

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 8th April 2024.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Liz Eden (Vice Chair), Sue Abel, Dan Bright, Paul Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Jill Howe, Jean Jackson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman), D/Cllr David Nicholl and 1 Member of the Public.

045/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alyson and Chris Jewson.

046/24 Declarations of Interest

Jean Jackson declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6(2).

04724 Requests for Dispensation

None.

048/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time (1)Members of the Public

The member of the public present had no comments to make.

(2)County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present at the meeting.

(3)District Councillor David Nicholl

D/Cllr Nicholl briefly commented on the local action by residents trying to get the speed limit on the A38/Redditch Road reduced from 40mph to 30mph. He added that he understood that Cty/Cllr Daisley was looking into this as it was a County Council matter.

049/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

050/24 Planning Applications

1) 24/00259/PIP – Intall Fields Farm, Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior – Demolition of existing buildings and proposed development of between five and seven new dwellings

The Parish Council remained opposed to any housing development on this site but accepted that the Planning Inspector had indicated that the development of the site occupied by several containers would not be inappropriate development. They were concerned however that this proposed development might lead to further development at a later date. They also questioned how the landowner proposed to access the land around the proposed development.

2) 24/00283/FUL – 9 The Paddock, Bromsgrove – Removal of existing shrub and erection of a proposed boundary fence

The Parish Council had no comment on this application.

3) 24/00221/FUL – Field View House, 5 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior – Detached outbuilding to create triple garage and gym (revised scheme following withdrawal of Application Ref 23/01104/FUL)

The Parish Council were reminded that they considered a similar application for this property at their February 2024 meeting. Having considered the new application, the Parish Council continued to question why such a large double storey structure was required for a garage. They remained concerned that the upstairs accommodation could still be easily turned into living accommodation at a later date.

051/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for March 2024

The payments totalling £7,039.53 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		
London Hearts	1500.00,	Online
Savills	1346.00,	Online
Clerk's net salary for March 2024	XXXX	"
Sub total	4189.78	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – February 2024	462.98	Chq No.1225
Clerk's Expenses – March 2024	86.55	Online
Bromsgrove District Council	1067.04	"
BDHT	10.00,	"
Worcestershire County Council	457.09	
IDG Garden Services	256.00,	"
Sub Total	2825.96	-
Total Value of Payments for March 2024	7039.53	

(2) Financial Management Statement for March 2024

(3) End of Year Report for 2023/24

(4) Revised Draft Budget for 2024/25

The Parish Council noted the reports.

051/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke commented that he had been in discussion with Cty/Cllr Daisley regarding the continuing problems of getting the numerous blocked gullies in the parish cleared. He added that he had now been invited to a meeting at the County Council to discuss the problem but he was not hopeful of any positive outcome. He was also equally frustrated by the delay in getting the requested HGV signs installed.

052/24 Correspondence

The Chair reported the following:-

1. Wicksteed would be starting the work on the new play equipment at Shaw Lane Recreation Area on Monday 15th April and the work was likely to take 3 weeks. Arrangements had been made for vehicle parking at the Stoke Prior Sports and Country Club and that Chris Cooke would be providing secure storage for equipment etc.
2. The new defibrillators had now arrived and arrangements were being made for them to be installed. With regard to the one proposed for the Boat and Railway, he was now looking at installing that at the entrance to the Corbett Business Park. The other defibrillator would be installed at the Navigation Inn.
3. He had received a request from the Mental Health & Wellbeing Walking Group to hold a picnic at Stoke Heath Recreation Area on the 25th August 2024. After discussion, it was agreed that this event could go ahead subject to the following conditions:-
The event organisers should provide evidence of public liability insurance
No vehicles or traders on the site
Attendees pay a donation rather than an entrance fee
The organisers would be responsible for tidying the site after the event
The Recreation Area would still remain open to the public

053/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Dan Bright commented that the dog bins had now been installed at Henbrook Gardens although residents were requested more bins as the existing ones were getting full too quickly.

Paul Pittaway reminded the Clerk that it had been agreed to provide signage on the footpath running between Harvest Close and Granary Road. He confirmed that one of the local residents had agreed to allow signage to be fixed to their fence. The Clerk confirmed that he would obtain the necessary signage from the District Council.

Malcolm Gulliver suggested that the Parish Council should look at installing signage on Shaw Lane and Westonhall Road once the new play area was up and running at Shaw Lane Recreation Area. It was agreed to discuss this with the County Council once the work at the site had been completed.

Jill Howe commented that one of the trees installed near Orchard Crescent had died and it was agreed that the Parish Council would look at replacing it.

054/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting which be held on Monday 20 May 2024 commencing at 7.00pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.45pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman