

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Stoke Prior on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**Present:** Councillors Peter Williams (Chairman), John Ellis (Vice Chairman), Sue Abel, Alan Bayliss, Diane Brown, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

### **113/21 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley, D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **114/21 Declarations of Interest**

Peter Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.

### **115/21 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **116/21 Planning & Enforcement Issues – Question & Answer Session with Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services, Bromsgrove District Council**

This item was deferred to the Parish Council's October 2021 meeting.

### **117/21 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

#### **1) Members of the Public**

Two members of the public questioned why the Parish Council did not allow dogs onto the three recreation areas in the parish. They pointed out that these areas were often used by elderly people to walk their dogs because they could not travel far to more suitable areas. The Chairman replied that the Council took the decision to ban dogs in these areas primarily for the safety of children using the play areas and because of the increasing amount of dog mess which was being left on the sites by irresponsible dog owners.

It was agreed that the two members of the public would try to come up with a solution to the problem and come back to the Parish Council at a future meeting.

#### **2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley**

#### **3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke**

There were no Councillors present at the meeting.

### **117/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 June 2021**

Alan Bayliss stated that the statement he made regarding the Chairman's allowance under Minute 111/21 was not accurate. He explained that he had raised the question of whether it was ethical to give the Chairman an allowance and also accept Christmas gifts from him.

The Chairman responded by saying that if any Councillor felt uncomfortable receiving such gifts he would understand. He added that a large part of the allowance was spent on Parish Council expenditure over each financial year.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 June 2021 were then approved with the above amendment and signed by the Chairman.

### 118/21 Planning Applications

#### 1) 21/01188/FUL – 32 Walls Road, Stoke Prior – Two storey side extension

After a brief discussion, the Parish Council agreed to fully supported this application.

#### 2) 21/01230/FUL – Morrisons, Buntsford Park Road, Bromsgrove – Erection of a single storey drive-thru coffee facility

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds that the local area is already plagued with litter from takeaway outlets, particularly from the drive-thru facility at KFC which is only 760metres away. In addition there were already an additional 5 such facilities nearby and it would add to the existing traffic issues along the A38.

### 119/21 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

### 120/21 Finance

#### (1) Invoices for Payment for July and August 2021

The payments totalling £10,287.84 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

|   | Cost<br>£    | Payment<br>Method     |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Direct Debits</b>  |              |                       |
| <i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>                              | 23.79        | -                     |
| <i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>                              | 23.79        | -                     |
| <b>Sub total</b>  | <b>47.58</b> | -                     |
| <b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>          |              |                       |
| Michelle Baker  | 80.00        | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Peter Williams  | 88.62        | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Clerk's net salary for July 2021                                    | XXXX         | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Clerk's Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for July 2021 | 184.19       | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Assistant Clerk's net salary for July 2021                          | XXXX         | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Peter Williams  | 156.00       | Via Online<br>Banking |
| Michelle Baker  | 100.00       | Via Online<br>Banking |

|  |                  |                    |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Chris Cooke  | 1534.43          | Via Online Banking |
| IDG Garden Services  | 645.00           | Via Online Banking |
| HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks’ salary plus NI & Asst Clerk’s salary for July 2021   | 448.98           | Cheque No.1184     |
| B&W Hire Ltd   | 336.00           | Via Online Banking |
| Webbs of Wychbold  | 60.00            | Via Online Banking |
| Clerk’s net salary for August 2021   | XXXX             | Via online banking |
| Assistant Clerk’s net salary for August 2021   | XXXX             | Via online banking |
| HM Revenue & Customs – Tax on Clerks’ salary plus NI & Asst Clerk’s salary for August 2021 | 443.27           | Cheque No.1185     |
| <b>Sub total</b>   | <b>6,846.76</b>  | -                  |
| <b>Cheques/Payments authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>                           |                  |                    |
| Clerk’s Expenses and other Parish Council Expenditure for August 2021                      | 130.74           | Via online banking |
| Community Heartbeat Trust  | 162.00           | Via Online Banking |
| Heron Press  | 425.00           | Via Online Banking |
| Freshair Fitness   | 619.50           | Via Online Banking |
| Freshair Fitness   | 136.50           | Via Online Banking |
| Eventures  | 500.00           | Via Online Banking |
| Michelle Baker   | 40.00            | Via Online Banking |
| IDG Garden Services  | 1020.00          | Via online banking |
| Chris Cooke  | 359.76           | Via online banking |
| <b>Sub Total</b>   | <b>3,393.50</b>  | -                  |
| <b>Total Value of Payments for July &amp; August 2020</b>                                  | <b>10,287.84</b> | -                  |

**(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2021**

This was noted.

**121/21 New Bus Shelters in Shaw Lane and Ryefields Road**

After the Chairman and the Clerk had reported on the options which had been put forward for new bus shelters in Ryefields Road and Shaw Lane, a discussion ensued on the options of either having metal/glass or timber shelters on each site. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should report to the County Council and Cty/Cllr Daisley that they fully supported the installation of metal/glass shelters on all three sites with the metalwork finished with brown timber effect paintwork.

It was understood that the County Council had allocated £19,000 towards the cost of the project but it was unclear whether this would cover the cost of the above decision. The Clerk confirmed that he would raise this with both the County Council and Cty/Cllr Daisley.

In response to a question from Sue Abel, the Chairman reported that the artwork on the 2 bus shelters in Shaw Lane would begin on the 14 September.

### **122/21 Former Parish Councillor Dean Smith**

The Chairman referred to the sad death of Dean Smith whilst on holiday in Romania. It was confirmed that a Memorial Service would be held at St Michael & All Angels Church, Stoke Prior on the 14 September commencing at 11am.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the District Council for permission to install a memorial bench at the play area in Heath Close, Stoke Heath.

### **123/21 Official Facebook Page for the Parish Council**

The Chairman stated that Liz Eden had asked the Parish Council to consider having its own Facebook page. After discussion, it was agreed by 9 votes to 2 that the Parish Council should not have its own Facebook page but to make better use of the Stoke Prior Network.

### **124/21 Front Gardens Competition 2021**

The Clerk confirmed that the winning gardens were 7 Tythe Barn Close, Stoke Heath and 95 Cloverdale, Stoke Prior. Both winners had been sent £30 gift vouchers for Webb's Garden Centre.

### **125/21 Correspondence**

The Chairman reported that building had now started on the former Stoke Works Pumping Station site. Once the first house became occupied the Parish Council would be able to request S106 funds which had been allocated for the refurbishment of the Shaw Lane Recreation Area.

The Clerk then raised the following items:-

1. Bromsgrove District Council had approved the Parish Council's application for a Community Grant of £5,000 subject to confirmation by Cabinet towards the cost of replacing the fencing at Stoke Heath.

2. An email had been received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team asking whether the Parish Council would be interested in Community Speed Watch. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain more information about the project and report back to the Parish Council.

3. Councillors were reminded about the invitation to the Service of Thanksgiving at the church on the 3 October.

4. A request had been received from a local resident supported by Sajid Javid MP to consider installing a skate park at Ryefields Road. The Parish Council agreed that such a project would be cost prohibitive at the current time. The Clerk agreed to respond to the resident accordingly.

The Chairman then read out a number of issues by Chris Cooke:-

1. Hedge on the corner of Shaw Lane and Astwood Lane – complaint from a parishioner. **Note** The Clerk confirmed that this had been referred to County Highways.
2. A total of 18 Scarecrow posters and 6 Craft Fair posters had been removed from around the parish. Need to ensure that those responsible for putting up posters remove them as soon as the event had finished.
3. Blocked gullies – update required from Cty/Cllr Daisley on the progress made on the list supplied by Chris Cooke. **Note** The Clerk to raise with Cty/Cllr Daisley
4. Sugarbrook Lane – half the hedge had been cut back but the rest still needed attention. **Note** The Clerk to raise with Cty/Cllr Daisley
5. What progress had been made on the painting of the bus shelters in Shaw Lane. **Note** The Chairman reminded the meeting that that had been dealt with earlier.
6. HGV signage – great deal of planning work had been done some time ago but no further progress. **Note** The Clerk to raise with Cty/Cllr Daisley
7. Overgrown hedge opposite the Country Girl in Astwood Lane. **Note** The Clerk to ask Cty/Cllr Daisley to raise with County Highways.
8. The wall at Corbett Business Park leaning dangerously onto the highway. **Note** The Clerk confirmed this had been raised with the landowner who had agreed to look into the problem. Cty/Cllr Daisley to be asked to arrange for County Highways to look at.
9. Food Van in the lay-by on A38. Owners had been questioned about their use of the site.
10. The new see-saw for Ryefields Road Recreation Area was due to be installed shortly.
11. The lay-by on the B4095 (above Harris Brush Works) was being used as a toilet. Bromsgrove District Council were arranging suitable signage.
12. Chris Cooke had not received any response from County Highways to his August report. **Note** The Clerk to ask Cty/Cllr Daisley to raise with County Highways.
13. Pedestrian barrier left leaning on the Thelma Roll memorial bench. **Note** Chris Cooke asked to remove it.

### **126/21 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Jean Jackson commented that the shrubs along Wheatridge Road needed cutting back as they were growing over the highway. The Clerk was asked to raise this with either the District Council or the County Council as appropriate.

Jill Howe commented that the hedge along Hanbury Road near Foley Gardens needed cutting back. The Clerk was asked to raise this with either the District Council or the County Council as appropriate.

John Ellis commented on the problems caused by the number of HGVs parking to the right of the entrance/exit from Morrisons. The vehicles greatly impaired visibility at that junction.

Sue Abel reported that the gullies in Foley Gardens were blocked again. The Clerk agreed to report the problem to highways.

Chris Jewson questioned whether there was any merit in having a meeting in August each year. After discussion it was agreed to reinstate the August meeting each year.

Chris Jewson commented that the article in the latest Parish Council Magazine went a long way to explaining the roles of the three tiers of local government and asked that this be included on the website. He added that there was some confusion about the make-up of the

Council namely there were 8 Councillors for Stoke Prior and 4 for Stoke Heath. He produced some additional text together with a chart which could be included alongside the existing text on the website. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should include all the above mentioned information on the website.

Sue Abel asked if new bulbs could be purchased to be planted at the picnic site. This was agreed up to a maximum of £100.

**127/21 Exclusion of the Public**

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Agenda item 16, members of the public were excluded from the meeting.

**128/21 Provision of CCTV at Stoke Heath Recreation Area**

The Council considered the report by the Clerk which set out the three quotes which had been received for the provision of CCTV at Stoke Heath Recreation Area.

**129/21 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 October 2021 commencing at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman