

Stanwick Parish Council

March 2024 Newsletter

www.stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk



Welcome to the annual newsletter of the Parish Council.

Your Parish Council has 7 members: Mark Taylor (Chairman), Jonathan Ashby, Sylvia Glanville-Hughes, Sue Kitchener, George Konstantinidis, Mark Partrick, and Julie Paterson.

The Parish Council is very aware of the Climate Emergency that we are all facing and is looking to do its own small part to tackle it.

We have produced a page on [our website that is dedicated to our Green Strategy](#) and we regularly post helpful tips and links on our Facebook page.

A photographic record of "Stanwick Celebrates 1952 to 2022" has been produced and is available to view in the Parish Office.

The Parish Council welcomes your ideas and suggestions. Councillors are in post to represent the views and wishes of the parish and to best do that, they need to know what you are thinking.

Contact the Council via clerk@stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk or 01933 625616 or speak to a councillor direct.

Parish Council Meetings – *What are they all about?*

Parish Councillors have been elected to represent YOU and look out for the best interests of the parish. The Parish Council is not the same as the Parochial *Church* Council

Stanwick Parish Council has 6 scheduled full meetings a year. Extra meetings may be called if necessary & committee meetings are separate.

Dates and times are available on the Parish Council website, or you can ask the Clerk. Meetings take place in the Village Hall.

Agendas are placed on this notice board and the Minutes (written record of the meeting) are available to read and download on the website.

Every agenda includes the chance to speak to the Council at the meeting. But, if you want the Council to make a decision on an item you wish to discuss, it would be better to talk to the Clerk about having a standalone agenda item.

For more information on what the Parish Council does, please take a look at the website or speak to the Clerk.

Scheduled meetings for 2024:

18th April 2024 Annual Parish Meeting (What's Happening Evening) 7.00pm to 9pm
16th May 2024 Annual Council Meeting 7.15pm
27th June 2024 Events Committee Meeting 7.00pm
18th July 2024 Full Council 7.15pm
19th September 2024 Full Council 7.15pm
21st November 2024 Full Council 7.15pm (may include budget setting)
16th January 2025 Full Council 7.15pm
20th March 2025 Full Council 7.15pm

True or False?

To be a Parish Councillor, I must	True	False
Be university educated or have a certain level of education		X
Have worked in local government		X
Have certain skills		X
Be old		X
Be exactly the same as other councillors		X
Be a certain social class		X
Be interested in Politics		X
Have loads of free time		X
Be interested in our parish	X	
Have a perspective to add to the Council	X	
Be over 18 years old	X	
Be registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election	X	
Be British or a citizen of the Commonwealth	X	

A Parish Council should reflect the community it serves.

A councillor, ideally, has an interest in, and ideas about, local matters.

A unique perspective is good and could benefit the wider community.

Every community is diverse in the widest meaning of the word & the Parish Council should be diverse too

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

2024 is the time to find out more – there will be elections in 2025

Parish Council Precept

The Parish Council is financed by the 'precept'. It is a 'national' local tax that only applies to a specific authority area, for example Stanwick. It is collected by North Northants Council with the other local taxes due, such as council tax, Police Fire & Crime levy.

The precept is collected according to the 'banding' of council tax on properties between April and January in 10 monthly instalments.

Each year the Parish Council looks at its financial position and sets a budget for the coming year before working out how much the precept as a total figure should be. This generally happens at the November meeting.

During the financial year, 2022 to 2023, the Parish Council has incurred significant one off costs including repairs to the church boundary wall (£12,100.00). The decision was made to increase the precept for 2023-24 to help make up for this expenditure.

The Parish Council has made the decision to increase the total amount of precept for the coming financial year 2024/5. We know that everything is costing more and this will increase our maintenance costs and repair bills. We know that we are likely to have significant repair bills for the church path. We need to set money aside for future repairs costs. We have renegotiated one of our largest expenditures, grounds maintenance, to bring down costs.

On paper, the total percentage increase of the precepts looks very large, but in reality taken as an average across all households, it equals approximately 53 pence per house per month extra.

Any person having difficulty with making their council tax payments should speak to North Northants Council as the Parish Council is not involved in collecting the money due.

What's Happening, Stanwick?

Thursday 18th April 2024

7pm to 9 pm

Free, open evening & everyone welcome

At Stanwick Village Hall

Have-a-go at ping pong. Have-a-go at bowls

Ask questions, have a chat and a glass of wine

Listen to what has been going on and how your money has been spent

Look out for the evening's timetable & full list of attendees

Light refreshments available

What has the Parish Council been up to in 2023?

The Parish Council operates on a 'civic year' basis. This runs from May to April.

In May 2023, Councillor Mark Taylor was elected as Chairman for the year. Councillor Sue Kitchener was elected as the vice chair.

What we have been doing:

- Dealings with the Diocese has taken up a lot of time, trying to find a repair solution for the main path that is acceptable to the Diocese and affordable for tax payers
- Traffic consultations in response to concerns raised by residents about parking at certain locations. This has led to a request for double yellow line parking restrictions being submitted for High Street and Samuels Close/West Street.
- Independent grounds maintenance contract. The Council has tendered for and awarded a grounds maintenance contract that will be cheaper to administer than the present contract.
- Environmental enhancements of the cemetery including planting of tree whips to form new hedging and spring plants
- Supporting community groups through grants and sponsorship
- Supporting the Bowls Club by endorsing a grant application
- Established a new events committee that includes representative of village groups at its meetings
- Developed the 'what's on' web diary page
- Opted into a scheme to have 20mph advisory boards
- Took part in a celebratory match at Stanwick Bowls Club to mark their centenary
- Gave a reading at Nine Lessons & Carols service in December
- Co-ordinated the Christmas Fayre 2023
- Made a £500.00 contribution to the new Raunds Skate Park that our residents will be able to use too

What are we frustrated about not being able to move forward:

- We are still waiting on 'Welcome to Stanwick' signs for Chelveston Road and Higham Road to help give Stanwick a sense of place
- Installing bollards on the junction of High St & Church St to make the area safer for pedestrians
- Repairs to the church path so that we can unlock the gate

Dog fouling - it shouldn't be a problem....

But it is

As a dog owner, you know you are required to have your dog under control at all times. If they are off the lead, this means they should respond immediately to commands. You are also required to pick up after your dog – wherever it does its business.

Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets, at the recreation ground and our public areas

While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000.

The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag **is not a reasonable excuse.**

Any public bin can take the waste

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.

Reporting those people who do not clear up their dog

North Northants Council are the body responsible for dealing with the problem. Use their website to make a report www.northnorthants.gov.uk/dogs/dog-fouling or call the contact centre on 0300 126 3000

If you witness someone letting their dog foul without cleaning it up afterwards, you should report it. Please note the:

- dates and times
- frequency it happens
- description of the dog
- details of the offender

You can also let them know if there are ongoing issues with dog fouling in our area. They may be able to put up warning signs or monitor the area more.

If it isn't picked up, they can issue a fine and they take offenders to court.



Vandalism

ALL incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police (even if you think nothing will come of it in your case).

The Police deploy their officers according to the information they have. The more reports of incidents, the more coverage Stanwick will receive.

Reports can be made online via the police website

www.northants.police.uk

There is a blue button on the home page.

You can give crime information anonymously via the UK charity **Crime Stoppers**

www.crimestoppers-uk.org or you can call 0800 555 111

Graffiti

If your property has been graffitied, you should make your own report to the Police.

Reporting online is easiest (although they ask a lot of personal questions) or call the non-emergency number 101.

If you think you know who is responsible, you can tell Crime Stoppers UK anonymously

DO NOT confront any individuals you may think are responsible.

REPORT any anti-social behaviour you witness to the Police.

TELL the Parish Council dates, times & locations of groups hanging around. This information will be passed on so that the Police can build a picture and target their presence in Stanwick.

101 Police non-emergency number

999 This is not however an exhaustive list and common sense must prevail.

- danger to life
- use, or immediate threat of use, of violence
- Serious injury to a person and/or
- serious damage to property
- the crime is, or likely to be serious and in progress
- an offender has just been disturbed at the scene
- an offender has been detained and poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to other people
- Road traffic accident where:
 - involves, or is likely to involve, serious personal injury
 - the road is blocked or there is a dangerous or excessive build-up of traffic.

What's Happening Stanwick?

Lots of places to find out what is going
on in Stanwick:

Notice board on the side of the village hall

Village hall windows

Parish Council web diary

Lamp posts - always a popular place for posters

Church yard - banners and posters

Village Residents Facebook page

Other Facebook pages

*And in no particular order, here is a round up from
some of Stanwick's groups:*

STANWICK BOWLS CLUB

SBC members have been enthusiastically competing in our various internal club indoor competitions through the winter. Additionally, regular inter-club matches continue to take place against local Northamptonshire teams. These matches are in theory just friendlies, but that's not to say we don't compete to the best of our abilities and always enjoy coming away with a victory. For a relatively small club we have an excellent record in these games.

We are delighted to have again been invited to participate in the promotion of the Quiz Evening scheduled for the Village Hall on 13 April and we look forward to hopefully seeing another full house on the evening.

The following day - Sunday 14 April - we shall (weather permitting) hold the first of our 2024 outdoor roll-up (friendly practice) sessions. While most of our members enjoy both the indoor and lawn green forms of our sport, there's nothing quite like bowling outdoors and testing our skills on our finely manicured green.

Further details of indoor and outdoor roll-up times are available on our website - stanwickbowlsclub.com, additionally we regularly post on our Club's Facebook page.

This summer we will welcome village residents to come and enjoy watching our home matches from our seating area within the Club. We feel sure that having seen a game or two, you'll be keen to have a go yourself. We are always happy to welcome anyone to our Club who is keen to find out more.

Stanwick Community Garden, which is completely run by volunteers, has evolved into a multi-use garden with excellent facilities which are suitable to as wide a range of individuals and groups as possible. We have raised beds which are used by the local school and nurseries for their gardening clubs, mini plots for individuals to grow their own fruit, vegetables or flowers and the rest of the garden for simple enjoyment by anyone who wishes to pay us a visit. We have seating where you can just sit and enjoy the view! The gate is always unlocked - just kept closed at all times to keep out the rabbits - which is especially important as we are neighbours to the allotments and the feast they might enjoy in there....!

Next to the garden is the 'Social Area' which has a wooden playground Tractor for small children to play on, and picnic benches for when it's time to refuel!

We hold an annual plant sale and also participate in other village events to support the community and promote the use of the garden.

During the better weather we start to hold 'work parties' where we ask for assistance with maintaining the garden and for volunteers to come along and muck in. We will start these again in the spring and they are usually on a Saturday morning between 10-12 and tend to have a half-time cuppa and biscuit natter break!

Like the sound of the garden and want to know more? Head to our facebook page by searching 'Stanwick Community Garden' or by emailing stanwickcgg@gmail.com.

Stanwick Table Tennis Club: new members or people wanting to play again are most welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7.15pm at Stanwick Village Hall

Stanwick Handbell Ringers. We meet every Monday in the Village Hall, 7-9. pm .
We play from standard music staff notation. Come and have a go and be part of music group.

Stanwick Race Group Every year on Easter Monday the Stanwick race group get together to put on a 10k road race for adults and a 2k road race for juniors from 8 to 15.

The proceeds of the race are distributed to local groups in the village.

The race is marshalled organized and adjudicated according to official UKA rules.

The race group consists of a group of volunteers, mainly from the village, who meet regularly through the year to plan for the race.

Entries are through our website, stanwickraces.org

We are always looking for more volunteers to help organize the race, if you are interested please email, stanwickracesdirector@gmail.com

Stanwick Pocket Park Group: A small team of volunteers meet for regular workdays in the Pocket Park - usually the first Sunday morning of the month. • ALL VERY WELCOME - just turn up! • Publicised on Facebook • Join the volunteers' mailing list and /or WhatsApp

We also join up with **STanwick Environmental Project (STEP)** to keep the whole parish tidy, plant bulbs, clean the brook and look after the flower boxes on West Street and Raunds Road and much more. Many hands make light work 😊

Operation Snap

Operation Snap has been set up to keep our county's roads as safe as possible

It allows members of the public to report driving offences in the Northamptonshire by filling in a form and uploading video evidence they have captured.

Submitted footage and reports are then examined by roads policing officers and can be used to take actions against drivers breaking the law.

[More information is on the Northants Police website](#)

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch can make a difference to where you live and those around you. Residents often feel more secure in their homes and the fear of crime is reduced by the knowledge that neighbours are working together.

If you would like to find out more contact our area co-ordinator Christine

christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police.uk



Floral and other tributes at Stanwick Cemetery

As a parish we are trying to reduce our impact on the environment and reduce pollution.

Did you know that traditional florist foam can take thousands of years to degrade down to its natural elements?

You may recall that people laying tributes to Her Majesty were asked to remove the plastic wrappers on flowers.

True cellophane, made of plant materials and other materials, can degrade within a matter of months.

Synthetic cellophane will take a few decades but traditional plastic can take 1,000 years to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the plastics don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

We therefore respectfully ask you to, when possible, think about the tributes you bring into the cemetery and what they are made of, so that only truly lasting things that you leave are your thoughts and memories.

The Herbert Protocol – Safe and Found

The initiative is named after George Herbert, a war veteran of the Normandy Landings, who lived with dementia. He died whilst 'missing', trying to find his childhood home.

Caring for vulnerable people, including those with dementia or Alzheimer's, can be challenging. There is a risk they can go 'walkabout'.

The protocol is a form of essential information that can be quickly handed to the Police if a person goes missing, saving valuable time in a crisis situation.

A number of Police forces endorse the Herbert Protocol and more information, including the form and what to do if a vulnerable person goes missing can be found on the [Northants Police website](https://www.northants.police.uk/).

Stanwick Parish Council

Clerk to the Council – Jenny Hodgson
clerk@stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk
01933 625616
And on Facebook



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/>
0300 126 3000

Stanwick Pre-School Playgroup is a non-profit committee run pre-school with a reputation of excellent early years education having cared for and nurtured Stanwick and surrounding areas for over **50** years!

Located in the heart of Stanwick village
at the light & airy hall, with access
to a secured outdoor play area.

Places available for 2 - 4 year olds.

We accept 2, 3 & 4 years funding.

Sessions run term time,
Monday - Friday, 9am - 3pm.



CONTACT US

07833 527024

Stanwick Village Hall

Spencer Parade, Stanwick, NN9 6QJ

Stanwickpre-school@outlook.com

Registered Charity No - 1030868

Find us on 



Good Provider



BECOME A FRIEND!

A non-religious group who maintains the fabric of our wonderful 12th Century village church. The Friends of Stanwick Church raise funds for such items as the up-grading of the lightning conductor, and repairs to the building itself.

The Friends working party meets on the 1st Thursday of the month.

LITTLE TREASURES

For preschool children and accompanying adults. Every Thursday during school term time. Meeting 9.30am to 11.00am for story, singing, craft, refreshments, and free play. Donations requested to cover costs.

STANWICK YOUTH GROUP

Meet every other Friday at 6.30pm in church.

£1.00 per session to cover costs.

BELL RINGING

Learn the ancient art of bell ringing.

Tuesday afternoons 4.00pm – 5.30pm.



**For further information on any aspect of church life
please email us at st.laurence.stanwick@gmail.com**



Scan the QR code to access FOUR SPIRES BENEFICE news at
<https://4spires.org>

EASTER GREETINGS

from

St Laurence Church

Stanwick



MARCH 2024
ST LAURENCE CHURCH, STANWICK

SATURDAY, 9TH March

10.00 am – 12 noon **Coffee Morning**

SUNDAY, 10TH March

10.00 am **Mothers' Day Communion**

SUNDAY, 17TH March

9.30 am **Worship for All Ages**

SUNDAY, 24TH March

10.00 am **Palm Sunday Songs of Praise**

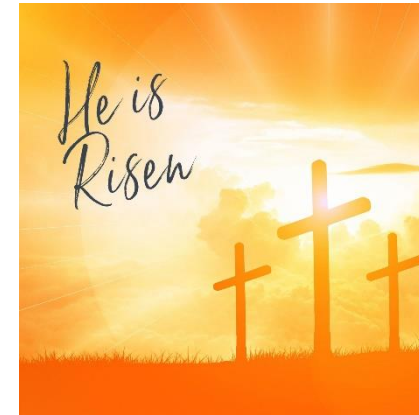


GOOD FRIDAY, 29TH March

10.00 am – 11.00 am **Experience Easter**
followed by Hot Cross Buns

EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 31ST March

10.00 am **Easter Service**



*May your life be filled with God's blessings and
that His presence be with you always.*

Wishing you a Happy Easter.

