

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 9th January 2023.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), John Ellis (Vice Chair), Diane Brown, Liz Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 1 member of the public.

001/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sue Abel, Jill Howe and Jean Jackson.

002/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair and Chris Jewson declared an personal interest in Agenda item 8(1).

003/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

004/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

1) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

3) District Councillors Malcolm Glass and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present.

005/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 December 2022

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

006/23 Planning Applications

1) 22/01559/FUL - 53 Tythe Barn Close, Bromsgrove - Rear extension to replace conservatory, first floor extension to side and front. Gargae conversion.

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

2) 22/01504/CPE - Blackpole, Coalash Lane, Bromsgrove - Residential dwelling without conditions imposed by planning permissions BR/207/67/0 and BR/856/67/R

The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application although they were concerned as to why such an historic case had not been picked up earlier by the Enforcement Officers at the District Council.

3) 22/01596/CPE - 47 High Meadows, Bromsgrove - Existing garage being used as a part of the dwelling.

The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application although they were concerned as to why such an historic case had not been picked up by the Enforcement Officers at the District Council.

They also noted that the part of the house being considered did not have access to the main property and also included a shower room which might indicate that this was being used possibly as a separate annex.

007/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council’s last meeting

None.

008/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for December 2022

The payments totalling £4,300.92 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		
Clerk’s net salary for December 2022	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk’s net salary for December 2022	XXXX	Online
Sub total	1511.64	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk’s Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for December 2022	144.84	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – December 2022	492.39	Chq No.1209
Eventures	500.00.	Online
C Jewson	17.65	Online
P Williams	74.81	Online
Bullivant Media Ltd	180.00.	Online
IDG Garden Services	256.00.	Online
Chris Cooke	1099.80.	Online
Sub Total	2765.49	-
Total Value of Payments for December 2022	4300.92	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for December 2022

The Parish Council noted the report.

(3) Nine Month Budget Report for 2022/23

The Parish Council noted the report.

009/23 Budget and Precept for 2023/24

Before making a decision on the level of precept for 2023/24, the Chair pointed out that the level of funds available to the Parish Council had reduced significantly over the last few years largely due to the increased costs which the Parish Council had to meet.

After discussion, Chris Jewson, seconded by the Chair, proposed and it was unanimously Resolved:-

That the Parish Council –

- (i) approves a precept increase of 4.0% for 2023/24 giving an income of £61,855.04.
- (ii) approves the proposed draft budget for 2023/24 as set out in the Clerk's report.

It was noted that the Clerk would submit a final budget for 2023/24 at the April 2023 meeting when the final balance as at 31 March 2023 would be available.

010/23 Provision of New Notice Board - Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Prior

The Clerk reported that he was still trying to recover the cost of the damaged notice board from Severn Trent but it was agreed that he should go ahead and purchase a new notice board for this site.

011/23 Section 106 Monies - Shaw Lane Recreation Area

The Clerk reported that he had received 2 quotes so far with a third due in the next few days. It was then proposed to circulate them to all Councillors with a view to considering them formally at the next meeting. The next stage in the process would be to consult with the local community before making a final decision and submitting it to the District Council.

Liz Miller asked what age group the project was being aimed at to which the Clerk replied that the strict guideline from the District Council had been that the project should be aimed at older children.

012/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke reported the following issues:-

- There were still a number of highways issues outstanding and he was also awaiting progress on the possible installation of HGV signage. A total of 17 blocked gullies in Hanbury Road had been reported to the County Council but no action had been taken to date.
- He together with the Clerk had met with officers from the District Council to discuss progress on enforcement issues such as litter and illegal dumping. Future progress would be monitored.

The Chair expressed his concern about the lack of progress on highways issues and agreed to raise them with Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley.

013/23 Correspondence

The Chair referred to an email from a local resident regarding the conditions the Parish Council put on the grant of £1000 to the group fighting the planning application to develop the land at Intall Fields Farm. He and the Clerk stressed that these conditions had been applied, with the approval of the Parish Council, to safeguard the granting of public funds for such a cause. The grant was made on the basis that fighting this planning application was in the interest of the whole Parish rather than just a small part of that community.

It was unanimously agreed that the conditions should remain and the group notified accordingly.

014/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Liz Eden asked if the action summary could be reintroduced. The Clerk agreed to arrange that.

The Chair stated he was looking for an individual to take over responsibility for the Parish Council's new website. After discussion, Liz Eden agreed to take on this role.

John Ellis commented on the latest developments regarding the future of the Community Link magazine. There seemed to be some uncertainty about what was happening and he agreed to try

to move this forward with a view to combining it with the Parish Council's own Newsletter.

John Ellis thanked all the Councillors for their cards and best wishes whilst he was in hospital.

015/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 6 February 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Chairman