

**Stansted Parish Council**  
comprising the villages of  
**Stansted & Fairseat**

**Items of interest from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
January 2013**

The Parish Council's first meeting of 2013, held in Fairseat Village Hall, was attended by all parish councillors, County Councillor Sarah Hohler and by 6 members of the public. Sarah spoke to us about the KCC budget. They are hoping that they can manage without increasing their part of the council tax, by making efficiency savings, but of course the council tax includes the Borough Council, the fire service and the police as well as the county and parish councils' elements.

The draft budget was adopted by the Parish Council and the precept set, following receipt of figures from the Borough Council, reflecting the Government's revenue support grant and its affect on the Band D council tax base for the parish. Taking this into consideration, the precept was set at £15,725, an increase of 3%, which is about the current rate of inflation. To achieve this, some money will come from reserves and the £1,000 budget provision to start building up a reserve for eventual improvements to the play equipment on Stansted Recreation Ground was cut to £400. We have now opened a new bonus saver bank account specifically for this fund, which has £407.70 - £307.70 collected at the Jubilee event and the £100 raised by one of the schoolchildren as reported last month, whom we thank very much for the thought and effort and of course for the money.

There were several Fairseat planning applications to discuss, including a revised application for extensions to Fairseat Farmhouse. Although the applicant had listened to previous comments and had abandoned the proposal to make the part of the building that once contained the post office two storey, it was still felt that the proposed new roof line and incorporation of the existing garage into living accommodation would appear too large and visually intrusive. An objection was also made to the dormer windows on the front elevation as these would overlook the garden of Fairseat Manor opposite. An application for the reinstatement of the traditional inn sign at the Vigo Inn was supported. The sign, which had been there for very many years, was removed for repair. The roadside footpath had been constructed around the sign. The pub was told to apply for planning permission to re-erect the sign which was then refused on the grounds it obstructed the footpath. The new application is to site it adjacent to the footpath.

We received 5 tenders for all or part of the grounds maintenance we carry out. Councillors had questions to put to some of the companies and the final decision will be taken at the February meeting.

The March meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> in Fairseat Village Hall at 8 pm.

**Chairman:** Harry Bott

**Clerk:** Roxana Brammer

**Write:** Parish Clerk, Stansted Parish Council, 53 Capelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8LQ

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