



Savernake Parish Council

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Dear Parishioner

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2019

I write to inform you that the Annual Parish Meeting of the Savernake Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th May in the Court Room at Marlborough Town Hall, and I hope that you will be able to attend.

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for Savernake parishioners to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice.

The agenda for the meeting is on the website at www.savernake-pc.org. We will have a talk by Helen Vass from SSE on how they can assist Parishioners during sustained power outages and hope that there may also be reports from the Forestry Commission and from the Police.

We will, where possible, send these notifications of meetings and any other Parish Council notices by email as communicating by email rather than by post will save the Parish Council funds and also save time. If you have received this letter by post, and have not already done so, please contact us at savernakepc@hotmail.co.uk to let us know the email address to use for this purpose, and to confirm your express consent for us to use your email for Parish Council purposes. Please be reassured the only time we would use your email address is for occasional Parish Council communications and your information will be kept securely.

PARISH CLERK

Over recent years the Parish Council has been very fortunate in having voluntary Parish Clerks, but our previous Clerk has resigned so we now need a new one. This is a responsible but not necessarily very time consuming position, some information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ParishClerk>. The position does not have to be voluntary although, if it is, it helps to keep our precepts down. If anyone is interested in taking on this post please contact me.

SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL FUNDS

I am also writing on behalf of the Savernake Parish Council to invite you to make suggestions as to how you would like to see the Parish Council's funds spent over the coming years. Your Parish councillors will take responsibility for coordinating the implementation of projects they believe are in the best interests of the Parish, but we are keen to consult with you to identify opportunities we may not be aware of, and to try to ensure as many parishioners as possible benefit from any expenditure.

In considering our current financial position, we may need to allow for a professional Clerk. In this case our current precept is unlikely to be sufficient, and may need to be increased next year.

In 2018, we were awarded a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £2784.80 following the development of Seymour House. It should be noted that this particular sum must be spent to provide or improve infrastructure, and to pay for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure projects and fully used by 2023 otherwise it will be forfeit.

The Parish Council does have some reserve funds in addition to the CIL monies, and the Parish Council believes the responsible approach is to spend a proportion of the funds for the benefit of as many parishioners as possible and are therefore asking parishioners to put forward projects for consideration.

The Parish Council will consider projects to be funded on the basis of:

- The significance of the benefit the projects would bring,
- The numbers of parishioners who would benefit, and
- The proportion of the Parish's funds that would need to be dedicated to a particular project.

CIL monies must be spent in accordance with strict rules, any monies incorrectly spent will have to be returned. There is some more leeway with regard to other funds held by the Parish Council.

In very broad terms, the Council is anticipating proposals in the following areas.

- **Once-off expenditure:** Where the expenditure would occur once-only, perhaps to repair/install something.
- **Recurring expenditure:** Where expenditure is anticipated to be needed on a regular basis, each year for example, perhaps to maintain/organize something. Please bear in mind that ongoing expenditure will affect our precept.
- **Zero-cost projects:** Whilst the focus of this communication is to propose projects requiring expenditure, please take the opportunity to identify things that you feel would improve/benefit the Parish but require zero/negligible expenditure. Perhaps there are opportunities for some well targeted communications to encourage parishioners/visitors to the Parish to behave differently/take initiatives to look after things better.

If you would like to make a suggestion, please provide us with a brief summary of your proposal, by email to SavernakePC@hotmail.co.uk, or in writing to me at the above address.

For your information, projects which are currently under consideration by the Parish Council include:

- Repair of the Bus Stop at Cadley
- Forming more steps on the footpath leading to Chopping Knife Lane off the A4
- Improvements to the junction at the Hospital and possible reduction in the speed limit on Hospital Hill (The PC may have to contribute towards the costs for the preparatory surveys for this work but any physical works will be outside the financial scope of the PC.)
- Salt bin at Maurice Way

I do hope you find this consultation process constructive, and I do hope that you will take a small amount of time to seize this opportunity and tell us your ideas.

I look forward to seeing you on 15th May.

Yours sincerely



Guy Singleton
Chairman, Savernake Parish Council