

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoke Parish Council was held at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath on the 4th September 2023.

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

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

126/23 Apologies

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

127/23 Declarations of Interest

128/23 Requests for Dispensation

None.

129/23 Adjournment of Meeting for Public Question Time

(1)Members of the Public

No issues were raised by members of the public.

(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.

130/23 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7 August 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 August 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

131/23 Planning Applications

1) 23/00755/CPE - Sugarbrook Nurseries, Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound - Business storage or distribution, equestrian, residential and personal/amenities uses as shown on the attached plan

The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

2) 23/00928/FUL - Stoke Pound Farm, Stoke Pound Lane, Stoke Prior - Single storey side extension

The Parish Council felt unable to comment on this application as they found it difficult to understand the drawings provided with the application. The drawings did not relate to the actual view of the property in question. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Officer to get further information and drawings for this application.

3) 23/00905/FUL - Broadmeadow Farm, Whitford Bridge Road, Stoke Prior - Conversion and alteration of existing barn to create one new dwelling in lieu of that granted under Prior Approval ref 23/00573/CUPRIO

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

132/23 Recreation Areas

The Chair commented on the current position with the 3 recreation areas as follows:-

Shaw Lane - No further progress had been made on the new project due to issues with the District Council releasing the S106 funds. The Clerk added that there appeared to be internal issues within the District Council regarding the process that the Parish Council had undertaken to progress this project. He added that, in his view, the Parish Council had taken all appropriate steps with regard to seeking an approved supplier, planning the proposed site and undertaking the necessary consultation. The Chair also added that if the matter was not resolved by the end of the week he would be seeking a meeting with District Council officers.

Ryefields Road - The replacement of the back fence was due to be completed during the week.

Stoke Heath - Work had been carried out to make parts of the site safer. It was proposed to close the site for 3 days to allow a concrete base and wet pour surface to be laid at the bottom of the slide and for the trampoline to be removed.

133/23 Urgent Decisions taken since the Council's last meeting

None.

134/23 Finance

(1) Invoices for Payment for August 2023

The payments totalling £5,462.74 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		
Fence-Line Ltd	900.00,	Online
Eventures	500.00,	"
Clerk's net salary for August 2023	XXXX	"
Sub total	2673.01	-
Cheques/Payments to be authorised at the Parish Council Meeting		
HM Revenue & Customs – Tax/NI on Clerks salary – August 2023	433.41	Chq No.1217
Clerk's Expenses & other Parish Council Expenditure for August 2023	272.03	Online
PKF Littlejohn	378.00,	"
Community Heartbeat Ltd	162.00,	"
IDG Garden Services	886.00,	"
Chris Cooke	634.50,	-
Sub Total	2765.94	-
Total Value of Payments for August 2023	5462.74	-

(2) Financial Management Statement for August 2023

The Parish Council noted the report.

135/23 External Auditors Report

The Parish Council noted the report.

136/23 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023/24

The Clerk reported that Diane Malley from DM Payroll Services Ltd had confirmed that she was available to act as the Parish Council's Auditor for 2023/24 and that her fee would now be £110. The Parish Council confirmed that they were happy for her to continue in this role for 2023/24 and beyond.

137/23 Bulbs

After discussion, it was agreed to purchase a further 5 bags of bulbs from Boston Seeds. The Clerk to arrange.

138/23 Parish Lengthsman's Report

The Parish Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting.

139/23 Correspondence

The Clerk reported that winners of the best summer garden competitions were 5 Corbett Drive, Stoke Prior and 8 Wheelwright Close, Stoke Heath. He confirmed that they had received their £30 vouchers.

140/23 Councillors Points of Information and Items for Future Meetings

Malcolm Gulliver and Alyson Jewson commented on the conditions of the footpaths near to the Morrisons store. Chris Jewson agreed to check what needed doing and Chris Cooke would also be asked to look at clearing the footpaths.

Paul Eden commented that he was pleased to see that the wall at Corbett Business Park was now being dealt with.

Jill Howe asked for the ivy bush on Shaw Lane near to the bridges to be cut back. The Clerk stated that he would arrange for Ian Gerard to deal with.

141/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the Parish Council's next meeting would be held on Monday 2 October 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at The Forge, Avoncroft Arts Centre, Stoke Heath.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman