

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3rd April 2023.

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

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

049/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from John Ellis and Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

050/23 Declarations of Interest

051/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

052/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

The member of the public present did not have any issues to raise.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present although the Council did receive a written report from Cty/Cllr Daisley.

053/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

054/23 Planning Application

1) 21/01319/FUL - The Priory, Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior - Amended Proposal Description - Add a timber stable block consisting of 2 stables (pre fabricated type structure measuring 7.2m x 3.6m), adjacent to the existing barn. The new stable block will be located in the existing yard on a concrete floor

The Parish Council did not have any major issues with this application although they were unsure where the access would be to the proposed new stables.

2) 23/00318/FUL - 29 Granary Road, Bromsgrove - Ground floor rear extension

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

3) 22/01533/CUPRIO - The Firs Farm, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior - Conversion of a detached concrete framed agricultural barn to a dwelling and associated building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion

The Chairman asked all Councillors to have a further look at this application and to submit any comments they had to the Clerk by the 10 April 2023.

055/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for March 2023

The payments totalling £3,426.69 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		
NBB Co Ltd	1692.00.	Online
T A Attwood	250.00,	Online
Savills	1346.00.	S/O
Clerk's net salary for March 2023	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for March 2023	XXXX	Online
Sub total	4749.42	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for March 2023	157.03	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – March 2023	480.41	Chq No.1212
Worcestershire County Council	1364.46	Online
RoSPA Play Safety	423.00.	Online
BDHT	10.00,	Online
Worcestershire County Council	526.15	Online
Bromsgrove District Council	997.36	Online
IDG Garden Services	496.00,	Online
Chris Cooke	502.20,	Online
Sub Total	4956.61	-
Total Value of Payments for March 2023	9729.82	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for March 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

(3) End of Year Financial Report for 2022/23

The Parish Council noted the report.

(4) Revised Draft Budget for 2023/24

The Clerk pointed out that he had amended the previously approved budget to take into account the potential cost of the Parish Council elections which could be in the region of £9,000. The Parish Council then agreed to note the amended budget.

056/23 Refurbishment of Shaw Lane Recreation Area - Update

The Clerk and the Chair explained that leaflets were now being distributed to local residents explaining the proposed design for the site and asking for comments. The Chair added that the final layout for the site still had to be finalised with the contractors before the order was confirmed. The Clerk would send an update to the District Council so that they were aware of how the project was progressing.

The Chair informed the Council that he had purchased 3 childrens' benches and after discussion, it was agreed that they be sited at Stoke Heath Recreation Area with a log table. He also confirmed

that the benches together with the Coronation picnic benches would be installed at the end of April 2023 at a likely cost of £600. The picnic bench for Shaw Lane Recreation Area would be held back until the above project had been completed.

057/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke reported:-

- The usual issues relating to the clearing of gullies were continuing with no real overall improvement.
- There was still a major issue with Bromsgrove District Council regarding the problem of dog poo bags being dumped in Woodgate Road, the dumping of cat litter in Astwood Lane and fly tipping across the parish and the total lack of action by the District Council's Enforcement Officers to take the necessary actions regarding prosecutions. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to submit a formal complaint on behalf of the Parish Council to the Chief Executive of the District Council.

The Chair referred to complaints which had been received regarding the amount of rubbish including old furniture which had been dumped outside 1 Walls Road, Stoke Prior and the Clerk was asked to write to the owners asking them to remove it.

058/23 Action Summary

The Action Summary was noted.

059/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that he had just received the inspection reports on the 3 Recreation Areas and the Outdoor Gym. The reports on Shaw Lane and Ryefields Road Recreation Areas and the Outdoor Gym had highlighted a few minor issues which could be easily dealt with. However he was concerned about the report relating to Stoke Heath Recreation Area which had highlighted significant safety issues which needed to be dealt with. He added that he felt that the Parish Council needed to give serious consideration to replacing the whole site with new safer equipment. The Parish Council accepted that this needed to be done and it was agreed to explore funding options for the proposed project as soon as possible.

060/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel stated that she had received complaints about the noise levels from the Metal & Ores site. It was pointed out that the licence for the site had been issued by Worcestershire County Council and that complaints should initially be raised with Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

061/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting which be held on Wednesday 17 May 2023 commencing at 7.00pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman