

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 7th November 2022.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 3 members of the public.

148/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from John Ellis and Liz Miller.

The Clerk then pointed out that John Ellis had been unable to attend any meetings in the past 6 months due to health reasons and that, under the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council would need to consider approving his absence for the reasons given.

It was then unanimously agreed to approve John Ellis's absence due to health reasons and that he continue to serve as a Parish Councillor.

149/22 Declarations of Interest

Liz Eden and Chris Jewson declared a personal interest in Agenda items 6 and 9(1) respectively.

150/22 Requests for Dispensation

None.

151/22 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no issues raised.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present.

152/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3 October 2022

Under Minute 139/22, Alyson Jewson pointed out that the reference to the wildlife studies was incorrect. The wildlife studies had been completed but there had been no reference in the planning applications as to how the applicants would respond to those studies. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended accordingly.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 October 2022 as amended were then approved and signed by the Chair.

153/22 Election of New Co-Opted Member for the Stoke Heath Ward of the Parish Council

The Chairman stated that all Councillors had received information relating to the 3 candidates who had put their names forward for consideration and they were now invited to cast their votes by way of a secret ballot. The Clerk then announced that Malcolm Gulliver had been elected to the

Council.

154/22 Planning Applications

1) 22/01303 - 36 The Furrows, Bromsgrove - Two storey side and single storey rear extensions to the existing dwellings

The Parish Council supported this application as a good extension to a family home.

2) 22/01227/LBC - The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove - - Proposed renovation, conversion and change of use to 3 residential units of existing courtyard farm buildings and associated works including new floor slabs, insulation, rooflights, replacement roof, new doors/windows, ramped access to front and replacement rain water goods

The Parish Council had no significant views on this application but were very concerned about the increase in traffic on the B4095 together with the narrow driveway to and from the site. They were also concerned that although wildlife studies for the site had been carried out, there was no reference in the application as to how the applicants would look after the local wildlife. They were aware that the site was an important area for bats, birds and other wildlife.

155/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the flowerbox outside Redhouse Barn in Shaw Lane had collapsed and that he had asked the Clerk to purchase a new one made of recycled plastic which would have a much longer life than a wooden one. The cost of the new box was £165. He added that there were 4 other boxes which needed replacing and after discussion, it was agreed to purchase 2 further recycled plastic boxes and 2 wooden ones as replacements.

156/22 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for October 2022

The payments totalling £7,855.23 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
Direct Debits Payment		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
Sub total	23.79	-
Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting		
Post Office	8.25	Online
Clerk's net salary for October 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for October 2022	XXXX	Online
Sub total	1406.65	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for October 2022	144	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – October 2022	461.72	Chq No.1206
British Legion	100	Chq No. 1207
C. Jewson	29.59	Online
Worcestershire County Council	542.82	Online
Worcestershire County Council	1377.86	Online
IDG Garden Services	3297.50.	Online
Chris Cooke	471.30.	Online
Sub Total	6424.79	-
Total Value of Payments for October 2022	7855.23	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for October 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

157/22 External Auditor Report

The Parish Council noted the report.

158/22 Request for Funding towards Cost of Planning Consultant to Support Objections to the Little Intall Fields Farm Planning Application

After the Chair had reminded the Council about the background to this application and explained that the Group opposing the planning application were looking for financial support from the Parish Council in the region of £1,000, a general discussion ensued during which the Chair, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should give their support to a grant of £1,050 to the Group but with the following conditions:-

- 1) The Group should widen its current parameters to include the whole of Stoke Parish.
- 2) Two Parish Councillors should be invited to join the Group.
- 3) That the Group organise a traffic survey on the Hanbury Road and other nearby roads to assess the current traffic flow particularly at peak times.
- 4) That a public meeting be organised to involve the whole Parish and neighbouring villages.
- 5) That, in the event of the funding provided not being used to support the project, the full amount be refunded to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a suitable letter and circulate it around all Parish Councillors prior to sending it out.

159/22 Membership of NALC/CALC

After the Clerk had introduced his report and discussion by the Parish Council, it was agreed that Stoke Parish Council should resign from being a member of the National Association of Local Councils and Worcestershire Association of Local Councils with effect from the 1 April 2023.

160/22 Section 106 Monies

The Clerk presented his report and explained that he now intended to contact suitable companies to provide quotes for the new equipment which he stressed must be for older children. He added that the Parish Council may need to consider providing additional funds for the improvements to the Shaw Lane Recreation Area as it was unlikely that the £40,000 being made available via the Section 106 funds would be sufficient.

161/22 Carols in the Park 2022/Christmas Trees and Lights

The Chair confirmed that this year's Carols in the Park would be held on Saturday 17 December. He would liaise with Joh Ellis regarding the provision of refreshments. Sue Abel and Jill Howe volunteered to serve the refreshments while the Chair and Chris Jewson would organise the gazebos etc.

With regard to the provision of Christmas Trees, it was agreed that trees should be installed at Stoke Heath Recreation Area and at the end of Ryefields Road (next to the Keith Shakespeare memorial bench). It was also agreed that a further tree should be installed adjacent to the Shaw Lane Recreation Area. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements and to provide the appropriate tree lights.

162/22 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke reported the following issues:-

- Both he and the Clerk had requested the District Council to sweep the footpaths across the Parish of leaves which causing issues with blocked gullies etc as well as being a safety issue but to date no action had been taken.
- The District Council were still not taking any enforcement action relating to litter offences even when the necessary evidence was available. The Clerk agreed to raise the matter with the Chief Executive of the District Council.
- A resident had raised the issue of providing a dog bin in Moorgate Road although he was unsure whether it was necessary.
- He reminded the Clerk that the notice board in Sugarbrook Lane had been damaged beyond repair by Severn Trent Water and needed replacing. The Clerk confirmed that he would deal with this.
- Need to chase Barratts to get the white lines installed at the entrance to Henbrook Gardens as it was now becoming a safety issue. The Clerk agreed to contact Barratts.

163/22 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that Diane Malley from DM Payroll Services Ltd had confirmed that she was available to act as the Parish Council's Auditor for 2022/23 and that her fee remained at £100. The Parish Council confirmed that they were happy for her to continue in this role for 2022/23 and beyond.

Additional Item

164/19 Clerk's and Assistant Clerk's National Pay Increase

The Clerk reported that the national pay award for 2022/23 had been agreed and took effect from the 1 April 2022 giving a £1.00 per hour increase across the board. The Parish Council noted that they were committed to these increases under the terms of the staff contracts.

165/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe referred to the recent road accident in Shaw Lane which may have been caused by bad drainage after the heavy rain. The crash barrier on the bend had been damaged and needed replacing. The Clerk agreed to report this to the County Council.

Sue Abel asked whether anything had been done about the lack of landscaping at the new housing development on the site of the former Stoke Works Pumping Station. The Chairman replied that he had had a conversation with the owner of the site and suggested that the Clerk should raise this issue with him on behalf of the Council.

Sue Abel asked the Clerk to check whether planning permission had been granted to Happy Bank Farm in Stoke Pound Lane as a considerable amount of work was being undertaken.

166/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 December 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman