

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th February 2024.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

015/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Eden and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

016/24 Declarations of Interest

Chris Jewson declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7(1).

017/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

018/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

The member of the public present at the meeting did not wish to make any comments.

(2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

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

There were no County and District Councillors present.

019/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8 January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

020/24 Planning Applications

1) 23/01341/FUL – Storeys Lodge, Holmes Lane, Lower Bentley – Replacement of an existing mobile home and conservatory with a dwelling house, change of use of land to form a residential garden and parking area, alterations to an existing access to serve the dwelling and demolition of stables

The Parish Council supported this application.

2) 23/01104/FUL – Field View, 5 Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior – Erection of two storey detached outbuilding comprising triple garage and ancillary domestic use

In considering this application, the Parish Council questioned why such a large double storey structure was required for a garage. They were also unsure what was meant by ancillary use for the upstairs accommodation which they were concerned could easily be turned into living accommodation at a later date.

3) 24/00020/FUL – Pipers Hill Farm, Dodderhill Common, Hanbury – Reinstatement of a historic access track

The Parish Council considered this application and agreed that the following statement should be

submitted to Bromsgrove District Council's Planning Officers:-

“This proposal appears to be an unnecessary alteration to the rural landscape. The applicant states that the purpose of this access track is “to allow for vehicles associated with the applicant's smallholding to access the farm and fields to the north of the farm.” These fields have been used for stock grazing for many years and access has been satisfactorily achieved over the pasture, generally along the line of the proposed track. The track appears to be more for the purpose of an alternative access to the farmhouse and associated barn, the latter of which has planning permission to be converted to a dwelling. Access to these buildings already exists from the B4091 (Hanbury Road), as stated in the planning permission (W/22/01415/LB). However, in the new proposal access to the grazing land seems to be prevented by completely enclosing the trackway with fencing and an existing hedge. Gates are shown across the track itself, but no gates are shown in the fencing for the purpose of field access.

The line of the proposed track is directly over the line of a public footpath (SP-567). There is no mention in the proposals as to how this public right of way is affected. The current arrangement has pedestrian gates alongside the three field gates. The applicant has already made an unauthorised diversion of this same path at its western end.”

4) 23/01350/FUL – Dairy Barn, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound – Construction of a porch on the front elevation. Replace ground floor windows and french doors

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

021/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had been approached by a charity offering to provide defibrillators as a discounted price. He added that he had approached the Landlord of the Boat and Railway to see if they would be agreeable to having a defibrillator fitted to their building. The Clerk had also approached the brewery who owned the property and that had no objections to this suggestion.

During discussion it was pointed out that there was already a defibrillator nearby at the Stoke Prior Country Club and it might be more appropriate to install one on the other side of the village, namely along the Hanbury Road. The most likely venue would be outside the Navigation Inn and the Chair agreed to speak to the Landlord to see if they would be agreeable. The idea of an additional defibrillator was still an option.

The Chair then reported on damage which had been caused to the grass verge on Ryefields Road caused by a coach parking there. He had been in touch with the coach company and was trying to get the verge repaired.

022/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for January 2024

The payments totalling £4,340.42 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 Recycled Furniture	396.00,	Online
Bromsgrove Computer Centre	375.00,	"
Post Office	10.00,	"
Clerk's net salary for January 2024	XXXX	"

Sub total	2128.54	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – January 2024	464.63	Chq No.1223
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for January 2024	113.16	Online
C Jewson	70.00,	"
Community Heartbeat	162.00,	"
IDG Garden Services	715.00,	"
Chris Cooke	663.30,	-
Sub Total	2188.09	-
Total Value of Payments for January 2024	4340.42	-

[Clerk's Note: The payment to NBB Recycled Furniture was incorrectly reported as being £330.00 instead of £396.00 as quoted in the above table. Therefore the total value of payments should have been reported as £4,340.42 as quoted in the above table.]

(2) Financial Management Statement for January 2024

The Parish Council noted the report.

[Clerk's note: The estimated balance as at 29th February 2024 should have read £107,688.27]

023/24 Provision of Village Gates

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been approached by the County Council to see whether they would be interested in installing 'village gates' in Shaw Lane near the junction with the B4091 Hanbury Road. The project would be supported by Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley who was prepared to meet 50% of the cost. The Chair pointed out that to have village gates installed at this point would be inappropriate given the ties between Stoke Prior and Stoke Heath. During a discussion it was suggested whether it might be more appropriate to install the gates at the other end of Shaw Lane at the boundary between the parish and Dodderhill parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to the County Council and Cty/Cllr Daisley to get their view on that suggestion and to report back to the Parish Council.

024/24 Provision of Defibrillator

This item had been dealt with earlier.

025/24 Review of Assets Register

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to approve the Assets Register as submitted, subject to 2 minor amendments to the text..

026/24 Review of Risk Register

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to endorse the Risk Register.

027/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

This item was deferred to the Parish Council's next meeting.

The Clerk did report that he had been asked to write to Dodderhill Parish Council to request that they carried out litter picking along Shaw Lane between the Bowling Green Inn and Wychbold

Church. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Dodderhill Parish Council with that request.

028/24 Correspondence

The Chair reported that he had received a request from the new Headteacher of Stoke Prior First School to meet to discuss whether there were options for the school at the Parish Council working together. He had asked the Clerk to make the arrangements.

029/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Dan Bright commented that the hedge outside The Mount in Stoke Pound Lane needed to be cut back as it was impeding vehicles travelling along the lane from the B4091. The Clerk agreed to write to the owners of the property.

Chris Jewson commented that there were a number of fallen trees on Severn Trent land at their Water Treatment Works affecting the brook and the public footpath. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Severn Trent asking them to deal with the fallen trees as soon as possible.

030/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 March 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman