultation papers from public agencies.

Making your views known:

The Town Council welcomes your views on all the services we provide.

You can do this by contacting your local Councillors, writing to the Town Clerk or calling in to the Office. We host a free to use direct line to Shropshire Council Customer Services Centre and free access to their range of on-line services.

You can also speak on any Agenda item in the 15 minutes set aside at each Council meeting.

Council meetings and Committee meetings are held upstairs in the Silvester Horne Institute. – all are open to the public.

Anyone experiencing difficulties with the access to the Council Chamber please let the Town Clerk know so that alternative arrangements for the meeting can be organised.

Notices of meetings and other matters are displayed in the Council Office window, Silvester Horne Institute, Library and Website.

Agendas and Minutes are displayed at the same venues and copies of the minutes in large print are available on request. Council minutes are also posted on the Website (www.churchstretton.gov.uk)

Church Stretton Town Council has 13 Councillors, elected every four years and representing four Wards. The Town Clerk and her staff run the Council's administration.

LIST OF TOWN COUNCILLORS

SOUTH WARD

Bugiel, M	28 Ludlow Road, Church Stretton SY6 6AA	720104
Morris, MEE	45 Swains Meadow, Church Stretton SY6 6HT	722741
Claytonsmith, H	Hares Cottage, Woolston, Church Stretton SY6 6QD	781666
Luff, H	220 Watling Street South, Church Stretton SY6 6QX	724270
Chapman, L	Oaklea, Longmynd Hotel, Cunnery Road. Church Stretton SY6 6AG	723965

NORTH WARD

Wilks, D	Littlebrook, 38 Ludlow Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6AB	723139
Braid, M	11 Hazler Orchard, Church Stretton SY6 7AL	723364
<i>(Vice-Chairman/Deputy Town Mayor)</i>		
Welch, B	111 Watling Street South, Church Stretton SY6 7BJ	07970 807116
Roberts, E	Geneva, 16 Shrewsbury Road Church Stretton, SY6 6JB	720086

LITTLE STRETTON WARD

Walker, M	Elms Lodge, Elms Lane, Little Stretton, Church Stretton	720132
<i>(Chairman/ Town Mayor)</i>		
Rees, D	1 Brockhurst, Church Stretton, SY6 6QY	723896

ALL STRETTON WARD

Hickman, R	The Mill House, Cardingmill Valley, Church Stretton SY6 6JS	722006 or 07944 505146
Baker, S	Lavernock Park, All Stretton, Church Stretton, SY6 6HF	724394

OFFICE STAFF:

Town Clerk	Marian Giles (LLB, MCIM)
Responsible Financial Officer	Christine Harvey (Cert H.E.Local Policy (L.C.A.))
Amenities & Services Officer	Mike Turner
PA to the Town Clerk/Mayor	Trish Morris
Receptionist/Admin Assistant	Rachel James

The Council Office is currently open **Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Closed 1 pm to 2pm)**

Telephone : 01694 722113 (answer-phone outside office hours)

Fax: 01694 723608 e-mail: personalassistant@churchstretton-tc.gov.uk

The Town Council's accounts are audited annually. Our internal Auditor (Bernard Townson) is an independent person who makes random checks of the accounts, papers and procedures. The external auditor is currently Mazars LLP and they are charged with ensuring legality, correctness and effectiveness of our accounts, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) England Regulations 2006. The audited accounts are available for inspection at the Council Office, 60 High Street, during normal office hours.

Copies of this leaflet in large print are available on request

**Church Stretton Town Council
Precept Requirement 2017/2018**

Outlined below is the Town Council's projected income and expenditure.

Service	Net Expenditure 2016/17	Net Expenditure 2017/18	Change in Precept Requirement
Administration & Property	£ 132,646.00	£ 119,921.00	-£ 12,725.00
Council equipment replacement fund	£ 4,500.00	£ 3,000.00	-£ 1,500.00
Outdoor Areas	£ 39,102.00	£ 62,530.00	£ 23,428.00
Markets, Regeneration & Tourism	£ 3,766.00	£ 3,986.00	£ 220.00
Cemeteries	£ 17,520.00	£ 17,670.00	£ 150.00
Easthope Road toilets	£ 13,500.00	£ 12,700.00	-£ 800.00
Lutwyche Road toilets	£ 12,100.00	£ 10,930.00	-£ 1,170.00
Lutwyche Road Car Park	-£ 800.00	-£ 1,000.00	-£ 200.00
Street Lighting	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ -
S137 Grants	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
S144 Grants	£ 2,550.00	£ 2,550.00	£ -
Mayoral Allowance	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Elections/Polls	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Coppice Leasowes	£ 1,760.00	£ 2,260.00	£ 500.00
At Risk services	£ -	£ 25,000.00	£ 25,000.00
Rectory Wood & Field	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ -
Russells Meadow Pavilion	£ -	£ 1,158.00	£ 1,158.00
Contingencies	£ 11,000.00	£ 11,000.00	£ -
Grants to Trusts:			
Silvester Horne Institute	£ 1,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,000.00
Sandford Avenue Park	£ 55,000.00	£ 40,000.00	-£ 15,000.00
Brooksbury Recreation Ground	£ 13,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 2,000.00
RESULTANT PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	£ 339,644.00	£ 362,705.00	£ 23,061.00

Grants:

The Town Council gave the following grants during the financial years 2015/16/17/18:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 (£1,000)
LGA 1972, S137:			
Royal British Legion (wreath & donation)	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Community Council	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00
Arts Festival	£0.00	£400.00	£0.00
Hope House Hospice	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
RUA	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
CAB	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
Crucial Crew	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Gardening Club	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
South Shropshire Youth Forum	£500.00	£0.00	£490.00
Shropshire Playingfields Assoc.	£0.00	£30.00	£0.00
Total S137	£895.00	£1,025.00	£ 985.00
S144:			
Christmas Lights	£400.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Friends of AONB	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Total S144	£450.00	£2,550.00	£2,550.00