

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 5th June 2023.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), D/Cllrs David Nicholls and Harrison Rone-Clarke, Chris Cooke (Parish lengthsmen) and 4 members of the public.

080/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jill Howe and Paul Pittaway.

081/23 Declarations of Interest

None declared at the meeting.

Clerk's Note: Sue Abel later declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.

082/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

083/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time (1)Members of the Public

One member of the public expressed her strong objections to the planning application relating to 20 Foley Gardens, Stoke Prior. She lived next door to the property in question and had already submitted her objections to the Planning Authority.

Two members of the public spoke about the planning applications which had been considered by the Parish Council in relation to their property at The Firs, Hanbury Road. They were concerned that the Parish Council had not fully appreciated what they were trying to achieve on the site which basically included restoring a derelict site and this had been reflected in the comments contained in the minutes of previous meetings. The Chair pointed out that it was difficult to comment without seeing previous minutes which were not available at the meeting. He did agree to include an item on the agenda for the July meeting when the matter could be discussed further.

(2)County Councillor Kyle Daisley

Cty/Cllr Daisley was not present.

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

D/Cllr David Nicholl - He explained he was new to the role but would appreciate a guide to any issues which the Parish Council needed help with. The Clerk agreed to provide a list.

D/Cllr Harrison Rone-Clarke - He commented that he had no major issues to raise although he had been in discussions with PC Jo Barnes about the possible use of a speed gun on Wheatridge Road and Austin Road in particular as well as the possibility of introducing a Community Speed Watch in that area. The Chair commented that he was unsure about the use of the Community Speed Watch idea because it could cause problems unless a police officer was also present.

084/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17 May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17 May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

085/23 Planning Application

1) 22/00225/FUL - 20 Foley Gardens Lane, Stoke Prior - Single storey front extension and ground floor rear open canopy

The Parish Council discussed this application but felt that they needed additional information relating to whether the canopy was already in situ which would mean that that element of the application should be treated as retrospective, the amount of improvements already carried out on the property requiring planning permission and whether there was any restriction of the amount of development for this property. The Clerk was asked to obtain as much information as possible on these issues and to email all Councillors before submitting any comments to the Planning Authority. The Council were reminded that the deadline for comments to the Planning Authority was the 16 June.

The Clerk then reported that the owners of Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound had submitted an appeal against the District Council's decision to refuse issue a Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use or Development in relation to the use of timber building and land surrounding the cabin and the timber building for incidental domestic purposes.

086/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that he still waiting for additional information from Wicksteed regarding the equipment for haw Lane Recreation Area including the addition of 2 gates to form part of the boundary fencing. He confirmed that the item would be included on the agenda for the July meeting.

087/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for May 2023

The payments totalling £3,945.26 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		
Clerk's net salary for May 2023	XXXX	Online
Sub total	XXXX	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – May 2023	424.07	Chq No.1214
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for May 2023	195.07	Online
Community Heartbeat	168.00,	Online
DM Payroll Services	100.00,	Online
IDG Garden Services	800.00,	Online
Chris Cooke	982.80,	-
Sub Total	2669.94	-
Total Value of Payments for May 2023	3945.26	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for May 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

088/23 Audit 2022/23

(4) Internal Auditor's Report

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to note the report.

(5) Summary of Receipts and Payments as at 31 March 2023

The Parish Council approved the summary of receipts and payments for 2022/23 and agreed that they could be signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

(6) Annual Return and Governance Statement

The Parish Council gave their unanimous approval to the Chairman and the Clerk being given authority to sign off the Annual Audit Return and approval was also given to the Annual Governance Statement contained therein.

089/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke commented that there were no issues to report but did confirm that the hedges ec around the crossing on the A38 adjacent to Stoke Heath Recreation Area had been cut back.

090/23 Action Summary

The Action Summary was noted.

091/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that:-

1. He was in discussions with the owner of the field at the rear of Ryefields Road Recreation Area regarding the need to repair or replace the fence. She had confirmed that she was making arrangements to prevent their animals from reaching the fence but had asked that the Parish Council would still go ahead and replace the damaged fence. The Clerk added that he felt that it was imperative that the fence was replaced as it was a potential hazard particularly for young children in its present state. Chris Cooke was asked to seek quotes for the work.

2. Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley had informed him that the County Council's Highways Engineer was reviewing the signage and road layout at the crossing on the A38 adjacent to the Stoke Heath Recreation Area and the Parish Council would be kept informed of any updates.

092/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Sue Abel commented that he had been contacted by a pupil at Stoke Prior First School asking whether she would be willing to give a talk on the history of Stoke Prior. She would be contacting the school to accept the invitation.

The Chair commented that the Council would be considering applications for co-option of a new Councillor at their next meeting and stressed that it was important that they look to make an appointment which would help the Council to move forward.

093/23 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman