

STRATFIELD SAYE PARISH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

The Parish Council is the body corporate which represents the first tier of Local Government for the Parish of Stratfield Saye.

Originally established by the Local Government Act 1894 the Council's powers and activities have been increased by many subsequent Acts of Parliament but are now governed by the Local Government Act 1972 together with the Localism Act 2011. The business of Stratfield Saye Parish Council is regulated by the Local Government Act 1972.

Stratfield Saye Parish Council consists of seven Councillors democratically elected by the registered voters who reside within the Stratfield Saye Parish. Elections take place every 4 years in May. All Councillors must have their main residence within the boundary of the Parish of Stratfield Saye which is under Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council who maintains the Register of Electors.

A minimum of 3 Councillors need to be present to hold a meeting and form a quorum, voting is by a show of hands or a written ballot if requested. A majority vote by Councillors is required to pass a motion put before the Council always providing that at least 3 Councillors are in agreement with the motion.

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution without favour or prejudices and utilise its limited funding to achieve the greatest good for the community. The funding is obtained by levying a precept on the Council Tax paid by residents of the Parish, the amount being controlled by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Councillors agree to follow the Council's Code of Conduct, which is overseen by the Monitoring Officer at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The Council meets 6 times throughout the year on published Mondays in the Village Hall, New Street at 7.30p.m. The time and venue of these meetings are publicly advertised in advance and are open to members of the public to observe and listen to proceedings. Members of the public who attend any meeting will be asked by the Chairman to raise any matter for the Parish Council to discuss in the Open Forum item. Thereafter members of the public will not participate in the Council's proceedings unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

The Council operates a freedom of information policy and publishes its agendas and minutes on the parish website and notice boards. Any member of the public can inspect Council papers and attend Council or Committee meetings. They may also inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

The Council sets up committees to deal with specific matters that require more extensive consideration of a matter or more dedicated on-going support of an established local facility/amenity. These consist of at least one nominated Councillor, who may co-opt other appropriate members, including non-elected representatives, from the local community who have a relevant interest in the activities of the Committee. Regular reports on the progress and activities of such Committee must be given at the routine Parish Council meetings. Currently there are no Committees sitting.

1. Committee 12.2016-4.2017. To arrange the service to unveil plaque presented by DGI government department in Commemoration of a VC awarded in WW1 to L/Cpl James Welch born in the Parish of Stratfield Saye.

The Council's administrative affairs are dealt with by the Parish Clerk who is a part-time employee of the Parish Council, and will normally fulfil the role of Responsible Financial Officer. All expenditure is recorded on a schedule presented to the Councillors at the next Parish Meeting which they sign as accurate. This schedule detailing all payments is then published within the Minutes of the meeting. Due to recent Transparency Legislation, the Annual Accounts are subject to an internal audit only and will no longer require an external audit unless income and expenditure exceed £25K per annum.

Aims and Objectives of the Stratfield Saye Parish Council

Stratfield Saye Council's vision is 'to ensure Stratfield Saye continues to be a vibrant rural village with a strong community spirit, where everybody matters. The aim is for Stratfield Saye to be a prosperous, safe and attractive place in which to live and work for the present generation and for generations to come'.

The purpose of the Council is to work within its statutory powers to maintain and enhance the village's public amenities within the Village, and to help the people of Stratfield Saye to improve their quality of life, in accordance with the Council's vision, and to work in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

To enhance and maintain village amenities for the use of all residents and to support residents needs wherever possible.