

# Church Stretton Town Council



## BUDGET FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

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

At the Town Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Councillors agreed a Precept requirement for 2018/2019 of £378,395, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £176.87, an increase of £6.13 for the year (12 pence per week).

Services at Risk are still a key consideration for the Town Council in the new financial year. We continue our commitment to supporting sustainable services in the town, by committing a further £30k for this purpose.

The future destination of the Library Service in Church Stretton should be confirmed in the new financial year and at the time of writing, the Council has received requests for financial support from two prospective tenderers for this service. The Town Council is committed to supporting a sustainable library service in the town and has responded positively to the requests received, providing that either is Shropshire Council's preferred contractor.

Shropshire Council will soon indicate the level of financial support for the Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. There will inevitably be a considerable funding gap, which the Town Council alone cannot hope to fill, and an innovative, multi agency partnership will be required if community use of the leisure centre is to be secured.

Reductions in funding for Youth Services have lead us to develop a new project, working with key partners and stakeholders, we shall identify and map existing provision. Outcomes from this project may well require funding support.

Over and above these important services, Shropshire Council has proposed in their current budget consultation, to cut the Environmental Maintenance Grant, which the Town Council has received since 2008. This could leave a £3k gap in our funds, which we shall need to address to maintain service standards.

We are conducting a number of reviews across our own services, to increase efficiencies and lower costs. We continue to encourage volunteers to support us in our aims and seek external sources of funding to increase capacity, whenever this is possible.

We have also undertaken a thorough review of fees and charges, which has lead to some increases to fees that had not been increased in recent years. Significant elements of the Authority's activities, are underpinned by income generated through fees and charges. Whilst being an important element of the overall financing of the Council's services and activities, fees and charges also have an important role in ensuring that service users pay fairly for the services that they use and do not place an unfair burden on the precept payer.

Further information on the content of the budget is available as a printed leaflet from the town council office or via the town council website [www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.churchstretton-tc.gov.uk)

## **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, Easthope Road toilets and Russell's Meadow Community Sports Pavilion.

### ***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 reviewing 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. To conduct the review, a Strategic Working Group of Councillors has been formed, who will identify new and emerging priorities and rate these against any existing priorities in the Town Plan, that have not been delivered prior to the beginning of 2018/19. 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

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

## LIST OF TOWN COUNCILLORS

### SOUTH WARD

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

### NORTH WARD

<b>Wilks, D</b>	Littlebrook, 38 Ludlow Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6AB	<b>723139</b>
<b>Braid, M</b> <i>(Town Mayor)</i>	11 Hazler Orchard, Church Stretton SY6 7AL	<b>723364</b>
<b>Welch, B</b>	111 Watling Street South, Church Stretton SY6 7BJ	<b>722998</b>
<b>Roberts, E</b>	Geneva, 16 Shrewsbury Road Church Stretton, SY6 6JB	<b>720086</b>

### LITTLE STRETTON WARD

<b>Walker, M</b> <i>(Vice-Chairman/Deputy Chairman/ Town Mayor)</i>	Elms Lodge, Elms Lane, Little Stretton, Church Stretton SY6 6RD	<b>720132</b>
<b>Jay, L</b>	Kingfishers Rest, 53 Ludlow Road, Little Stretton SY6 6AD	<b>07795268643</b>

### ALL STRETTON WARD

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

### OFFICE STAFF:

<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>Danny Chetwood</b>
<b>Responsible Financial Officer</b>	<b>Christine Harvey (Cert H.E.Local Policy (L.C.A.))</b>
<b>Amenities &amp; Services Officer</b>	<b>Mike Turner</b>
<b>PA to the Town Clerk/Mayor</b>	<b>Trish Morris</b>
<b>Receptionist/Admin Assistant</b>	<b>Rachel James</b>

**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](mailto: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 new external auditor is PKF Littlejohn 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 2018/2019**

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

Service	Net Expenditure 2017/18	Net Expenditure 2018/19	Change in Precept Requirement
Administration & Property	£ 119,921.00	£ 116,496.00	-£ 2,425.00
Council equipment replacement fund	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ -
Outdoor Areas	£ 62,530.00	£ 61,820.00	-£ 710.00
Markets, Regeneration & Tourism	£ 3,986.00	£ 3,961.00	-£ 25.00
Cemeteries	£ 17,670.00	£ 17,920.00	£ 250.00
Easthope Road toilets	£ 12,700.00	£ 12,700.00	£ -
Lutwyche Road toilets	£ 10,930.00	£ 11,130.00	£ 200.00
Lutwyche Road Car Park	-£ 1,000.00	-£ 1,000.00	-£ -
Street Lighting	£ 15,000.00	£ 17,000.00	£ 2,000.00
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	£ 2,260.00	£ 2,260.00	£ -
At Risk Services	£ 25,000.00	£ 30,000.00	£ 5,000.00
Rectory Wood & Field	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00	£ -
Russells Meadow Pavilion	£ 1,158.00	£ 1,158.00	£ -
Contingencies	£ 11,000.00	£ 23,400.00	£ 12,400.00
<b>Grants to Trusts:</b>			
Silvester Horne Institute	£ 3,000.00	£ 0.00	-£ 3,000.00
Sandford Avenue Park	£ 40,000.00	£ 40,000.00	£ -
Brooksbury Recreation Ground	£ 15,000.00	£ 17,000.00	£ 2,000.00
<b>RESULTANT PRECEPT REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>£ 362,705.00</b>	<b>£ 378,395.00</b>	<b>£ 15,690.00</b>

### Grants:

The Town Council gave the following grants during the financial years 2016/17/18:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 (Budget£1,000)
<b>LGA 1972, S137:</b>			
Royal British Legion(wreath/donation)	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Community Council	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00
Arts Festival	£400.00	£0.00	£0.00
Hope House Hospice	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
RUA	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
CAB	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00
Crucial Crew	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Gardening Club	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
South Shropshire Youth Forum	£0.00	£490.00	333.00
Shropshire Playingfields Assoc.	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00
Pride of Place	£0.00	£0.00	£171.20
<b>Total S137</b>	<b>£1,025.00</b>	<b>£ 985.00</b>	<b>£ 999.20</b>
<b>S144:</b>			
Christmas Lights	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Friends of AONB	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
<b>Total S144</b>	<b>£2,550.00</b>	<b>£2,550.00</b>	<b>£2,550.00</b>