

## STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 6th November 2023.**

**Present:** Councillors Liz Eden (Vice Chair)(In the Chair), Dan Bright, Paul Eden, Malcolm Gulliver, Jill Howe and Jean Jackson.

**In attendance:** Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), Chris Cooke (Parish Lengthman) and 4 Members of the Public. D/Cllr David Nicholl attended for agenda item 4(3).

### **158/23 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sue Abel, Alyson Jewson, Chris Jewson, Liz Miller, Paul Pittaway and Peter Williams.

### **159/23 Declarations of Interest**

### **160/23 Requests for Dispensation**

None.

### **161/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time**

#### **(1)Members of the Public**

With regard to the proposed improvements to Shaw Lane Recreation Area, three members of the public confirmed that they were still looking at the proposed plan but would ensure that their views would be reported to the Parish Council well before their next meeting in December.

#### **(2)County Councillor Kyle Daisley**

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

D/Cllr Nicholls briefly commented on the forthcoming planning appeal regarding Intall Fields Farm.

### **162/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2 October 2023**

Under Minute 153/23, Paul Eden pointed out that it had been agreed that both he and Liz Eden had been appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Stoke Prior Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 October 2023, as amended, were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **163/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting**

None.

### **164/23 Finance**

#### **(1) Invoices for Payment for October 2023**

The payments totalling £7,178.14 were unanimously agreed as follows:-

	<b>Cost £</b>	<b>Method</b>
<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>		

Clerk's net salary for October 2023	XXXX	"
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>XXXX</b>	-
<b>Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting</b>		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – October 2023	434.83	Chq No.1219
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for October 2023	108.82	Online
Society of Local Council Clerks	187.00,	"
British Legion	100.00,	Chq No. 1220
Worcestershire County Council	531.58	Online
IDG Garden Services	3625.00,	"
Chris Cooke	890.40,	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5877.63</b>	-
<b>Total Value of Payments for October 2023</b>	<b>7178.14</b>	-

## (2) Financial Management Statement for September 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

## (3) Mid Year Budget Report as at 30th September 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

## 165/23 Dates of Meetings - December 2023 to December 2025

At the suggestion of the Clerk, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Council & Parish Assembly meeting on Wednesday 14th May 2025 should be moved to Monday 12th May so that all meetings of the Council were held on the same day of the week. The programme of dates was then approved.

## 166/23 Christmas Trees

It was agreed that the Parish Council should again provide 3 christmas trees in the parish - 1 at Stoke Heath Recreation Area, 1 at the junction of Ryefields Road and Shaw Lane and 1 at the junction of Westonhall Road and Shaw Lane.

The Clerk also confirmed that new sets of lights would be needed and it was agreed that that Clerk should purchase the necessary replacements.

## 167/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

Chris Cooke reported the following points:-

The bridge height signs at either end of the parish were now working.

He was continuing to press to get the installation of the HGV signage completed.

The plasterboard in the lay-by on Harbours Hill would be removed shortly.

The trampoline at Stoke Heath Recreation Area would be removed so that the necessary repairs could be carried out.

BBC Hereford & Worcester radio recently did a feature on enforcement by local authorities during which it was highlighted that Wychavon District Council had carried out 23 enforcement

prosecutions while Bromsgrove District Council had done none.

### **168/23 Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that the planning appeal in respect of the proposed development at Intall Fields Farm would be held on the 15th and 16th November at the District Council's offices. Peter Williams had confirmed that he would attend. The Clerk also reported that the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of Sugarbrook Nurseries had been refused.

### **169/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings**

Dan Bright reported on a recent road accident at the junction of Westonhall Road and Hanbury Road. He pointed out that, together with the junction with Woodgate Road on the opposite side of Hanbury Road, this was a dangerous spot made more difficult by the fact that it was not always possible to see vehicles coming along Hanbury Road from the village. The Clerk agreed to highlight this problem with the highways authority.

Jill Howe commented that it appeared that the road surface on Shaw Lane near the Mill House appeared to be rising significantly. The Clerk agreed to report this to the highways authority.

The Chair reported that a defibrillator had now installed at the Parish Hall although accessibility still needed to be confirmed particularly when the hall was not in use.

### **170/23 Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 4 December 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman