

## **STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 3rd July 2023.**

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

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

### **094/23 Apologies**

An apology was received from Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

### **095/23 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.

### **096/23 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **097/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time (1)Members of the Public**

**Shaw Lane Recreation Area** - Several members of the public commented on the proposals for the refurbishment of the Recreation Area and expressed their reservations particularly with regard to the impact on those living adjacent to the site. The Chair explained that there had been numerous changes to the plans to try and take on board their concerns about certain items of equipment. The number of items had been reduced and it was intended to put a metal fence around two sides of the site with gates. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would obtain pictures of the individual items of equipment proposed including sizes and to meet with local residents on site to discuss the proposed layout etc. Sue Abel also pointed out that suitable signage would be needed to make road users aware of the Recreation Area.

**Harbours Hill Farm Vineyard** - Three members of the public expressed their concern regarding a licence application to allow the owners of the site to sell wine to the public and the impact that it might have on the local environment and their lives. They were also concerned that the granting of the licence may lead to further development of the site and asked the Parish Council for their support in opposing the application. The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council would not normally be consulted on this type of application and also that the deadline for representations had passed. He added that if a planning application was subsequently forthcoming regarding alterations or change of use of the premises then the Parish Council would be consulted and have the opportunity to consider and submit their views.

### **(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.

### **098/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 June 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 099/23 Co-Option of a Parish Councillor

After the Clerk had confirmed that 2 candidates had put their names forward for co-option, a secret ballot was held. Having counted the votes, the Chair announced that Daniel Bright had been selected as a Parish Councillor until May 2027. The Chair then invited him to join the meeting.

## 100/23 Planning Application

1) 23/00647/FUL - Corbett House, Westonhall Road, Stoke Prior - Change of use of existing office (Use Class E) to further educational provision (Class F1) in association with New Ways School

2) 23/00631/FUL - The Priory, Brickhouse Lane, Stoke Prior - Install a 20m by 34m manege, all weather exercise surface for horses

The Parish Council had no objections to either of these planning applications.

## 101/23 Refurbishment of Shaw Lane Recreation Area

Further to the discussions on this project earlier in the meeting, the Parish Council agreed to accept the final plan and quote, subject to any minor alterations to the positioning of the equipment and requested the Clerk to request the Section 106 from the District Council in order that the order could be placed with Wicksteed.

## 102/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

## 103/23 Finance

### (1) Invoices for Payment for May 2023

The payments totalling £3,945.26 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	Cost £	Method
<b>Direct Debits Payment</b>		
<i>Cartridge World – Copier Rental</i>	23.79	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>23.79</b>	-
<b>Payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting</b>		
P. Williams	700.00,	Online
Clerk's net salary for June 2023	XXXX	Online
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2005.62</b>	-
<b>Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – June 2023	447.01	Chq No.1215
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for June 2023	168.68	Online
FC Payroll Solutions	63.30,	Online
Worcestershire County Council	532.89	Online
IDG Garden Services	736.00,	Online
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1947.88</b>	-
<b>Total Value of Payments for June 2023</b>	<b>3977.29</b>	-

### (2) Financial Management Statement for May 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

### **104/23 Film Night 2023**

The Chair and the Clerk explained that Filmbank Media were now saying that the licence fee for non-commercial bookings was now £500 + VAT. Alternatively the Parish Council could charge an admission fee which would mean that the licence fee would be £135 + VAT or 40% of the ticket sales. After discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to keep the Film Night as a free event and therefore agreed to pay the higher licence fee. It was also confirmed that the film would be Top Gun: Maverick.

The Chair added that it was hoped that catering facilities would be available on site. He also asked that UK Eventures supply a suitable generator.

### **105/23 Parish Council Website**

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

### **106/23 Ryefields Road Recreation Area - Security**

The Chair commented that there had been some recent incidents of vandalism at the Recreation Area and asked whether the gate to the footpath was locked at night. The Clerk stated that the decision had been at the start of Covid that the gate would remain open at all times to allow the public access at a time when open space was needed and that remained the case. After discussion, it was agreed that the gate should be locked at night between the hours of 9.00pm to 8.00am between April and October and from 8.00pm to 8.00am between November and March. The Clerk was asked to talk to Ian Gerard about putting these arrangements in place.

### **107/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report**

The Parish Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting.

### **108/23 Correspondence**

None.

### **109/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Best Gardens Competition 2023 - Alyson Jewson and Jean Jackson agreed to judge the gardens in Stoke Heath while Jill Howe and Liz Miller agreed to do likewise in Stoke Prior.

Alyson Jewson commented on the increase in the number of for sale boards which were appearing on the highway in Stoke Heath. Chris Jewson added that he had photographs of the signs which he would forward to the Clerk for action.

Liz Miller commented that the hedge in Fish House Lane had still not been cut back despite County Highways being asked to do so.

Paul Eden asked what progress had been made regarding the dangerous wall at Corbett Business Park. The Clerk replied that the matter was now with District Council's Building Control Team.

### **110/23 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 7 August 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman