



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 57 04/2026



STALBRIDGE HALL WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2026 AT 7.00PM.

Once a year the Town Council has a duty to host a meeting for the electors of the Town, known as the Annual Town Meeting.

This is a public forum rather than a formal, restricted Town Council meeting. Specifically for residents to discuss local issues, ask questions of the Council, receive updates on Council activities and hear from local community groups and voluntary organisations.

If you want to find out what is happening in Stalbridge, share your ideas and shape Stalbridge's future this is the forum for you.

WHY I AM A COUNCILLOR For this quarters edition we thought we would let you know the reasons why some of our current members are Councillors. Their perspectives may differ because that's what makes democracy work, however they all have a common goal of wanting to make Stalbridge as good as it can be.

The current membership stands at 6 of 11 seats, so members would be delighted to fill those seats with people who love the town and want to help make it as good as it can be. If you think that might be you it would be great to hear from you.



(John Sheahan)

I joined the Council in November last year having noticed from the Town Council web site that the Council was very short on member numbers, and I feel that is important that the democratic process should have as many peoples opinions as possible in making important decisions for the Town. Being a Councillor has provided me with the chance to make a positive impact on the community by contributing to the important process that shapes the Town's future. Joining the Council gives me an opportunity to work collaboratively with other members and residents to address community concerns, to keep Stalbridge a great place to live and. It enables me to ensure that public voices are heard in the decision-making process.

I would encourage anyone who may have an interest in becoming a councilor, young or old, new to the Town or lang standing residents to apply. I am not interested in party politics and you don't have to be.

Clerk: T Watson

TheHub@Stalbridge, Station Rd, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 RG.

Tel 01963 364276. Email: clerk@stalbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk



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PRECEPT 26/27 The members of Stalbridge Town Council have been working hard since the beginning of this year to work out its projected revenue and expenditure for the forthcoming council year in order to set the precept, which forms part of your annual council tax bill.

So what is the 'precept' ?

Every council has a budget, which is the amount of money needed to fund its services and commitments. After working out the difference between the expected revenue for the year and its planned expenditure a figure is produced, which forms part of your council tax, along with the amounts needed by, in this case, Adult Social Care, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue authority.

The amount of money needed to run Stalbridge Town Council is then divided by the number of households eligible to pay council tax. This figure is then included in the Dorset Council calculations, ending up with your council tax bill for the year. In recent years, after the pandemic, and during the 'Cost of Living' crisis, Stalbridge Town council has made no or small increases in their precept, in an attempt to ease the burden on households. This year, with the town in a period of housing growth, the council have decided to increase the precept in order to provide its services for an increasing population.

The percentage increase, when you receive your council tax bill, might seem excessive, but it amounts on average to 88 pence increase per week. This is because the burden is spread between more households than before. This allows the council to carry on funding vital projects and services, together with numerous grants to Stalbridge organisations who need financial support.

For more information on the details of these deliberations please visit the council website:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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Town Council Meetings & Planning meetings Wednesday
May 13th (Annual Town Council Meeting)

June 17th

July 22nd

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