

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 17th May 2023.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley, PC Jo Barnes and 3 members of the public.

062/23 Election of Chairman

Alyson Jewson, seconded by Liz Eden, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Peter Williams be elected as Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

063/23 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman, seconded by Alyson Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that Liz Eden be elected as Vice Chairman of Stoke Parish Council for the ensuing year.

064/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jean Jackson and Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthsman).

065/23 Declarations of Interest

066/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

067/23 Adjournment of Meeting to hear from Members of the Public

The members of the public present did not have any issues to raise.

County Councillor Kyle Daisley

At the invitation of the Chair, Cty/Cllr Kyle Daisley then presented his report and highlighted the following points:-

- The footpath on the Hanbury Road from the Ewe & Lamb PH to Shaw Lane was scheduled to be sided out to make it safer for pedestrians.
- The temporary information board installed at the bus stop in Ryefields Road was due to be replaced by a permanent new board.
- The damaged crash barriers in Shaw Lane were due to be replaced soon.
- With regard to the introduction of HGV signage in Stoke Prior continued to be discussed and was moving forward slowly. Letters have been sent to all local businesses to inform their drivers to take the correct routes. Action would be taken against drivers who ignored the new instructions. The local Highways Engineer had been working with the Parish Lengthsman on sites for the signage.
- Local businesses had objected to the introduction of white lines outside the shops in Ryefields Road. However given the safety issues arising from the current parking problems in that area, the businesses had been written to requesting that they come up with a plan by June 2023 to improve the parking surface outside the shops. If they fail to do so then the white lines will be installed.
- The replacement VAS for Shaw Lane had now been ordered by the County Council.
- He fully expected an appeal to be submitted regarding the planning application for 78 homes

on the site of Intall Fields Farm.

- The issue of the wall outside Corbett Business Park was now a matter for Development Control at Bromsgrove District Council. He suggested that the Parish Council should put pressure on the District Council to get this matter resolved.

068/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3 April 2023

The Clerk pointed out that under Minute 055/23, the figure in the second sub-total should read £4770.42 and that the Total Value should read £9750.82. This amendment was accepted.

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

069/23 Shaw Lane Recreation Area Refurbishment

The Chair reported that he had had discussions with local residents and Wicksteed and, as a result, he had only just received a new design for the site. In view of the late arrival of this design, he had decided to defer consideration of this item until the Parish Council's next meeting. The new design would be considered at that meeting as well as local residents having the opportunity to comment on it.

070/23 Planning Applications

1) 22/01023/FUL - 6 Foley Gardens Lane, Stoke Prior - Demolition of existing garage and construction of 2 houses

The Parish Council considered the revised planning application but remained unanimously opposed to it. Whilst it was appreciated that the original house would be retained it was felt that the proposed 2 four bedroomed houses on that site would be inconsistent with the area. They were also of the view that the size of the properties would have an adverse impact on the neighbouring properties particularly Ryefields Lodge and 4A Foley Gardens. The Council were unhappy with the use of soakaways to deal with the excess surface water which could impact on neighbouring properties. The proposed height of the new buildings would also impact on the privacy of the neighbouring properties. The Council did not have an issue with the proposed changes to the original property.

2) 23/00453/FUL - The Old Bull Pens, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior - Detached double garage

The Parish Council had no issues with this application.

3) 23/00298/FUL - Woodgate Farm, Woodgate Road, Stoke Prior - Extensions and alterations to farmhouse

The Parish Council supported this application as a good extension to a family home.

The Clerk reported the following outcomes for planning applications which the Council had previously considered:-

Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound - Use of timber building and land surrounding the cabin and the timber building for incidental domestic purposes - Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use or Development - Refused

The Firs, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior - Conversion of a detached concrete framed agricultural barn to a dwelling and associated building operations - Prior Approval for Change of Use - Refused

47 High Meadows, Stoke Heath - Existing garage being used as a part of the dwelling - Planning application refused - now going to Appeal

071/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

The Chair reported that the coronation picnic bench at Ryefields Road Recreation Area had been damaged by a disposable bbq. He had been able to repair it but had asked the Clerk to look into the possibility of getting a replacement top.

The Parish Council had been offered a £200 gift by an individual who used the Stoke Heath Recreation Area for an exercise class. It was agreed to accept the gift and to put it towards the refurbishment of the play area at this site.

072/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for April 2023

The payments totalling £3,426.69 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		
Post Office	8.80,	Online
Seiretto	194.40,	Online
Clerk's net salary for March 2023	1273.21	Online
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for April 2023	197.16	Online
IDG Garden Services	736.00,	Online
Chris Cooke	636.00,	Online
Chris Cooke	620.10,	Online
Sub total	3665.67	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/Ni on Clerks salary – April 2023	480.41	Chq No.1213
Zurich Municipal	1371.32	Online
Sub Total	1851.73	-
Total Value of Payments for April 2023	5541.19	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for April 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

(3) Chairman's Allowance for 2022/23

Alyson Jewson, seconded by Chris Jewson, moved and it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman's allowance for 2023/24 should remain at £700.

(4) Appointment of Signatories for Parish Council's Bank Account

It was unanimously agreed that Liz Eden and Paul Pittaway be appointed as signatories on the Parish Council's bank account.

(5) Appointment of Councillor to oversee online payments

It was unanimously agreed that Paul Pittaway be appointed to oversee online payments.

073/23 Request for Mini Football Goals at Ryefields Road Recreation Area

The Clerk reported that he had received requests for mini football goals to be installed at the Recreation Area. It was agreed that the Clerk should check on prices for the goals and the Chair would liaise with the Parish Lengthsman on how best to secure the goals whilst still being able to relocate them within the site to protect the grass.

074/23 Repairs to Outdoor Gym Equipment

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from Freshair Fitness for necessary repairs to the outdoor gym equipment following the recent RoSPA inspection at a cost of £269.60 plus VAT. The Council agreed to accept the quote and asked the Clerk to arrange the repair work.

075/23 Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk stated that it would not be necessary to go through the bye-election process this time and the Council could go ahead with co-opting a new Member. It was agreed to allow 3 weeks for applications and the Council would consider all applications and make an appointment at their July 2023 meeting.

076/23 Action Summary

The Action Summary was noted.

077/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that Michelle Baker had agreed to offer the Tai Chi classes again this year but the cost would increase to £25 per session. The Parish Council agreed to continue with the classes at the increased cost.

078/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Paul Pittaway reported on an incident when a young child had been hit by a car at the pedestrian crossing when leaving the Stoke Heath Recreation Area. The driver had been charged with dangerous driving. He asked whether it was possible to make the crossing more visible and safer. Cllr Daisley confirmed that he was liaising with the Highways Officers to see what could be done.

Liz Miller reported that there were overhanging branches outside Happy Bank Farm. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners to get the branches cut back.

Jill Howe commented that the Stoke Prior Club were holding a film night in August and suggested that the Council should liaise with them to ensure that they will be showing a different film to that which the Council will show at their own film night.

079/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 5 June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman