

Church Stretton Town Council



BUDGET FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/13

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 protect 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 by Town Clerk & RFO, Mrs Christine Harvey

Church Stretton Town Council will raise £255,921 through the Council Tax, which works out at an additional 20 pence per week for a Band "D" property for the year 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (total of £118.00 per household). The Town Council had been on course to set a **NIL** increase for the coming financial year (following increases of 3.98%; 0.75% and 3.5% for the last three years). This had been achieved by prudent housekeeping, making savings in several budget headings, whilst preserving the current standards of service which had been indicated as a priority at a public meeting held last October. Absorbed into this figure was the cost of running the Easthope Road toilets which the Town Council had to take over from SC otherwise they would have been closed. In addition, for the fourth year, no salary increases have been awarded to staff.

However, the Town Council was recently informed that Shropshire Council would be withdrawing their outdoor grant of c£23½k which had been originally granted by South Shropshire District Council when Church Stretton Town Council took over the Park and the Playing fields from them in 2000. These actions immediately put 10.8% increase on to the Band D figure and so some more cost saving measures had to take place to try to reduce this increase. The final figure, giving a 9.7% increase (i.e. 20 pence per week) was reluctantly approved by the Council at its meeting in January 2012.

Town Council Responsibilities

Outdoor Amenity Areas:

The Town Council owns and maintains 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 is currently working with Shropshire Council to establish how to achieve carbon savings.

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, skate park, crazy golf etc.

Brooksbury Recreation Ground: forming part of the main playing fields in the heart of the town used for football, cricket, general recreation and community events. A new playground (for 8 – 13 year olds) has been installed (funded by outside grants) and work is underway to try to secure funding for phase 2 of the project (toddler area).

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 project to extend and refurbish this building has recently been completed.

Planning:

The Town Council is consulted on all planning matters in the parish and makes representations on individual planning applications and changes in planning policy.

Strettondale Area Partnership and Church Stretton Area Tourism Group:

The Town Council has representatives on both these organisations and liaises closely with them on matters relating to the Town.

The Tourism Group works extremely hard with their "Pride of Place" initiative, cleaning up the town and railway station.

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.

Contact your local Councillors, write to the Town Clerk or call in to the Office.

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 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.

Please see the office notice board or website for details of meeting dates or telephone the Council Office for details.

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 (once ratified) are also posted on the Website (www.churchstretton.co.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
Claytonsmith H	Hares Cottage, Woolston, Church Stretton SY6 6QD	781666
Lloyd, J	Rock Cottage, All Stretton, Church Stretton SY6 6HH	732143
Morris M	45 Swains Meadow, Church Stretton, SY6 6H	722741
Stafford AM	Park House, Churchway, Church Stretton SY6 7EH	722627

NORTH WARD

Beaumont TD	7 Brook Meadow, Church Stretton SY6 7EH	722533
<i>(Deputy Town Mayor/Vice-Chairman)</i>		
Braid M	Arden Cottage, Cardingmill Valley, Church Stretton SY6 6JF	723364
Hart K.	1 Sapcote Lane, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury SY3 5DE (daytime)	01694 240024
Welch, B	111 Watling Street South, Church Stretton SY6 7BJ	0797 080 7116
<i>(Town Mayor/Chairman)</i>		

LITTLE STRETTON WARD

Hickman R	Cherry Tree Cottage, Cardingmill Valley, Church Stretton SY6 6JF	722006
Walker M	Elms Lodge, Elms Lane, Little Stretton Church Stretton SY6 6RD	720132

ALL STRETTON WARD

Roberts E	Newlands, 77 Shrewsbury Road, Church Stretton SY6 6EY	720086
Way, AP	2 Starr Lane, All Stretton SY6 6HS	723149

OFFICE STAFF:

Town Clerk & RFO	Christine Harvey (Cert H.E.Local Policy (L.C.A.))
PA to the Town Clerk	Trish Morris
Secretarial Assistant	Doreen Robinson
Clerical Assistant	Rachel James
Admin Assistant	Nigel Strachan

The Council Office is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to noon

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

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

How your money is spent:

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

Service	Net Expenditure 2011/12	Net Expenditure 2012/13	Change in Precept Requirement
Administration & Property	£ 99,696.00	£ 101,101.00	£ 1,405.00
Council equipment replacement fund	£ 5,400.00	£ 4,300.00	-£ 1,100.00
Outdoor Areas	£ 26,260.00	£ 29,960.00	£ 3,700.00
Markets, Regeneration & Tourism	£ 1,400.00	£ 1,480.00	£ 80.00
Cemeteries	£ 9,425.00	£ 9,240.00	-£ 185.00
Easthope Road toilets		£ 7,240.00	£ 7,240.00
Lutwyche Road toilets	£ 7,000.00	£ 9,500.00	£ 2,500.00
Lutwyche Road Car Park	-£ 2,100.00	-£ 1,300.00	£ 800.00
Street Lighting	£ 18,600.00	£ 20,500.00	£ 1,900.00
S137 Grants	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
S144 Grants	£ 300.00	£ 400.00	£ 100.00
Civic Events (Incl Jubilee)	£ 500.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,500.00
Mayoral Allowance	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Elections/Polls	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Coppice Leasowes	£ -	£ -	£ -
Contingencies	£ 16,210.00	£ 6,000.00	-£ 10,210.00
Grants to Trusts:			
Silvester Horne Institute	£ 10,000.00	£ 8,500.00	-£ 1,500.00
Sandford Avenue Park	£ 22,493.00	£ 36,000.00	£ 13,507.00
Brooksby Recreation Ground	£ 14,200.00	£ 18,000.00	£ 3,800.00
RESULTANT PRECEPT REQUIREMENT	£ 232,384.00	£ 255,921.00	£ 23,537.00

Grants:

The Town Council gave the following grants during the financial years 2010/11/12:

LGA 1972, S137:	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13 £1000 in bdgt tbc
Royal British Legion (wreath & donation)	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	
Community Council	£ 33.00	£ 35.00	
Samaritans	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	
Crucial Crew	£ 100.00		
Stretton Focus	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
Arts Festival	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	
Marie Curie Cancer Care	50.00	£ 50.00	
Hope House Hospice	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
West Shrop Talking Newspaper		20.00	
RUA	£ 10.00	£ 10.00	
Shropshire Building Preservation Trust	20.00		
CAB	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	
Severn Hospice	£ 100.00		
Total	£ 963.00	£ 765.00	£ 1000.00

S144:

Christmas Lights	£ 300.00	£ 400.00	£ 400.00
Friends of AONB		15.00	£ 15.00
Total	£ 300.00	£ 415.00	£ 415.00