

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 10th January 2022.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 4 members of the public.

001/22 Apologies

An apology was received from Alan Bayliss.

002/22 Declarations of Interest

003/22 Requests for Dispensation

None.

004/22 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present.

005/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10 December 2021

The Clerk pointed out that under Minute 168/21, the figure in the final sub-total should have read £4,141.89 with the Total Value of Payments being £7,113.62.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 December 2021 as amended were approved and signed by the Chairman.

006/22 Planning Applications

1) 21/01675/FUL – 18 Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove – First floor extension over existing garage

2) 21/01792/FUL – 6 Rosemary Drive, Stoke Prior - Single storey rear extension

The Parish Council fully supported both of these applications as good extensions to family homes.

007/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

008/22 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for December 2021

The payments totalling £2,689.76 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Payment Method
Direct Debits		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's net salary for December 2021	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for December 2021	XXXX	Online
Sub total	XXXX	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for December 2021	137.24	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks' & Asst Clerk's salary - December 2021	443.27	Cheque No.1190
IDG Garden Services	240.00	Online
Chris Cooke	446.00	Online
Sub Total	1,266.51	-
Total Value of Payments for December 2021	2,689.76	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for December 2021

(3) Budget Situation as at 31 December 2021

The Parish Council noted both reports.

009/22 Budget and Precept for 2021/22

The Clerk presented the report setting out the proposed budget for 2022/23 and pointed out that it had been calculated on the basis of no increase in next year's precept. Any agreed rise in the precept would increase the level of reserves held by the Parish Council. He added that this was important as although there were no major projects included in the 2022/23 budget, the Council had to be able to respond to additional financial demands through the year as had been the case in 2021/22.

The Chairman then stated due to a significant increase in the Council Tax Base for 2022/23, as a result of the increased number of properties in the parish, it would be possible to increase the precept by 4.2% and still have only a very minimal impact on the Band D charge. The charge would increase from £31.43 to £31.44 but would increase the available precept for the Parish Council to £59,476.00.

After discussion, Alyson Jewson, seconded by Sue Abel, proposed and it was unanimously Resolved:-

That the Parish Council –

- (i) approves a precept increase of 4.2% for 2022/23 giving an income of £59,476.00.
- (ii) approves the proposed budget for 2022/23 as set out in the Clerk's report.

010/22 Provision of a Notice Board in Whitford Bridge Road

It was agreed to install a notice board in Whitford Bridge Road on the site of the former bus shelter and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

011/22 Correspondence

None.

012/22 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time - Members of the Public

Two members of the public spoke to the Parish Council regarding the planning application relating to Land at Hanbury Road (Ref 20/01240/FUL) and explained that the felling work on the site was being carried out in accordance with the licence issued by Bromsgrove District Council. The plans also included the fencing off of the picnic site so that it would only be accessible from Hanbury Road. They pointed out that it was still their intention to put in a roadway but claimed that it would only go as far as the old tennis courts which would become the timber store. It was also claimed that revised plans had been produced but the Parish Council had never seen them. At this point one of the members of the public questioned why the Parish Council had objected to the application and accused them of 'stabbing them in the back'.

At this point, the Chairman stated that he was not prepared to accept such language or accusations at the meeting and asked the member of the public to leave the meeting. The person in question did not leave the meeting but remained silent.

The Chairman then pointed out that the final decision on the application rested with Bromsgrove District Council not the Parish Council. He added that if revised plans had been drawn up then it was up to the applicants to ensure that they were presented to both the District and Parish Councils for consideration.

013/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Chris Cooke raised the following items:-

- Bromsgrove and Wychavon District Councils were negotiating on arrangements for the sweeping of Shaw Lane.
- There is a John Corbett plaque outside Corbett Business Park which needs removing, cleaning and re-siting.
- The hedge in Bunstford Hill/Sugarbrook Lane has still not been dealt with. Need to chase Cllr Kyle Daisley to see what progressing had been made.
- There was still an ongoing problem with gullies not being cleared.
- He had seen the latest proposals for new HGV signs and these were still being negotiated on.
- Need to chase Barratts to install white lines on the Henbrook Gardens development.

The Chairman added that Barratts also needed chasing to ensure that all road signs had been installed.

Jill Howe suggested that the Queen's Jubilee should be acknowledged possibly by planting new trees. Alyson Jewson confirmed that 60 young saplings would be arriving at the end of February from the Woodland Trust. It was proposed that a number of them would be planted

at the Ryefields Road Recreation Area and it might be a good idea to involve the children from the neighbouring Stoke Prior First School.

Chris Jewson stated that he had done more work on the proposal to trap and remove floating litter from the River Salwarpe but had come up against problems sourcing the necessary equipment and the likely cost. To date he had had no success in getting any help from the Environment Agency. The Clerk was asked to help by pursuing the Agency option but also to contact the Canals and Rivers Trust for help. In the meantime Chris would continue to work on the project.

014/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7 February 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman