

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 6th March 2023.

Present: Councillors John Ellis (Vice Chair)(In the Chair), Diane Brown, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

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

033/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sue Abel, Liz Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Alyson Jewson, Peter Williams and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

034/23 Declarations of Interest

035/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

036/23 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.

037/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6 February 2023

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

038/23 Planning Application

23/00207/CPE - Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Prior - Use of timber building and land surrounding the cabin and the timber building for incidental domestic purposes

The Parish Council considered this application and agreed that they had no clear evidence to substantiate whether or not the building and the surrounding land had been used for incidental domestic purposes over the past 10 years.

The Clerk was asked to point out that the Parish Council had raised a number of issues regarding the use of this site and that they felt that little or no action had been taken by the District Council's officers. It was also noted that there were currently a large number of HGV tractor units on the site which would be reported to the District Council for action.

039/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for February 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		
Information Commissioner	35.00,	Online
Post Office	7.60,	Online
Clerk's net salary for February 2023	XXXX	Online
Assistant Clerk's net salary for February 2023	XXXX	Online
Sub total	1581.27	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for February 2023	170.32	Online
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerks & Asst Clerks salary – February 2023	498.99	Chq No.1211
Earth Anchors	494.34	Online
IDG Garden Services	256.00.	Online
Chris Cooke	401.98	Online
Sub Total	1821.63	-
Total Value of Payments for February 2023	3426.69	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for February 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

040/23 Refurbishment of Shaw Lane Recreation Area - Update

The Clerk reported that the design of the proposed refurbishment had now been completed and he had now received the final quote which in fact was less than the £40,000 available for the project. He suggested and it was agreed that a further item be added to the project to make full use of the funds. He added that it would now be necessary to arrange local consultation including an opportunity for local residents to see the proposed plan with a display at the Boat and Railway one evening later in the month.

041/23 King's Coronation Celebrations

After the Clerk had introduced this item, a discussion ensued on the possible options open to the Parish Council to celebrate the coronation. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to look at the cost of providing a commemorative mug for every child in the parish including the necessary administrative arrangements or the provision of a bench/picnic table for each of the recreation areas in the parish which would then be available to the whole community. The Clerk agreed that he would contact Councillors with the information as soon as possible.

042/23 Review of Financial Regulations

It was unanimously agreed to endorse the Financial Regulations.

043/23 Review of Parish Council's Risk Register

After the Clerk had explained that the Register had been updated to take account of the fact that the Parish Council would shortly no longer have an Assistant Clerk, it was unanimously agreed to endorse the Risk Register.

044/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Clerk reported the following issues on behalf of Chris Cooke:-

- No real progress had been made with Bromsgrove District Council regarding the problem of dog poo bags being dumped in Woodgate Road, the dumping of cat litter in Astwood Lane

or the need for road sweeping along Hanbury Road.

- No real progress had been made with Worcestershire County Council regarding the signage for Meadow Park Football Club, the installation of HGV signage or the repair of the bollards on the Hanbury Road below the Ewe and Lamb.
- He had looked at the problem of the hedge in Fish House Lane which was protruding into the road and was of the opinion that the problem was the bank moving into the road. The Clerk did agree to see whether this was a matter which could be referred to the County Council to pursue with the landowner.
- It was understood that the owners of the dog training site in Woodgate Road had now applied for planning permission.
- The repairs to the damaged barrier on Shaw Lane had been logged but no date when they would be carried out.
- Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley had finally been able to sort out the problems regarding the installation of the real time information board in the bus shelter in Ryefields Road.
- The County Council were now in contact with the owner of the Corbett Business Park regarding the dangerous wall.

045/23 Action Summary

With regard to item 2 on the Summary, Jill Howe, seconded by Liz Miller, proposed and it was unanimously agreed to purchase picnic benches for Ryefields Road and Stoke Heath Recreation Areas.

With regard to making the John Corbett Trail more accessible to people with physical disabilities it was recognised that this may require a lot of work but it was agreed to approach the Countryside Officer at the County Council to see whether they would be willing to provide kissing gates to replace the existing stiles.

046/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that Bromsgrove District Council's Enforcement Officer had confirmed notification of an alleged breach of planning requirements regarding the storage of tyres on land in Whitford Bridge Road.

047/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jill Howe stated that she had become aware that it appeared that new stables were being erected at a property in Whitford Bridge Road and asked the Clerk to check whether this work had received planning permission.

048/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 3 April 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chairman