

## **New Year to you Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

Council will decide at its meeting on 10 January how to co-opt someone to fill the current vacancy. If you are interested in offering yourself for co-option, please contact Carole Jackman, our Clerk, by Monday January 9.

## **Precept for 2017-18**

At the December Council we agreed our budget for the next financial year, totalling £26,000 estimated expenditure. Council set the precept at £22,400. This means that a Band D council tax payer will pay £51 a year towards parish costs. Our increase of £1.23 per year (2.5%) means that our precept is still well below the national average. Local costs are rising each year and will continue to, as the Government reduces its grant to the local authorities, who then wish to devolve more functions to parishes.

## **Planning Applications**

Council had no objections at its December meeting to applications from Southern Electric to create vehicular access at Bicester Road, Launton, and at East Claydon, associated with a new 132kV power line; nor to the installation of replacement windows at Fleur de Lys, West Edge; nor to the change of use of ancillary residential accommodation to a dwelling at The Cottage, West Edge. The latest application, for consideration at January Council, is for the demolition of an existing flexible use building at Barnwell Farm, Station Road, and the erection of a new one.

## **East West Rail Depot**

There is local concern at the plan by Network Rail to locate a compound near Charndon as part of constructing East-West Rail. They expect about 300 people to work there for three years from 2019. The County Council's current position is that they "do not want any traffic, on safety grounds..., to go through either Marsh Gibbon or Charndon". Public consultation will take place in the near future.

## **Street Nameplates**

Council contributed about £200, 50% of the cost, to AVDC to have seven of the original, faded, black-on-white street name-plates refreshed.

## **The Pound**

Council organised the recent cut-back of the overgrown trees and shrubs at The Pound, the public land behind the bus shelter opposite Ware Pond.

## **Unitary Authority?**

The County Council recently put forward to the Government its proposal that Buckinghamshire becomes a unitary, by merging the county and district functions and services into one authority. The four district councils have proposed their alternative, which includes that the Vale of Aylesbury becomes a unitary authority.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting is on Tuesday January 10th at 8.00 pm in the village hall.

***To comment, email Ian Metherell, MGPC chairman, at [ipmetherell@btinternet.com](mailto:ipmetherell@btinternet.com); or call 01869 277620. Carole's email address is***

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Best wishes, Ian Metherell  
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