

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3rd October 2022.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 2 members of the public.

134/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from John Ellis and Peter Williams.

135/22 Declarations of Interest

136/22 Requests for Dispensation

None.

137/22 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.

138/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 September 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

139/22 Planning Applications

1) 22/01104/OUT – Corbett House, Westonhall Lane, Stoke Prior – Outline Planning Application to demolish the existing office building and erection of 9 detached dwellings and associated with matters of access, layout and scale for consideration (appearance and landscaping are reserved).

The Parish Council were largely in support of this application but were very concerned about yet another increase in traffic flow on a narrow road already populated by two other housing developments and the commercial properties in the vicinity. They also had concerns about the safety of the adjacent reservoir. The potential development would also need suitable landscaping to support local wildlife etc.

The Parish Council indicated that they would like to see some of the Section 106 monies being allocated for the benefit of the parish.

2) 22/01172/FUL - The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove - Unit 4 - Proposed change of use from Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse and associated development.

3) 22/01173/LBC - The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove - Unit 4 - Proposed change of use from Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse and associated works including new floor slab, insulation, rooflights, new doors/windows, decking, ramped access to front and replacement rain water goods

4) 22/01226/FUL - The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove - Proposed renovation, conversion and change of use to 3 residential units of existing courtyard farm buildings and associated development.

5) 22/01173/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 slab, insulation, rooflights, replacement roof, new doors/windows, decking, ramped access to front and replacement rain water goods

The Parish Council had no significant views on any of the above applications 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 about the apparent lack of wildlife studies for the site. They were aware that the site was an important area for bats, birds and other wildlife.

6) 22/00449/FUL – Bay Tree Cottage, Sharpway Gate, Harbours Hill, Bromsgrove – Detached garage

The Parish Council fully supported this application.

140/22 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council’s last meeting

The Clerk reported that Peter Williams, the Chair of the Parish Council, had authorised the purchase of a large batch of daffodil bulbs for planting across the parish.

141/22 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for September 2022

The payments totalling £3,775.49 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	7.60,	Online
Boston Seeds	177.50.	Online
Clerk’s net salary for September 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk’s net salary for September 2022	XXXX	Online
Sub total	1636.06	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk’s Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for September 2022	188.54	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – September 2022	470.60.	Chq No.1204
P. Williams	60.00,	Online
PKF Littlejohn	360.00.	Online
M.Baker	40.00,	Online
IDG Garden Services	761.00.	Online
Chris Cooke	235.50.	Online
Sub Total	2115.64	-
Total Value of Payments for September 2022	3775.49	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for September 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

142/22 Christmas Tree Festival 2022

The Clerk reported that Peter Williams, the Chair of the Parish Council, had indicated that he was willing to make the donation to the Church as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should have a tree at the Festival and the arrangements would be organised by Jill Howe.

143/22 Replacement Flower Boxes

The Clerk stated that 5 new flower boxes were required at different points around the parish. IDG Garden Services had quoted £85 per box. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek further quotes and also look at options for providing a base for the flower boxes to try and reduce the amount of rot on the base of the boxes.

144/22 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke reported that the hedge on Buntsford Hill had finally been cut back although it was felt that it should have been cut back further. He had that yet another Highways Office had been appointed to cover the parish and that attempts were being made for a tour of the parish to be arranged.

145/22 Correspondence

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that he had reported at the last meeting, a local resident had asked whether the Parish Council would consider installing hedgehog warning signs in Stoke Prior. He had contacted the national organisation, Hedgehogs R Us who had pointed out that any signage on the highway would have to be approved by the County Council. Hedgehogs R Us were however promoting a project to help stop the decline in hedgehog numbers by getting local residents to set up a 'hedgehog highway' to help them move around the local environment safely. The organisation were selling a box of 150 hedgehog highway surrounds which could be distributed to local residents. It was agreed that the Clerk should try to see whether there would be any local interest in this project and if so to purchase a box.

146/22 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Alyson Jewson referred to the Film Night which had been held on the 3 September and had been very successful with approximately 500 attendees.

Sue Abel confirmed that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 13 November at St Michael's Church, Stoke Prior. She confirmed that she would arrange a wreath and would be attending the service to represent the Parish Council.

It was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100 to the British Legion in recognition of Remembrance Day.

It was noted that the proposed date for this year's Carols in the Park would be Saturday 17 December.

Sue Abel expressed concern about the lack of landscaping at the new housing development on the site of the former Stoke Works Pumping Station. The Clerk was asked to look into whether specific landscaping had been catered for. New houses suggested that the Parish Council should arrange to plant new bulbs this year. The Clerk was asked to check on prices of daffodil bulbs etc.

Liz Miller referred to the farm effluent which was running off the field in Shaw Lane. The Clerk pointed out that this was a matter for the Environment Agency and it would be referred to them.

Chris Jewson reported that he and Chris Cooke would be meeting with the local landowner to

discuss access to the River Salwarpe via his land to install the boom.

Paul Pittaway asked the Parish Council would be willing to support the campaign to reinstate the 144 bus service from Bromsgrove to Birmingham which had been axed by the County Council. This service provided a vital link for commuters. It was agreed that the Parish Council should support the reinstatement of this service.

147/22 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman