

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th March 2024.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

031/24 Apologies

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

032/24 Declarations of Interest

033/24 Requests for Dispensation

None.

034/24 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1) Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

(2) County Councillor Kyle Daisley

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

There were no County and District Councillors present.

035/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5 February 2024

Under Minute 029/24, Chris Jewson pointed out that the word 'impending' should read 'impeding'.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 February 2024 as amended were approved and signed by the Chair.

036/24 Planning Applications

1) 23/01335/FUL – 12 Ryefields Road, Stoke Prior – Amendments to existing planning approval 21/01771/FUL to increase the rear ground floor extension from 3m to 5m

The Parish Council felt that the increased size of the proposed extension might encroach on neighbouring properties and affect their privacy. They recommended that the Planning Officer should carry out a site visit.

2) 24/00113/FUL – 210 Worcester Road, Stoke Heath – Rebuilding of former garage and approved extension to form dwelling

3) 24/00119/FUL – 19 Meadow View Close, Stoke Heath – Proposed shed

The Parish Council had no objections to these applications.

4) 24/00100/CPL – The Laurels, Copyholt Lane, Stoke Pound – Single storey side and single storey rear extension

The Parish Council had concerns about the size of the proposed extension especially given the fact that a similar sized extension to this property had been refused by the Planning Officers. They were not prepared to support this application.

5) 23/00460/FUL – 24 Redditch Road, Stoke Heath – Dropped kerb for existing vehicular access located between 28 & 36 Redditch Road to allow safer access for the 5 dwellings Nos 26A, 28, 30, 32 & 34 Redditch Road. Kerb that needs lowering is located between 28 & 36 Redditch Road

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

037/24 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair briefly commented on the progress of the improvements to the Shaw Lane Recreation Area and added that he hoped that the work would start on the 20 May but this was still to be confirmed by Wicksteed.

He added that he had received an email from one of the residents living adjacent to the site regarding the location of one of the items of equipment which it was felt would impact on her privacy. He would check on the issue raised to see whether there was a problem.

038/24 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for February 2024

The payments totalling £2,693.80 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	101.70,	Online
Information Commissioner	35.00,	Online
Clerk's net salary for February 2024	XXXX	"
Sub total	1476.51	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – February 2024	461.52	Chq No.1224
Clerk's Expenses – February 2024	80.88	Online
IDG Garden Services	256.00,	"
Chris Cooke	395.10,	-
Sub Total	1193.50,	-
Total Value of Payments for February 2024	2693.80,	

(2) Financial Management Statement for February 2024

The Parish Council noted the report.

039/24 Provision of Defibrillator

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should purchase 2 defibrillators to be installed at the Navigation Inn on Hanbury Road and the Boat and Railway on Shaw Lane. The Clerk was asked to check with West Midlands Ambulance Service that they were happy with the proposed locations.

040/24 Review of Financial Regulations

It was unanimously agreed to endorse the Financial Regulations.

The Clerk added that he understood that the current version of the Regulations was due to be updated.

041/24 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Chair and Chris Cooke commented at length regarding the ongoing problems of flooding across the parish and the total inability of the County Council to deal with the large number of blocked gullies and drains which they had been continually notified about. The Chair suggested that further pressure needed to be put on the County Council to deal with these issues and proposed that a letter should be sent to Sajid Javed to seek his support. The Parish Council fully supported this approach and agreed that the Clerk should write accordingly.

042/24 Correspondence

None.

043/24 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Dan Bright commented on the increasing traffic problems along Westonhall Road which were not helped by the number of vehicles parked outside the Green Box offices. The Chair suggested that it might be helpful to see how many empty spaces there were each day in the car park at the rear of the offices. Once that had been done, it might be a idea for the Clerk to write to the owners to make them aware of the problem.

Chris Jewson stated that he had been made aware of the increasing problem of dog fouling along the footpath running between Harvest Close and Granary Road. Unfortunately there was no place where a dog bin could be sighted or appropriate signage although it might be possible to fix signs to the fences of the neighbouring properties. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the District Council for new signs and that Chris Jewson would contact the local residents to see if they were happy for the signs to be fixed to their fences.

Liz Miller commented on the problems caused by vehicles parking on the bridge at the junction of Westonhall Road and Shaw Lane. The Clerk pointed out that this issue had been raised with the County Council on a number of occasions without success.

044/24 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 8 April 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman