STAUNTON ON WYE UPDATE

HIGHWAYS

Our ropey roads

We're pressing for resurfacing of the main Staunton road (c1090) and between Bredwardine, Letton (U90000) and Staunton (C1185)

LITTLE LONDON

Working with Herefordshire Council to resolve long-standing problems on byway SY2A

DRAINAGE AND DITCHING

Keeping the ditches clear

Our Lengthsman is checking ditches and grips throughout both Parishes ahead of autumn downpours



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS BACK

by Councillor Nigel Sellar, Chairman

During the last year the parish council has focused on resilience.

We know there are increasing pressures on Herefordshire Council - their funding was cut by £27m. That's almost certainly going to mean more demand for the parish council to step in - particularly through the lengthsman scheme looking after drainage, ditches, highways and public rights of way.

Until now the parish hasn't been able to make full use of that service because it had no cash reserves - quite simply, it couldn't pay the bills.

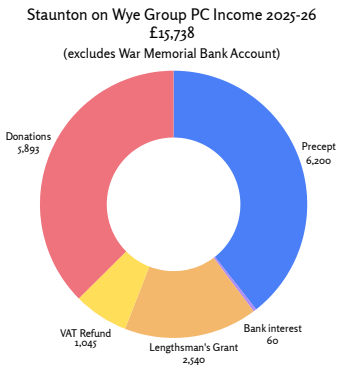
We also had to prepare the parish finances for another big cost. We know there is pressure for more property development. The NDP is the major tool to control what gets built in the parish. But the parish's neighbourhood plan is now out of date and we need to review it.

Unfortunately the government withdrew funding for parish councils working on Neighbourhood Development Plans and that means we - you - us - have to pay from our own funds. And that was another reason why it was so important we put the council on a firmer financial footing.

So we have begun to put that right. We're hopeful that we now have the resources to meet day to day costs and are growing a small buffer to allow us to take on larger schemes.

We've also rethought the way the Council works. We have employed a new clerk, changed our bankers, improved our audit and financial procedures, set up a new more user-friendly website, and made sure we're compliant with the law on data protection and freedom of information - which sounds like admin and detail, but this is your money and you have every right to know how it is spent and to be sure it is well spent.

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2025-2026 ACCOUNTS PUBLISHED

The donation of £5,893 is the surplus remaining after the War Memorial project was completed, and has been ring-fenced as a reserve for the memorial's upkeep. If War Memorial spending of £40,346 is excluded, total expenditure in 2025-26 was £17,981, including £1,615 playground, £6,740 Lengthsman's work, £760 on a new legally-compliant website, and clerking £4,649. You can find the full accounts and auditors reports at www.stauntononwye-pc.gov.uk



Staunton's Playground Refreshed

Our new groundsman, John Bradley, has kept the playground neat during a long, hot summer. In July we added a new eight-foot picnic bench, and the Youth Club plan to add a bench of their own.

The annual playground inspection was carried out by a professional safety expert in July. No serious issues arose, although there will need to be some minor improvements. The Council set aside a budget of £2,000 for upkeep and a further £2,000 for improvement to play surfaces.

The next big task will be to refresh the soft-play surfaces. We're seeking quotes for excavating the turf under the bench or benches for the installation of a membrane under bark chippings; seeking prices for topping up the existing bark play surface; and we'd like to see the matting under the slide steps be replaced in spring 2027.

Your thoughts and comments are most welcome: please email the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: the next steps

MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2026
Staunton on Wye Village Hall
7 p.m.

On 9th November 2027 work will begin on a review of Staunton on Wye Group's Neighbourhood Development Plan Review - and all residents are welcome.

The first review meeting will be held at the Village Hall at 7 p.m., with Councillor Loraine Boddington in the Chair.

"Planning rules have changed enormously since the last parish NDP in 2016. The aim is to go through the existing NDP, noting what has to change because thanks to the new rules, and taking the temperature of residents on what remains. It will be the first stage in a conversation over the next 12 months," Loraine says.

"Our plan must fit into Herefordshire's plan, and the county may now be approaching the point when it announces what it wants. So we will be in a good position to respond."

Every resident is more than welcome at review group meetings. If you are not already on our NDP mailing list please sign up by emailing the Clerk.



Parish Council Chairman Nigel Sellar leads a team of ten councilllors all of whose seats are up for election in May 2027: could you be a member of the new team?

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Together these steps put the parish council in a good place to help and protect the parish through what will be a testing few years.

During the last twelve months we've not just looked inward - we've looked outward and been active as a voice for the parish. We took a firm view on the redevelopment of the Jarvis School and on development at Bliss Hall Farm, and it is largely thanks to our pressure - and the very well attended meeting - that these were not waved through. The council will continue to press on issues like this.

We've also been active on the day to day work around the parish. We have maintained the playground to a high standard - special thanks here to Councillor Andrews - and our new Lengthsman, Joel Durrell, has been visible around the parish dealing with drainage and highways issues.

But without doubt the most conspicuous change this year was the relocation of the war memorial. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

Talk To Us

Email
clerk@stauntononwye-pc.gov.uk

You can WhatsApp or telephone the Clerk on 07599 837560 but email will get you a quicker response

If you would like to join our mailing list for news, please email the Clerk.



Our environment

Can you help Staunton on Wye Group Parish Council put biodiversity at the heart of everything it does? Contact the Clerk if you want to get involved



Join the Parish Council

There will be parish council elections in May 2027 for three councillors for Brobury with Monnington and seven for Staunton on Wye. Please contact the Clerk for more information