

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 7th August 2023.

Present: Councillors Peter Williams (Chair), Sue Abel, Daniel Bright, Malcolm Gulliver, Jean Jackson, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller and Paul Pittaway.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman) and 4 members of the public.

111/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Eden, Paul Eden and Jill Howe.

112/23 Declarations of Interest

113/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

114/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1)Members of the Public

A member of the public raised concerns about the safety of the junction at the Hanbury Turn particularly following a recent serious accident. He appreciated that it was essentially a matter for County Highways and/or Highways England but asked whether the Parish Council could contact them to express their concerns. The Chair pointed out that it was likely that the junction would be improved as part of the Highways Improvement Plan for the A38. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact County Highways to check on progress with that project.

(2)County Councillor Kyle Daisley

(3)District Councillors David Nicholl and Harrison Rone-Clarke

There were no County or District Councillors present at the meeting.

115/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3 July 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

116/23 Planning Application

1) 23/00556/FUL - Foalsdon Barn, Whitford Bridge Road, Stoke Prior - Single storey lean-to extension on western elevation

The Parish Council felt unable to comment on this application due to the lack of sufficient information.

2) 23/00549/FUL - 37 High Meadows, Bromsgrove - Single storey extension to front of house

The Parish Council had no objections to this planning application.

117/23 Recreation Areas

The Chair commented on the current position with the 3 recreation areas as follows:-

Shaw Lane - No further progress had been made on the new project other than asking Wicksteed to remove 1 item from the proposed plan and re-cost the project.

Ryefields Road - The wet pour surface around the small roundabout had been damaged and Chris Cooke was sorting out the repair. There had been complaints about a number of youths congregating at the site causing problems and at times preventing younger children from using the play equipment.

Stoke Heath - There were safety issues with the site which needed to be addressed urgently and the Chair and the Parish Lengthsman would inspect the site after the meeting to see what interim could be done to improve the site.

118/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

119/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for July 2023

The payments totalling £5,104.85 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		
Chris Cooke	857.40,	Online
Sports Direct	187.99	"
Bromsgrove Printing Co	140.00,	"
Clerk's net salary for July 2023	XXXX	"
Sub total	2462.11	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – July 2023	434.83	Chq No.1216
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for July 2023	160.32	Online
M Baker	100.00,	"
Avoncroft Arts Society	180.00,	"
B&W Hire Ltd	276.00,	"
IDG Garden Services	800.00,	"
Chris Cooke	667.80,	-
Sub Total	2618.95	-
Total Value of Payments for July 2023	5104.85	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for July 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

120/23 Film Night 2023

The Chair and the Clerk confirmed that all arrangements were in place for the film night.

121/23 Dog Waste Bins - Henbrook Gardens

Dan Bright raised the question of installing additional dog bins on Henbrook Gardens. The Clerk

pointed out that this may be a matter for the managing agents for the site and he agreed to contact firstly the developer to see what could be done.

122/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Parish Lengthsman reported that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the end of Shaw Lane was no longer functioning properly. After discussion, it was agreed to purchase a new VAS at a cost of £4,045.00 plus VAT.

He also reported the following issues:-

- the wet pour area around the small rondabout at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been repaired.
- he, together with the Chair, attended a meeting at County Hall on the HGV signage required around the parish, particularly on the Hanbury Road.
- regarding the overgrown hedge etc in Fish House Lane, he was aware that the County Council had written to the landowner but he had subsequently asked County Highways to look at the whole length of the lane which required attention.

123/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that Avoncroft Arts Society had increased their hire prices and the Parish Council would now be charged £16.50 per hour for the Forge.

The Clerk also reported that he had received a request from a local resident to have the bench on the Hanbury Road repainted and for some slabs to be placed in front. He added that he would arrange for this work to be done.

124/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Jean Jackson mentioned that she had spoken to a local resident who was concerned about the impact of the proposed work on the A38 and how it would affect access to his property. The Chair confirmed that he had access to the plans for the work and would check what the impact might be.

Sue Abel asked for bulbs to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Liz Miller reported that free basketball coaching sessions were being held at Ryefields Road Recreation Area each week on Tuesdays.

125/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 September 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman