

Stansted Parish Council
comprising the villages of
Stansted & Fairseat

**Items of interest from the Parish Council Meetings held on Monday 4th
November & Monday 2nd December 2013**

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

As was reported in the last “Parish Brief”, the Clerk went on holiday the morning after the November meeting and wasn’t able to meet the deadline for the magazine, so this issue’s Brief covers both November’s and December’s meetings.

Planning applications for both months consisted of proposals for properties in the conservation areas of both villages. We seem to be losing the battle to preserve conservation areas with the planners and cynically we feel the special planning rules are counting for nothing. What is the point of having conservation areas if the local planning authority is taking no notice of the restrictions on development in them?

There was also an application from the London Golf Club for alterations to conditions on their planning consent for a 9 hole golf course, driving range and ancillary buildings on land east (the Stansted side) of South Ash Road. One of these concerns lighting on the site. The condition stipulates that no lighting is to be installed. They are asking for this to be changed to allow for low level path lighting to the car park, which was felt to be reasonable on health and safety grounds. What was felt to be totally unacceptable however was wallwashers to the building and “feature” lighting in the trees. The Parish Council has objected to these as a detrimental impact on the Metropolitan green belt; urbanization of a rural area and as a loss of amenity to local residents.

On a happier note, the Parish Council asked the school to work on a project to upgrade the play facilities on the Stansted Recreation Ground and has enjoyed working with them. The school has a dynamic new Headteacher, who embraced the idea wholeheartedly and with such enthusiasm that all children in the school submitted ideas of what sort of play equipment they would like. There were even models and one family made a powerpoint presentation. At an assembly at the end of November all children were presented with a certificate of participation and those who it was felt deserved more recognition were presented with book tokens, kindly donated by a play equipment manufacturer. A local businessman was so impressed with the standard of work by the children that he has donated a significant sum towards our play park fund. We would like to thank him publicly but anonymously for this

magnificent gift. The next steps are for the project group to decide what to choose from the children's ideas and for a masterplan to be drawn up. We will then consult the children on this and after refinements, the masterplan will be agreed by the Parish Council. We hope to be able to provide a small item during next year, while we fund raise towards the rest. If any other local business people would like to help sponsor the new play park, would they please contact the Parish Clerk or Cllrs Sheila Goodworth or George Goring.

A budget for 2014/15 was discussed and agreed at the December meeting. There will be an increase in the precept of 1.15%, 1.55% lower than the current rate of inflation. This is a decrease in real terms. There are 184 properties in the parish; simplistically (it will vary a little according to which property band you're in), the parish council element of your council tax will be about £86 - £7.17 a month.

The next meetings will be held on Monday 6th January in Stansted Village Hall and on Monday 3rd February in Fairseat Village Hall, both starting at 8.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

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